

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 8, 2023

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC: Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Thomas Laury;
Absent: Jimmy Sheldrake; Kim Wortman.

Members of the Public.

Call to Order: Call to order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:30 PM.
Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion JH; seconded TL: Unanimous.

Approval of the Minutes from May 11, 2023:

Motion TL; seconded JH: Unanimous.

Staff Reports:

- A. Supervisor Chuck Washington's Office; Robyn Brock, Chief of Staff, introduced Melissa Morfin, direct assistant to Robyn Brock, and is Supervisor Washington's liaison to Public Works & Community Services.
 - Great news! Three businesses in Winchester were selected for grants to improve their facilities: Chris' Burgers, Ocotillo Restaurant, and Hemet Fence.
 - Graffiti on K-rails at Patterson was mitigated.
 - In response to a query: Recycled water is not yet available for irrigating the golf course at Highland Palms.
 - Staff is reviewing storm drainage concerns at the Sunset Crossing project.
 - Patterson House: Its historic landmark status does not put any building restrictions on the property. However, if the qualities for which it was originally designated are lost, the designation could be in jeopardy.
 - MAC members need to confirm the location & direction of each sign.
 - C: Concern that the County discouraged a proposal for a 250KSF industrial project as inappropriate, due to current land use. Our Land use Committee considered it an appropriate use. Proponent Mr. Manga was disappointed. Staff will look into this topic.
 - Q: What is the status to GPA 1207? A: No news to report. Comments will result in amendments.
 - Q (AD): We met a year ago regarding Temecula & Murrieta. What is the current status? A: No specifics. How can the County ensure the revised GP won't increase impact on these adjacent cities? Conversations continue.
 - C (GC): Gregg mentioned that traffic goes THROUGH Winchester, not TO it. (Mostly.)
 - C (RB): Robyn said there will be another EIR & Public Review period (for the GPA).
 - C (AD): Andy noted that more cities have signed onto the Highway 79 Realignment Coalition. Robyn said that the Supervisor will be meeting on this topic.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Holtkamp:
 - Stats: April: 347 calls, 3 arrests. May: 332 calls, 7 arrests.
 - Construction thefts continue.
- C. California Highway Patrol; no representative present; no report.
- D. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34; Kenith Moffit:
 - 108 calls in May: 61 medical calls, 35 traffic collisions. In June, 40 calls to date.
 - The Defensible Space Inspection Team has just two persons, who cover a vast area.
 - Moffit noted that some recent fires were started by arsonists; three persons were apprehended.
- E. EMWD Updates; Alma Ramirez:
 - In response to a question from last month: Recycled water is not available at this time for Highland Palms.
 - Robyn left flyers: Waterwise for Life. Links to websites for info.

- EMWD will hold a public hearing on June 21st, at the EMWD Board Room at HQQ, 9:00 AM. Also available via Zoom. The proposed rate increases will be on the agenda.
 - Q (AD): Water supply status: A: We in Winchester get most our water (51%) from the State Water project & the Colorado River. The river & lakes are still quite low. The State Water Project is now at 100% allocation; they are now banking water (allocation was previously just 1.5%).
 - Q: Have you considered desalination? EMWD has three desalination plants. The most recent plant alone serves 15,000 homes. EMWD partners with the Doheny Beach project.
 - C: Years ago, the state of Oregon offered water to California, provide we would repair certain aqueducts.
- F. Code Enforcement; Officer Matt Piper:
- Since our last MAC: 26 open cases. Closed 29 cases. 40 inspections done. 6 vehicles & 1 trailer hauled off.
 - Those who need it may apply for a \$5000 one-time benefit for cleaning-up a site.
 - Status of the Pig Farm: Towed 5 vehicles & 1 trailer from the site, & waste resources cleaned up more trash.
 - A job walk is scheduled for the Winchester Inn. Asbestos is present.
 - The “Junk Your Clunkers” program is available. Get junk cars towed for free.
- G. Emergency Management Department; Camille Collins:
- They’ve been busy, with fires, haz mat incidents, etc.
 - The County’s emergency plan has been approved by the state.
 - CERT Training is slated for August 11-13 in the City of Menifee.
 - She suggested citizens register for Alert RivCo, at Rivco.org
- H. 36th District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia: Representative not present; no report.
- I. Senator Kelly Seyarto’s Office; Amanda Fisher:
- Mentioned various bills in process.
 - Summer recess is here: The Senator will be available in town.
 - Annual Veteran’s Expo is coming up. Flyers left in back.
- J. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Craig Shultz:
- Shultz thanked the Fire Department for their help a few weeks ago.
 - Announced “Movies in the Park” and various other activities.
- K. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians; no representative present; no report.
- L. Winchester Land Use Committee update; no representative present; no report.
- M. City of Menifee update; Doug Darnell.
- City Council approved a 5-year capital improvement plan.
 - He mentioned a number of developments continuing in the city.
 - The EIR is coming along for the Specific Plan covering Case Rd to SH 74 X Menifee Rd to Briggs Rd.
 - A new tract has been approved, on land near the Domenigoni Parkway at Briggs Rd. (Briggs to be extended.)
- N. Other Departments and Public Agencies; None.
- Andy asked that our next agenda include Hemet in the Agenda.

