

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 12, 2023

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

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

Members of the Public.

Call to Order: Call to order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:32 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion JS; seconded TL: Unanimous.

Approval of the Minutes from September 14, 2023:

Motion TL; seconded JS: Unanimous.

Staff Reports:

- A. Supervisor Chuck Washington's Office; Robyn Brock, Chief of Staff:
 - Winchester Days Community Fair was a success! Supervisor Washington hosted a booth and had a great time. Also supported the fair with \$25,000. (Many thanks from all local citizens!)
 - The allocation of \$10M in TUMF for the Highway 79 Realignment Project, which was proposed by Supervisor Washington and is supported by him, is awaiting approval from the Western Riverside Transportation Commission Board.
 - Supervisor Washington is working on pulling dates and times that work for the Third District, the Transportation and Land Management Agency, and Land Use Committee regarding the Community Plan.
 - Funding is available for the communities of Winchester, Romoland and Homeland: \$30,000 for each community from Supervisor Washington's Office, for exterior home repair program for qualified household through Habitat for Humanity. See Flyers.
 - Request: Dirt was delivered to "Uncle Joe." Though he stated he still needs gravel, please.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Holtkamp:
 - Stats: September: 321 calls (down 53), 6 arrests.
 - Q: Any information on recent traffic accidents? A: No; that would be CHP.
 - Deputy Holtkamp will be transferring to Temecula. All expressed thanks to him for his service & dedication.
- C. California Highway Patrol; no representative present; no report.
- D. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34; Jeff Veik, Deputy Chief Western Operations:
 - Call stats not available.
- E. EMWD Updates; Alma Ramirez:
 - EMWD was also at Winchester Days. They provided a Hydration Station, which was very popular.
 - National Farmer's Day: Thanks to all farmers! Many in our rural town!
 - Coming up on November 1, 9:00 AM: There will be a hearing regarding Recycled Water rates. Why? Recycled water is booming. All costs have gone up; costs for chemicals especially. Ramirez noted that other agencies charge more. Recycled water is a drought-proof supply.
 - Also coming up: A Town Hall Meeting, at French Valley Library. October 19, 5:30 PM
 - Director Phil Paule noted that Diane Feinstein, who passed recently, was 'good for water' in California.
 - Phil Paule heard from the head of MWD that there was a proposal to change the name of Diamond Valley Lake to Diane Feinstein Lake. Paule suggested that we locals participate in this, expression our opinions on this matter. Other geographic areas may be more appropriate for honorary naming.
 - C (AD): may write a letter.
 - C (JS): If there be any name change, it ought to be back to Domenigoni Reservoir.
 - Q: Would the WTA need to write a letter? A: No.

- Q (Gregg Cowdery): Would this name change result in spending another \$65,000 for a consultant to advise on a new name, like last time?
- F. Code Enforcement; Ryan Calametti (sitting in for Matt Piper):
 - Working on big homeless encampment in Homeland.
 - Winchester In is still in litigation. The aim is to raze the facility, which is falling apart.
 - Still working on Patterson.
 - There is still money available for one-time cleanups.
 - Business Renovation Funding has now been expanded to include Residential as well!
 - There is still funding for Junk Your Clunker.
 - Community Cleanups will be coming after the first of the new year.
 - C: A person was seen taking stuff from the site of the fire on Gough to another site.
 - C: Please work with EMWD to remove ~9 tires from a local EMWD property.
 - Q (Tom): Are my tractors an issue? A: No; tractors don't fall under Vehicle Abatement.
- G. Emergency Management Department; Camille Collins, Emergency Services Coordinator:
 - Coming up: CERT in Perris. Then, later, in Moreno Valley. Next year, here again.
 - EMD was activated during Hurricane Hilary. \$162M in damages, mostly in east County, where they experienced 50-year storm levels; 1,000 year storm levels in a few areas. 100,000 sandbags. First digital messaging. No loss of life. Communicated to homeless in the riverbeds, to warn them. Some areas 3" of rain in an hour. Technology advancements helped. Riverside EMD was one of three in California to achieve Emergency Management Accreditation Program: Kudos!
 - C (JS): Thanks! He stated that he heard San Bernardino County did not fare well.
- H. 36th District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia; no representative present; no report.
- I. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office; no representative present; no report.
- J. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Robert Byers:
 - Winchester Days was a big success! Thanks to all involved! Coming up:
 - October 27th, Halloween event here at the Park in Winchester.
 - Autumn Elegance: November 4th. Left flyers.
 - C (Jeff Little): Thousands enjoyed the inflatables, petting zoo, hay rides, booths of many organizations, etc.
 - C (Gregg C): The event far exceeded expectations. Thanks to Byers, Valley Wide P&R & all volunteers.
 - C (Andy D): Great job, all!
- K. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians; no representative present; no report.
- L. Winchester Land Use Committee update; Cindy Domenigoni:
 - There have been two LUC meetings since their pause:
 - September 16: Richland Communities regarding their Tract Maps that have already been approved and extended, coming due soon. 314 acres, needing approval of Final Map. They are in need of support for some rural roads that they wish to vacate. She presented a Letter from the Winchester-Homeland Town Association supporting the vacation of certain roads within TTM 30976/39077, Richland Communities. The LUC sees no issues with this. The LUC suggested the proponent work with Valley Wide & County Planning to resolve Parks issues. The LUC, via the W-H Town Association, asked the WH-MAC to forward the Letter.
 - The Independent Trading Company, who is thinking of moving to Winchester, invited us to tour their existing facilities. Several will attend; MAC members will be limited to 2 maximum.
 - There has been a request that a couple of Winchester-Homeland MAC meetings be held in Homeland.
 - At the October 3rd meeting of the LUC: The topic was Advanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD), under the 2014 Senate Bill 628, a tool to nudge progress. Takes time. If a Supervisor decides that a community may be a good candidate, he could suggest this. From there, a feasibility study would be done.
 - There was concern expressed regarding the timeline for the Community Plan: that the EIR may expire. News came that the EIR has been extended to the spring of 2024 (though that is not far off).
 - The next meeting of the LUC is scheduled for October 17, 3:00 PM, at Cindy's office.
 - In response to the Ask by the WTA: Sheldrake motioned that the WH-MAC forward to Third District Supervisor Chuck Washington the Letter from the WH-Town Association from the Land Use Committee expressing support for the proposed vacation of certain rural roads in TM 30976 & 30977 of Richland Communities. Second: Laury. Vote: Unanimous. Andy will forward the Letter, under our WH-MAC cover letter.
- M. City of Menifee update; no representative present; no report.
- N. City of Hemet; no representative present; no report.

