

Winchester Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 9, 2011

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman

James Horecka, Secretary

Jimmy Sheldrake

Al Ramirez

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jeff Stone

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Dirk Meredith at 6:30 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Dirk Meredith. Second: Al Ramirez. Approved: Unanimously.

Approval of May 12, 2011, Minutes:

Motion to approve: Dirk Meredith. Second: Jim Horecka. Approved: Unanimously.

Guest 1:

Gary Thornhill, Planner for the WMAC.

Supervisor's office intends to contract with Gary Thornhill. Gary presented his curriculum vitae, self-intro.

While a full study is not in the budget, a mini first-pass at a future general plan may be. Suggested a "Visioning Exercise." He is working on his proposal. Intent is to try to get basic elements in place.

Domenigoni noted that there will soon be a quarterly meeting with Supervisor Stone. Public questions & comments included: Q: Timeline? A: Not fixed. Q: Contract signed already? A: No. C: Interest in future transit solutions. C: Overall a warm reception for Mr. Thornhill. The community is looking forward to benefiting from his long experience.

New Business:

- A. EMWD – Longfellow Road Reclaimed Water Tank. Mr. Peter Odencrans, representing EMWD, presented information regarding the proposed Reclaimed Water Tank in the hills near the north end of Longfellow Road. Phil Paule of EMWD also attended. Printed matter was distributed, as were thumb drives. Additional info available on-line or at EMWD. Questions & comments include: C: Odencrans will keep WMAC abreast. C: Tank will be similar to the new one near Gibbel, east of State, in Hemet. Q: What areas served? A: Refer to Maps. Q: What impacts, what benefits? A: Peter explained. Q: When is public comment period? A: It has been extended to July 17th. Q: Use of tank? A: Reclaimed water for irrigation, both for current & future needs. Q: Where is water coming from? A: Temecula. Q: Easements, siting, etc.? A: See report, maps; some new easements required where roads are not yet County accepted. In order to address many questions and concerns regarding this large project, it was suggested that a separate Meeting be set up, inviting not just WMAC but also WHOA. Also, invite members of the community at large, as this may be of interest to all citizens.
- B. Other New Business: Gregg Cowdery informed Opal of a dead tree at Columbia & Simpson; she said that she will have County Transportation look into it.

(cont)

Old Business:

- A. Funding: Opal Hellweg. The Land Use Study will come from RDA. Under \$100K, so expected to be direct approval. Ancillary costs also under RDA. NO road repairs may come from the RDA funds; period. RDA funds currently are not threatened by the State. Dusty Williams will not be able to make the September WMAC meeting, but he can make October. Possibly address redevelopment in September. Questions/Comments: Cindy Q: Winchester Signage status? A: Opal does not know; will check into. Andy Q: budget status? Opal A: \$550 thru end of fiscal year. Q: Who will monitor use of RDA funding? A: EDA, et al., at milestones. Opal announced the upcoming Air Show at Hemet Ryan Airport, and announced that Sup. Stone is hosting the Riverside County Philharmonic at the Ramona Bowl.
- B. Land Use Committee Meeting: Announced.
- C. EMWD Updates: Phil Paule presented various updates. Discussed the Tank some more. Also the long range draft plan and proposal for the Regional Urban Water Management Plan. Please see EMWD website for detailed information.
- D. Winchester Post Office downsizing? Stated that the Winchester Post Office "will not close." It is part of the community. Phil Paule is checking into the situation. Will strive to keep the PO open. Opal stated that the Board of Supervisors wrote a Resolution in support of our PO and sent it to USPS. Gregg noted rotating post masters, etc. The Community HIGHLY values our PO and the good people there.
- E. Highway 79 - Update on widening: No start date yet. No bids yet. An article appeared in the newspaper (general information).
- F. Proposed MWD Solar Farm: Randy Record of EMWD. Andy met with Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager of MWD. R.R. & J.K. will form a committee to see what might be done to restart Recreation and what other uses may be possible (as was promised). J.K. admitted 'ball was dropped.' Possible sources of funding? Sell land? What of solar profits? The community wishes answers both on where the Solar Project may be going, and what happened to the promised recreation amenities.
- G. Other Old Business: A.J. Q to Opal: What initiates Code Enforcement visits? A: Complaint-driven.

Open Forum:

- A. No comments.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center. Dark July and August.
EMWD will set up a meeting at large regarding the Reclaimed Water Tank at Longfellow. TBD.

Adjournment:

WMAC Adjourned 7:45 PM.