

# Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 12, 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 6:32 PM.

### Approval of Agenda:

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

### Approval of April Meeting Minutes:

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

Guest Speaker: Dean Wetter, Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District (VW) General Manager.

- Dean Wetter brief us on VW status, some activities, and the scene in the City of Menifee: There are currently 21 parks in Menifee. Their value tallies about \$50M. VW services the parks that are generally east of the 215 freeway.
- The City of Menifee has taken steps to break its connection with Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District. The Menifee City Council voted unanimously in mid-December, 2015, to approve a recommendation by city staff to begin the process of detaching itself from VW and take control of all parks and recreation facilities throughout Menifee. This process begins with an application for detachment made to the Riverside Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO). LAFCO reviews and decides such matters.
- Altogether, VW has, manages and maintains 84 parks totaling about 900 acres, and some 60 miles of street landscaping. VW serves about 10,000 people a day on average. They do this with only about 23 employees. VW has served the Valley since 1972, about 44 years. Dean stated that their team has learned much from their experience over many decades. He also played a brief slide show.
- Dean noted that Valley Wide is a Single Focus Agency. Funds that come in to VW go into services. Revenues and expenses are to balance. Funds go to maintain assets, and replace those at the end of their service life. There is a 'ceiling,' allowing growth of 2% per year. Throughout the year, volunteers typically put in about \$2.2M worth of efforts. Dean noted that there are typically 28 special events throughout the year. He noted that some parcels for parks come into being via the Quimby Act, in which developers of large tracts of land for housing donate parcels to become parks, which VW then helps create.
- In the Menifee area, approximately \$3.7M comes in. LAFCO has a specific process for "Detachment," though as a rather rare thing, the process and experience seems new to about everyone. Stay tuned to local news for updates on this matter.

### New Business.

B. County General Plan Amendments – Applications accepted 4/4/2016 through 6/2/2016.

- This time period is the "window" for applying for Foundation Changes. Changes that are NOT Foundation Changes may be applied for at any time. For details about all this, one is well advised to check with the County of Riverside. The General Plan Amendment process only happens once every eight years. The last cycle, back in 2008, had hundreds of applications for zone changes. Some of those got approved without us knowing, including some "odd" requests.
- The hope and intent is to get the Community Plan and Downtown Core Plan in for consideration. The process is typically long and expensive.

C. Other: None.

Old Business:

- A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:
- Opal reminded all of the Hemet Ryan Air Show, coming up June 4<sup>th</sup>. Free!
  - Opal noted that there was a ground breaking this day (/512) for the new Southwest Justice Center Juvenile Courts facility. This \$15M project is slated for completion in the summer of 2017.
  - The Board of Supervisors noted the economic impact of the Riverside University Health System, to the tune of about \$1.6 billion. The Board also is considering Pension Liabilities. The Board discussed the Homeless Task Force; a point-in-time survey indicated there are approximately 2,165 homeless in Riverside County. By way of comparison, there is estimated to be about 47,000 homeless in Los Angeles County. Supervisor Jefferies wishes to increase support. Opal noted that local efforts have housed about 800 Veterans over the past three years.
  - Opal had Engineering Staff prepare for our MAC new Maps, which she brought in for us to display. Wonderful!
  - Opal announced that the Metrolink Perris Valley Line opens June 6<sup>th</sup>. The nearest station to us is South Perris.
- B. Sheriff Dept.:
- Lieutenant Edward Chavez briefed us on various topics. He reported the current numbers. 170 calls. 5 arrests. 14 Part I crimes. Areas of concern continue to be thefts and burglary, particularly mail theft. Thanks to citizens speaking up about issues (see something – say something), four search warrants were served near Sage last month. This resulted in four arrests, netted 8,200 marijuana plants and 1,700# of processed marijuana. Chavez noted that there were many calls for arson of late, including seven in one day. He noted that Cal-Fire is the lead in the investigative efforts. Residents expressed concern with drugs, as usual. Also concern over illegal dispensaries, including proximity to young school children. Locals expressed thanks that a festering problem on Melba Avenue was finally remedied, thanks to efforts by law enforcement.
- C. EMWD Updates:
- Kevin Pearson reported.
  - On May 11<sup>th</sup>, EMWD dedicated five new solar sites. These are projected to save about \$1 million per year. SCE contributed about \$6 million in incentives. The projects have a projected service life of 20 years. In total, EMWD expects to save about \$37 million in energy costs over the life of the project. This savings will help minimize rate increases due to lower operating costs. Financing is by EMWD, with a 12 year ROI.
  - EMWD has about 237,000 water services. Kevin noted that getting and moving water consumes ~20% of the energy in the electrical grid in the State of California.
  - The State Water Resources Control Board proposes to base mandated reductions on the supplies that areas have. This must go through a certification process. This is the ‘structure’ that EMWD lobbied for. The Board will discuss a drop in the Stage soon. Kevin gave a shout-out to Dean Wetter of Valley-Wide, noting that Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District is the largest user of recycled water.
  - The Winchester Pond Site Recovery Project is still a few months.
  - Kevin responded to a question regarding working with Flood Control. That’s complex, but they are cooperating. Conservation, recharge basins, etc.
- D. Highway 79 (realignment) update.
- No news for the overall project.
  - For corner at 79 & 74: Mr. Alabassi, the owner of property was planning to attend a MAC meeting, but has not yet been able to. He reportedly will bring a Site Plan for the lots to a future meeting. Reportedly the lots will have a Circle K facility and a Jack in the Box drive-thru restaurant.
- E. Land Use:
- La Ventana project, GPA 1129: Be advised: TPC Hearing scheduled for 6/1/2016. See County. The proponents have been invited to return to the Winchester Town Center Land Use Committee meeting Wednesday, May 18.
  - GPA 1120 Housing Element and Downtown Winchester: EIR Comments are due 5/30/2016.

