

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 12, 2015

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Jimmy Sheldrake; Jeff Logan.

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 Andy Domenigoni at 6:30 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Sheldrake; Second: Logan. Approved, unanimously.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Logan; Second: Sheldrake. Approved, unanimously.

Skipped forward to Old Business while waiting for Guest to arrive. See below.

Guests:

Scott Slumpff from Cal Fire discussing Fire Abatement

Station Captain Slumpff from our local Fire Station informed us about general operations. They have a fire engine, HazMat truck and squad vehicle. So far this year they've responded to 198 calls. The HazMat team covers a vast area.

Questions:

Q: Describe haz mat? A: Slumpff gave a brief description. This HazMat truck is one of the few in Riverside Cnty.

Q: Citizen mentioned a dumping concern; could be HazMat. A: Report it; with info, if available.

Q: Is Cal Fire a State agency? A: The County contracts with the State for service. There are nearly 100 fire stations in Riverside County.

Q: Is it still possible to get Burn Permits? A: Yes. Obtain and follow instructions; AQMD is a major driver. Must obtain a permit number; often a difficult and lengthy process.

Q: For large piles, is there an opportunity for a "practice burn" event? A: No.

Q: Are there burn permissible days? A: AQMD has a strict process.

Q: May AQMD applications be filed over the internet? A: No; by phone is best. AQMD & Fire will visit site.

Captain Laclair from Cal Fire prevention bureau also spoke.

He is a State police officer, whose primary duty is to investigate arson. He noted that this year so far has been busy, with a dozen persons in custody for arson. He discussed weed abatement, and reminded us that that time of year is coming up. Local engine companies observe conditions and write notices; 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Third goes to Bureau.

Q: Is there a waiver for the SRA fee? A: One can petition / challenge the fee.

Q: Who runs stations? A: County runs the stations, and owns much of the equipment. State employs the personnel.

New Business.

A. Proposed Children's Playground in Homeland

- Pastor Mike Gratzke & Leona Tarver of Community First Church presented a concept they have underway for a small playground for children & families on their church private property, at Hwy 74 & Homeland. They have engaged Adame Landscape to draft a plan and assist with processing. They also presented to the WTA.

· Q: Who has committed? A: Valley Wide has been engaged.

· Q: Gregg noted that WTA will be taking their concept to the WTA Land Use Committee.

· Q: Questions about liability. A: VW would assume liability (they are self-insured). To be verified.

· Q: Private land? A: The Church will not forfeit this land, no.

· Q: Who would maintain the park? A: TBD.

- Q: Sheriff noted that there are security issues and limits to enforcement on private property. He asked that the Church please engage the Sheriff's Office early.
- B. Other New Business:
 - None.

Old Business:

- A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant
 - The new Third-District Supervisor Chuck Washington will be our guest in the near future. Washington wishes to get started with our WHMAC Quarterly Meetings soon. In April, perhaps Peter Aldana, Assessor-County Clerk Recorder. May, perhaps DA Mike Hestrom. June for Chuck Washington?
 - Supervisor Washington was appointed to LAFCO.
 - County Hospital went to the Board for permission to raise rates 7%. Now one million MediCal patients.
 - East County Detention Center got a \$100M grant toward facilities. 1250 beds to 1600+ beds; 426kSF up to 515kSF; increases due to demands of the Assembly Bill & Proposition 47.
 - Cowdery mentioned potholes on one of the graded roads; Opal will look into this.
- B. Sheriff Dept.:
 - Sergeant Guillen brought us up to date. In general, crime is currently down. He noted that one Dispensary closed, but another one has popped up. Also, the marijuana growing season is now upon us: Report if seen. He noted that there really is NOT a 99-plant limit: In fact, there are no limits. Deputy Santiago told us of Agricultural status: Fairly quiet. Metal theft the biggest issues: Sprinkler heads, wiring, electrical.
- C. EMWD Updates:
 - Phil Paule spoke. Olive line 85% complete; expected completion in April. The Salt Creek line is expected to begin construction in about three weeks. Phil announced that there will be a Bird Watching event March 28th; see website. There will be a Water Conservation event at EMWD on April 18th.
- D. Highway 79 - Update on widening.
 - Certain stretches were repaved yet again.
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm:
 - No news.
- F. Land Use:
 1. Downtown Core Planning: There will be a Winchester Town Association Land Use Committee meeting with the contract Planner at 3:00. See WTA for details.
 2. Riverside County General Plan Amendment No. 960: Letter to be forwarded.
- G. City of Hemet update: Jeff Logan reported on miscellaneous minor items. None affecting our area directly.
- H. City of Menifee
 - Jeff Logan reported that Menifee is inviting comments on the Cimarron Ridge Specific Plan Draft EIR.
- I. Winchester Post Office:
 - No news. Some citizens experiencing eroding services.
- J. Other Old Business:
 - No news.

Open Forum:

1. Meredith announced the Domenigoni Poker Ride for Diabetes, coming April 25th.
2. Cowdery mentioned metal detector events. Various items of interest found near the Patterson House.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2015, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned at 7:46 PM.