- O. Department of Animal Services; no representative present; no report.
- P. Other Departments and Public Agencies:
 - None.

New Business:

- A. Guest Speaker: Jeff Veik, Deputy Chief, Western Operations, CalFire, Riverside County Unit.
 - Veik spoke regarding Wildland Fire, Safety, Defensible Space and Fire Season.
 - There is not more ‘official opening’ of fire season anymore: Wild weather means the risk is ongoing. Wildland fires are more common: Be proactive! Abate those weeds.
 - The recent Hurricane Hilary adversely affected eastern Riverside County.
 - October is typically high risk: Be alert!
 - Our area has a long history in fire service. Example: Hemet Ryan Air Attack Base.
 - Veik noted that 95% of wildland fires can be traced back to human cause. See something, say something!
 - Maintaining defensible space is very important. See website for graphics, tips, etc.
 - Weed abatement: How? 1. For vacant parcels, notices are mailed to owners of. Abate 30-ft swath, down close. 2. For improved parcels, abate for 30-ft around home; trim trees away from house; prune-up limbs. Provide the address on the home, visible from street. See also: Hazard Reduction links from Fire.
 - Regarding Fire Insurance, and some policies being cancelled: Veik noted that Fire has no say in these matters. Fire Hazard Severity Maps, including High and Very High Hazard zones, are mapped. Per Code, homes in these zones must comply with applicable code requirements. Homes in a WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) are at higher risk, and must therefore comply with additional code requirements.
 - See also: California FAIR Plan; for those who have had their fire insurance canceled. Stay informed!
 - Q: Is the Station at Sultanas CalFire? A: Yes.
 - Q: Weed abatement vs endangered species, etc.? A: If unsure, engage expert advice. Don’t get in trouble.
 - Q: Can we burn tumbleweeds? A: No! Too risky.
 - Q: Would homes not be allowed in high-fire areas? A: Allowed, but under many code requirements.
 - Q: Does Staff receive training on the difference between vacant property & cultivated land? A: Notices are mailed. Contact Veik for specific issues.
 - All thanked Chief Veik.

Public Comments:

- Q: What’s up with utility marking near the intersection of Winchester Road at Haddock Street? A: Likely marking for engineering.
- C (Angela Little): Expressed agreement regarding the lack of left turn lanes at intersections near school.

Councilmember Reports and Comments:

- Andy Domenigoni expressed concern that there may be a proposal to rename Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Diane Feinstein. Most present appeared to agree the idea isn’t appropriate.
- Concern was expressed regarding Winchester Business Park, by the Airport: A large development, with the potential of many trucks impacting Winchester Road.
- Andy Domenigoni attended the State of EMWD event: Impressed, he thanked EMWD for keeping up.
- There may be a future proposal for a Winchester Charter School.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Suggestions for future guests are always welcome, please!

Adjourn Meeting:

- The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2023, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 8:12 PM. M:JS / S:TL