New Business:

- A. Guest Presentation: Menifee Union School District on Strategic Planning and Future Growth – Dr. Jennifer Root, Superintendent and Josué Reyna, Director of Communications and Community Engagement.
- Via a PowerPoint Presentation, the presenters shared statistics and such. Highlights included: MUSD is the largest employer in the City of Menifee. Scores ranked #4 in Riverside County. They are growing; currently at 12,016, K-8.
 - Q: What are the boundaries? A: Two districts merged. Perris Union is to the north. High schools are presently in Perris Union School District. The districts do communicate, especially on certain topics.
 - Q (AD): I seems #15 was plopped down in a rural area; why? A: A demographics company works with them, and helps project where growth is expected. In this case, they ‘found and purchased’ the land, enough room for both an elementary school and middle school.
 - C (GC): Cowdery shared a few bits of history. Also suggested that ‘financial literacy’ be taught.
 - C (AD): Andy expressed frustration that schools don’t improve infrastructure, resulting in issues. A: Funding for schools, even building schools, is a continuing challenge. Where possible, they do try to work with the city to solve issues.

- Q (Andrea): What is the impact of increases in construction costs? A: School in 2012: \$14M; compare to Elementary #15, currently under construction, at \$80M. They do practice Value Engineering. A new high school can run \$250M to \$260M at present.
- All thanked the presenters for an informative presentation.
- B. Guest Presentation & Staff Report Order & Logo Discussion; Robyn Brock, Chief of Staff to Supervisor Chuck Washington.
 - Regarding the suggestion last month that the Guest Speaker be placed ahead of Staff Reports on the Agenda: The reason the Staff Reports are earlier is so that the First Responders are up first, released as early as can be. All agreed that this does indeed make the most sense. The agenda will remain in its current general order.
 - Regarding ideas for logos for Winchester: Talk to Gregg Cowdery. Robyn will make an ad hoc committee. Andy Domenigoni also suggested that this be added to the Land Use Committee.
 - Q: What is the status on the proposed Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at the school crosswalk at Winchester Road (SH-79) at Haddock Street? A: Same as before; the project is in the works. (Citizens urged a speedy process.)
 - Q: Could raised curbs be built at the unimproved corners of (the above) intersection to improve safety? A: That's not likely. (*Secretary's note:* The RV Storage Yard is conditioned to make certain street improvements on the west side of SH-79, then corner, and the north side of Haddock Street.)
 - Q: How about metal rails with posts of wood? A: Similar.

Public Comments:

- None.

Councilmember Reports and Comments:

- Andy asked that those on the board confirm the sign locations on a map. We did so.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Ideas, please.
- Andy Domenigoni suggested perhaps CalTrans.

Adjourn Meeting:

- As is customary, the WHMAC will be dark in July. The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2023, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 8:15 PM. M:TL / S:JH