

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 14, 2016

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

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

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Third District Supervisor

Members of the Public

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Motion by Meredith; second by Logan; approved, unanimous.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Motion by Meredith; second by Sheldrake; approved, unanimous.

Guest Speaker: Becky Mitchell, from the Economic Development Agency

Ms. Mitchell presented on the District Three Home Enhancement Program, and the Clean Neighborhoods program. She distributed handouts. Those interested should take flyers. There are websites, of course, with more information. The criteria is all spelled out in detail. These programs will remain while grant money is available (verify with website or Becky). Interested residents may also contact Becky for more information. The audience thanked Becky for her presentation.

New Business.

A. Grant funding prospects for Land Use Planning in the MAC.

In the past, the MAC was awarded a grant for planning. That funding, along with additional private funding which we used to engage Gary Thornhill, a worthy effort. The MAC is interested in moving forward, with useful professional assistance. Opal said she would check and see if there might be funding sources that the MAC could apply for again.

B. Other: None.

Old Business:

A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:

- Opal noted that we have three Flood Control commissioners in Zone 4; a couple of them missed the recent meeting.
- At the recent Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Washington asked for more funding for the Sheriff Dept., to bump the ratio up to 1.2 per 1000. Others suggested that the supervisors wait and evaluate the Public Safety element of the Audit of the County, to see how funding is currently being spent; there may be opportunity for new efficiencies (noted success with the hospital district).
- The hospital will be renamed January 22nd.
- The Hemet Ryan Air Show is slated for June 4th.
- Town Historian Gregg Cowdery noted that the Winchester Town Association made Opal Hellweg an Honorary Member of the Winchester Town Association.

B. Sheriff Dept.:

- Lt. Fellows reported: Nothing significant. Suspects in custody over the thefts of pickup trucks.
- Lt. Fellows introduced Deputy Joseph Puente. He gave a brief bio. Typically here Wed-Sat.

C. EMWD Updates:

- Kevin Pearson & Phil Paule advised us of the current situation with the drought. Cut back water use.

- Winchester Pond Site Recovery: This project is moving ahead. Perhaps July. Involves drilling two shallow recovery wells to bring water back up.
- D. Highway 79 (realignment) update.
 - No update.
- E. Land Use:
 - La Ventana project, GPA 1129.
 - GPA 921, 78 acres at Scott Road & El Centro.
 - GPA 943, 56.8 acres at Winchester Road & Stowe Road.

The Land Use Committee of the WTA is tracking all three of the above projects. At this time, it is the opinion of the LUC that these projects are not consistent with the General Plan. Will not support at this time. Several areas of concern: Consistency with the current General Plan. Consistency with the Thornhill Plan. Consistency with the Downtown Scheme. Schedule; the GPAs were slated for Jan. 12th; bumped to February. Noted that some GPAs have been in the pipeline since 2008. The LUC noted that a Grant (see above) would enable our community to better study certain zones to help assure appropriate development. Citizens are urged to actively participate if interested in such matters. Gregg Cowdery noted that the WTA & WMAC will connect with the new County Planner.
- F. City of Hemet update: Jeff Logan reported on misc. minor items.
 - Annexation 14-001, 995 acres east of California Street. LAFCO approved this, as recorded in November's Minutes. A Protest Hearing was held in December: No one within the boundary showed up at this hearing; therefore the approval stands. Note: A significant number of registered voters in the area must protest for an appeal to advance; none showed.
- G. City of Meniffee
 - No update.
- H. Other Old Business:
 - Gregg Cowdery attended the Flood Control Budget Hearing. He suggested Asbury area & Leon at 74. He noted that the contract has been let for the flood control basins.
 - Other: None.

Open Forum:

1. A citizen noted that there is a "420" flag at the strip mall now. This info will be forwarded to the County.
2. The Bum Steer restaurant has been sold. A new restaurant is under construction in the small facility near the Winchester General Store (Frank's)..

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned at 7:59 PM.