

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 13, 2018

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Dirk Meredith Vice-Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Jeff Logan; Jimmy Sheldrake;
Absent: Andy Domenigoni, Chairman.

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Third District Supervisor
Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Dirk Meredith at 6:31 PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda: Motion by Horecka; second by Sheldrake. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve June meeting minutes: Motion by Sheldrake; 2nd by Meredith. Approved unan.

Guest Speaker: Lesley Huennekens, Sergeant of Field Services with Animal Control, & Lieutenant John Stephens. Ms. Huennekens introduced herself, and gave a brief bio & intro. They work out of the San Jacinto Shelter, on Grand Avenue in San Jacinto. Some statistics: In August of 2018, there were 1,895 requests for service. This figure does not include follow-up calls. In our area, Winchester/Homeland/Green Acres, over the past year, they: Impounded 718 animals. There were 734 reports of animal cruelty and 55 dog bites. 145 citations issues were issued, and there were 587 dead animals. There were no “big” cases this year. They received some grant money for free spay/neuter programs; these are available on a first-come/first-served basis.

Questions:

- Q: How do they manage to handle so many cases? A: They typically handle 600-800 animals. They do not euthanize animals that can be adopted.
- Q: What is the current policy on pit bulls? A: Riverside County has a mandatory spay-neuter requirement for pit bulls and pit bull mix dogs. Animals at the shelter may be available case-by-case.
- Q: How many horses are allowed on a parcel? A: Ask Code Enforcement. Marr Christian advised as follows: Up to five large animals per acre in RR (Rural Residential) Zone; large being a horse, cow or ostrich. Goats are figured 3:1.
- Q: Any reptiles come in? A: A few.
- Q: Strangest animal? A: A cayman in a house, which is illegal.
- Q: Are they at the Fair? A: Yes. Recently, 300 animals were placed at one event!
- Q: Can requests for a specific breed be made for adoption? A: No. First-come, first-served.
- Q: How many dogs are allowed per parcel? A: Maximum four, regardless of lot size.
- Q: Does the shelter have enough funding? A: No. They do contract with cities, which helps a bit.
- Q: What is the cost of adoption? A: that depends. Sometimes costs are lowered to incentivize.

All thanked Ms. Huennekens for her presentation.

Old Business:

- A. General County update; Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:
 - Quiet at the County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Jefferies has expressed concern with the traffic being generated by the growing number and size of warehouses. The Board will do a Study to look at the routes, as trucks may be taking “alternate routes,” such as side roads.
 - Opal noted the recent “State of the County” event, which was a success.
 - Upcoming: College Fair, September 22nd. 300 schools!
 - Upcoming: 8th Annual Veterans Small Business Summit, in October.
 - Upcoming, Sept. 27th: “Explore the World of Wellness,” at Hemet High School.
 - Sept 28: 2018 “Stand Down” ARNG Armory: Resources & assistance for Veterans.
- B. Sheriff Department update. New representative: Lieutenant Ron Lawyer, Perris Station. Info: He was at the Hemet Station for 10 years. Recently transferred to Perris. They have three Contract Cities, plus our area of the County. They have been running short lately; one deputy in our area. He noted that the Woodcrest MAC meets the same night we do; he can’t make both meetings. Recent numbers: July: 250 calls; 11 arr., 7 warr, 2 drug-related. Aug: 199 calls, 6 arr, 3 warr. No-table crimes: The Woodside tract community mailbox was stolen; the entire box! Petty theft.
 - Q: Police dogs? A: Ron was once a canine handler.
 - Q: What to do about nuisance clothing bins? A: Marr Christian stated that’s a land use matter. Contact the Principal of Winchester School.
 - Q: What is the non-emergency number? A: 951-776-1099. Do NOT use the Internet, FB, etc., for time-sensitive issues! Also not: When calling 911 from a cell phone, call goes to CHP first.
 - Q: How about marijuana enforcement? A: Opal Hellweg addressed: The proposed Cannabis Ordinance will be heard by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors sometime in October.
 - Lt. Lawyer gave his personal contact info. Tel: 951-210-1016. E: rlawyer@riversidesheriff.org
- C. EMWD Updates; Kevin Pearson:
 - The proposed water tax did not pass in the legislative session. However, it will likely return.\
 - EMWD has noticed an uptick in scams for water treatment; door hangers, etc. Be cautious!
 - Kevin noted that EMWD performs 45,000 water tests per year.
- D. Code Enforcement: Marr Christian reported.
 - They are enforcing laws against sales of cars on private property.
 - The travel trailers on Wakefield have been cleared out.
 - The homeless by the Mushroom House have been cleared, along with massive messes left.
 - For marijuana: A temporary restraining order is issues, to shut down ASAP. If not within 30 days, assets are seized. Costs go against the land owner. Including clean-up bills.
 - In Homeland, what were ‘head shops’ started selling oils, which is not legal.
 - The County is going after massive illegal cultivation of marijuana.
- E. Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez’ Office Field Representative Samantha Stilwell:
 - Upcoming Town Hall, on Sept 14, 10:00 AM, at Diamond Valley Art Center.
 - The Legislative Session is over for this year.
 - Melendez helped lead a bill for Sober Living Houses: Licensed homes, six or more; they would be provisional. Passed both houses; awaiting Governor Brown’s signature.
 - SB-1172: High Speed Rail; spends more money, and exempts spending from any oversight; passed both houses.
 - AB-186: Creates a government-operated space for use of illegitimate drugs (San Francisco).
 - AB-2126: Creates the Forestry Corps Program, for Inland Empire Areas. Forestry & Wildfire land management.
 - The ‘water tax’ bill did not pass.
- F. Senator Stone District Director, Glenn Miller: Not present; no report.
- G. Highway 79: No news.

