

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 13, 2013

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman

James Horecka, Secretary

Jimmy Sheldrake

Jeff Logan

Absent: Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jeff Stone

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by at 6:33 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Horecka. Second: Sheldrake. Approved: Unanimously.

Approval of April Minutes:

Motion to approve: Sheldrake. Second: Logan. Approved: Unanimously.

Guest: Hector Viray, Riverside County Code Enforcement

Viray discussed various issues of interest. Including:

Dispensaries. There are eight Collectives in the 3rd District. Four are in our area: Two in Winchester, two in Homeland. Some near closure. RCCE will follow-up. In all of Riverside County, there are 42. The one in Winchester nearest the School is in the pipeline for closure; issued citations and fines. If they do not close, the process will escalate.

The State Superior Court recently determined that Counties can decide how to handle Dispensaries. Currently in Riverside County, they are not allowed.

Questions: Q: How long is the process of closure, typically? A: Varies; often a year. The recent Court decision may help speed the process. Code Enforcement (C.E.) cannot shut down a business without a court order. C.E. enforces the Land Use Ordinances. C.E. doesn't "red tag." But can issue a notice of Summary Abatement. In some public safety cases, this can be done right away. It was noted that Collectives cannot get a permit in Riv. Co.

Gregg Cowdery inquired about the heavy equipment yard at the corner of SH 79 & Grand. Viray advised that RDDE won in court, ordering the persons to remove the equipment. Obviously nothing has moved; still an eyesore. RCCE must now go back to court; judge must rule Contempt. Process will continue.

Viray emphasized that Dispensaries are solely a Land Use issue. Collectives are not allowed in Riv. Co.

Q from public re weed abatement. A: If a property that is vacant has weeds, contact Cal Fire, Weed Abatement. If there is a structure on a parcel with excessive weeds, contact the local Fire Dept. Viray advised that other questions about weed abatement should go to Cal Fire.

New Business:

1. Andy Domenigoni is still planning to meet with the new City Managers of Hemet and Menifee, to remind the new leadership that the WMAC is here. This meeting has not yet been set up. Andy to team up with Jeff Logan to arrange this.
2. Other New Business: Proposed Consultant Service Agreement with RBF Consulting for the Development of the Master Drainage Plan for the West Side (MDP-West) of the City of Hemet. Issue was discussed.

Old Business:

- A. Update - Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant advised us of the following:
 - a. Opal not present; no report.
- B. Sheriff Dept:
 - Sheriff busy of late: PotUS in the I.E. Bush in Morongo.
 - Sheriff reported that local crime is trending upward; especially property crime.
 - Discussed AB 109 Realignment & effects. Early releases appear connected to spike in crimes.
 - Gang Task Force: Sergeant is attentive to the situation.
- C. EMWD Updates - Longfellow Recycle Water Tank
 - No news.
- D. Highway 79 - Update on widening.
 - SB traffic moved over to new road. Working on intersections; then both NB & SB will be open. The second phase is moving along.
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm (Andy Domenigoni)
 - No news. The Option may sunset next month (for west side). The company is still pursuing the east side, out by Sweeney Farm. Any development would have to go through the EIR process, Hemet.
- F. Land Use – (Jimmy Sheldrake)
 - No news.
 - Area developer Michael Smith, who owns a large property, has indicated that he wants to set up a meeting with us & WTA, regarding 40 acres in our Core area. He wants to bring in a Planner, at his expense, to study that area in our core. A Land Use Committee meeting is being considered. Slated for Tuesday, June 25th, at 3:00 PM, here. For more info, call: 926-6924. Andy noted that anything generated from the study and discussions could be added to our plan, as may be appropriate.
- G. Plot Plan and Change of Zone: Family Dollar Store, Hwy 74, Homeland
 - Horecka reported that he sent letter to county, indicating “No exceptions taken.”
- H. City of Hemet update – Emery Papp
 - Emery not present; no report.
- I. Citizens Patrol -- Bob Gibbons
 - Bob not present; no report.
- J. Winchester 125th Anniversary – Alan Wallace
 - Alan not present. Gregg Cowdery reported that he visited OERM to drum up interest.
- K. Notice: No July meeting.
 - Andy announced.
- L. Other Old Business
 - None.

Open Forum:

- A. Question from member of public: Inquiring what is the ‘tin building’ near the railroad tracks? Not known.
- B. Jeff Logan announced that a new “Bee” is out.
- C. Gregg Cowdery noted that Applied Earthworks uncovered a Site of Historical Interest: Remnants of an irrigation project from circa 1890, off Patton.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 8th, 2013, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment:

The WMAC adjourned 7:23 PM.