- The Land Use Committee is analyzing the General Plan, and the Housing Element. There are two more meetings of the LUC scheduled. The consultant (Max Sardoni) is also reviewing the proposed write-up from the WTA LUC to the County.
  - Reminder that General Plan Applications due by 6/4/2016.
  - Andy Domenigoni expressed thanks to Opal for the new maps, which all agree are wonderful and very useful.
  - Andy stated that he spoke with Juan Perez and Steve Rice, of Riverside County. He remains hopeful that after July, there may be a chance at some funding to further our planning studies. He stated that there may be a County-initiated amendment for our area. Andy said he resent the Gary Thornhill study to the County. They asked if we would contact Gary Thornhill to see if he would come down to the County to help to refine some of the concepts that were outlined in the original study that he helped local citizens to prepare together.
  - Homeland is interested in being included actively as well, to gain local input. This would include a meeting in the Homeland area. Homeland probably does not have need of Foundation Changes. Andy plans to bring in the new maps. There may be a mini “charrette” for citizens. OK as is? Changes? Other? Weigh in! Later, County staff will look more closely at the area.
  - We all agreed that it is important to have Maps at every meeting.
- F. City of Hemet update:
- Jeff Logan reported.
  - An initiative will be coming up on the June 7<sup>th</sup> ballot, proposing a one cent sales tax increase in order to fund additional police and fire protection. There would be a separate budget for these funds, subject to proper management verified by audits. A 2/3 majority vote is required to pass the initiative. There seems to be a positive response..
- G. City of Menifee
- Andy Domenigoni & Jeff Logan reported on their meeting with the Mayor and City Manager of Menifee on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Items discussed include: The Detachment from Valley-Wide. Menifee sees certain areas as being within their sphere. Andy countered that developers and land owners of those areas will have their own opinions, which should be considered. Certain Romoland schools are in Menifee: Menifee reps suggested their sphere should shift to Leon; Logan countered that they should move their school district office (simpler, cheaper). Andy stated that the Menifee reps said that the “rumors” we may have been hearing are not true: That Menifee was not going to annex to Hwy 79. Nevertheless, Menifee is interested in adjusting areas around Menifee at the northeast; for example behind the high school, Brookfield, etc. Ownership of parcels varies. Menifee is also looking to refine their boundaries with the City of Perris, as well.
- H. Other Old Business:
- Jim Horecka read the Mission Statement of the Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council. Also noted that the WMAC was formed almost six years ago.
  - Paul Raver, Hemet Mayor Pro-Tem, again brought up the importance of the Highway 79 Realignment Project to our valley at large. He has been in some contact with RCTC, in an effort to try to push this forward. Raven stated that Hemet intends to form an ad hoc committee to focus on Hwy 79. They will ask someone from the MAC to be on the ad hoc committee, recognizing that we also have a stake in the project. Plans are being made to that effect. The Supervisor will contact us.

Open Forum:

1. Mary Plumb announced the latest “Jump for Joey” fundraising event for Joey’s Pals, on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Flyers available.
2. Mary Plum asked if there there is a local Girl Scout troop or 4H Club for youngsters. Andy advised that those with an interest might have luck checking with the local Cooperative Extension Service. There may be other groups.
3. It was noted that two \$500 scholarships were recently granted to deserving students of Winchester School.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2016, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned at 8:23 PM.