H. Land Use update; Cindy Domenigoni:

1. Winchester Community Planning update: Winchester-Homeland General Plan Amendment #1207 is still in process.
2. Winchester Ranch Marketplace: In EA process.
3. Stone Creek (TR 36365): Pending TPC hearings. Held up due to the Highway 79 Policy Area (49 units over the maximum allowance).
4. Villages North (TR 3604), with 507 homes. BOS approved May, 2018. Met w/ Trip Hord.
5. TM #30322 – South of Olive Avenue: There has been a change in Conditions.

Discussion highlighted what those changes were. Among them, lessening again certain conditions for improving streets serving the project. There is great concern by citizens over this, for several reasons, safety among them. The consensus among the WHTA was that the County Planning Department should NOT lessen the existing conditions. The WHTA presented a letter conveying that opinion, for the WHMAC to consider and forward to Supervisor Washington. The letter was read. Horecka made a motion that the letter be forwarded as requested, with appropriate cover letter; seconded by Sheldrake. Discussion followed, to write the motion. Then Horecka amend his motion, to use the following written paragraph; seconded by Sheldrake. The vote was called: Unanimous. Following is the wording:

We move that the Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council forwards the letter from the Winchester/Homeland Town Association dated September 12, 2018, regarding Tract 30322-1 to the County Board of Supervisors. Attendees at the September 6th general meeting of the Winchester-Homeland Town Association are in agreement, as are the Board of the WHMAC. This letter indicates that the Winchester-Homeland Town Association is unable to support the recommendations to reduce the conditions for improving Olive Avenue to Leon.

- I. City of Hemet update; Jeff Logan: No significant news.
- J. City of Menifee update; Andy Domenigoni & Jeff Logan: No significant news.
- K. Other Old Business: None.

Open Forum:

- What is the status of the Pleasant Valley Houses? Not sure.
- A citizen noted that Post Office is offering “Informed Delivery System” notifications. See website.
- Thanks to Jeff Logan for maintaining our website.
- See Greg Cowdery to support military care packages.
- Mr. Horatio Ross Valenzuela appeared before us, to advise citizens as follows: He reminded us that Hemet Unified School District Superintendent Christi Barrett came before the WHMAC on May 10th to tell us about a proposed bond measure for repairs of schools. Valenzuela advised us that she appeared alone, with no trustees present, and no financial expert present. Valenzuela was not aware of the WHMAC. He represents the Board of Trustees of Hemet Unified School District. Valenzuela stated that Ms. Barrett’s visit may have been irregular. He asked that if anyone present had any questions or concerns, to please contact him. He will assure questions or concerns would be addressed.
- Gregg Cowdery suggested that the Riverside County Director of Planning be our guest at a future WHMAC meeting.

Next WMAC Meeting:

- The Next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WHMAC adjourned at 8:25 PM.