



OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

18 Valley Road, Oak View
Monday, November 27, 2023 - 7:00PM

Chair: Chris Cohen, **Vice Chair:** Joseph Westbury

Council Members: Barbara Kennedy, Grace Malloy, Terry Wright

Public Comments FOR IN PERSON MEETINGS may be provided using the following **TWO options:**

Option 1: E-MAIL PUBLIC COMMENT- If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment to the Executive Officer at ovmac@ventura.org for that item via email by 3:30 p.m. the day of the meeting to ensure your letter is received and entered into the record. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL: (A) MEETING DATE, (B) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER, (C) SUBJECT OR TITLE OF THE ITEM, (D) YOUR FULL NAME. DURING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEM SPECIFIED IN YOUR EMAIL, YOUR COMMENT WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD. Please limit your written correspondence to 300 words or less.

Option 2 – IN PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT - If you wish to make a comment in-person, you must be present at the meeting location and provide your comment prior to the close of the public comment period for the item you wish to speak on. Each meeting will have sign-in sheets to participate in Public Comment at the meeting location for in-person comments.

1. Call to Order of the Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

*Chair Cohen, Member Wright, Member Malloy, and Member Kennedy present.
Vice Chair Westbury absent.*

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Chair Cohen, seconded by Member Kennedy, approved 4/0

5. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

*Public Comment No. 1 – Ron Solorzano - Regional librarian for Oak View, Meiners Oaks, and Ojai Valley Libraries. Announcement of upcoming events:
Play time and Learn time, run by Shannon Dykstra on Saturdays from 11AM at the Oak View Library Art Salon for Adults – Holiday Addition on the 2nd Saturday, December 9th at the Oak View Library*

Public Comment No. 2 - Teena Broumand – Thanked CHP for traffic monitor at Creek Rd. Stated that a group of people speed at 35MPH. She would love to see raw data with the traffic monitor, because others are going over 50MPH. Mentioned another accident in front of her property, this is the second accident with a 30-day window; and third this year. Mentioned Fire on Oatman and described a near miss of an RV by 5ft and several trees. Ms. Broumand wants road segments to be broken up and more signs. She has serious concerns about more accidents and injuries. Asked the council to come up with additional ideas to stop speeding, and the need to augment the road.

Question from Member Kennedy – Asked about Sling Shot; is this a legal item? The Executive Officer will look into it.

Public Comment No. 3 CHP - Updates – COPS program is a new CHP program with a goal to make a change with how we engage with the community. We are asked to do more with less. We will be adding

to our agenda as we forward on van enforcement; E-Bikes – we can regulate, it depends on violations and speeds; hacks and conversion kits.
The council thanked CHP for attending.

Public Comment No. 4 Stephen Weed – Mentioned that good work is being done at OVMAC.

6. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2023 – DRAFT MINUTES ATTACHED**
Moved by Chair Cohen, seconded by Member Westbury, approved 3/0 (AB)
7. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023 – DRAFT MINUTES ATTACHED**
Moved by Chair Cohen, seconded by Member Wright, approved 4/0
8. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2023 – DRAFT MINUTES ATTACHED**
Moved by Chair Cohen, seconded by Member Kennedy, approved 3/1(AB)
9. **City of Ojai Planning Commission Update (NO ONE PRESENT)**

Action Items:

10. **Request for approval of the DRAFT 2024 OVMAC Meeting Calendar [Attachment]**
Moved by Member Kennedy, seconded by Chair Cohen, approved 4/0
11. **Request for OVMAC Letter of Support for Future Funding Opportunities for potential Botanical Park in Meiners Oaks.**

Meiners Oak Parks (501c3) is working cooperatively with the county to create a community park on a 2-acre county-owned parcel located at 312 E. El Roblar Drive in Meiners Oaks. The MOP Board of Directors together with a design team of landscape, architectural, and engineering professionals has developed a concept for the nature-focused park that includes native vegetation, interpretive/education, and social gathering areas. Thoughts for the park were refined with input from the community based on an online survey and numerous pop-up tablings at businesses, farmers markets, and local events. The MOP has a Memorandum of Understanding with the County to move forward with planning and permitting the project. [Attachment]

Representatives: Paula Power and Board Member Amandaagin presented to the council. Noted: *Council Member Joseph Westbury arrived at the meeting at 8:03PM*

Paula Power and Amanda were present at the meeting to share with the council the importance of the value and support of public land and access for all. Children need time in nature; they do better socially, internally, and economically later in life as adults.

*They gave some background information on how the property was conceived and started; walked through concept design – ¼ mile of walking path. Visitors will experience an approximate 10,000 years of agriculture landscape in the nature walk. Mentioned that the MOP now has a MOU and will commence planning and permitting process. The MOP has a website please check us out and you can email us. <https://imaginemopark.wixsite.com/mo-park>
Imaginemopark@gmail.com*

The council questioned a Benefit Assessment District for the maintenance of the park; could approve a fee of \$5 - \$10. Parking was discussed in the letter and that funding acquisitions should be more general, and it be directed to the Supervisor. MOP is a 501 C3. This item should be brought to the council at the next meeting, January 24th. Paula Power reached out to the neighboring rest home that helped design a cross walk at the bus stop.

Recommendation to receive letter for review and general feedback.

Council voted: Moved by Member Kennedy, seconded by Member Mallory, approved 5/0

Informational Items:

12. Presentation on Ventura County Water Purveyor Database Project [County Watershed Protection Division].

The County has acquired funding and hired a consultant to develop a Countywide water mapping database that would ideally serve as an interactive encyclopedia of water resources and drought/emergency information to aid planning and management initiatives, which could include State reporting and potential grant and loan pursuits. In this first stage we are seeking input to define what a successful project would look like. It's anticipated that this shared resource will support water agencies of all sizes, with a particular focus on supporting under-resourced and smaller agencies. The project team is conducting outreach efforts with small water purveyors, municipal advisory councils (MACs), local water associations, and other groups to gather input on potential needs that could be met by this project and recommended approaches for development.

Staff Contacts: Arne Anselm, Deputy Director Water Resources, VC Public Works Agency
Ben Fischetti, Engineer Manager II, VC Public Works Agency
Spencer Waterman, Water Systems Consulting, Inc.

Staff member Greg Romey Casitas Water District was present during the presentation.

A Power Point Presentation was discussed on Aid Water Planning and Initiatives through shared resources on the following topics:

- *Organizational and contact information.*
- *Emergency preparedness systems information*
- *Supplies and Uses*
- *Supply constraints, exposure points and risk areas*

Questions VC Public Works Agency is addressing: What water related information is needed to access for purveyors? Is it difficult to search for water related information that is needed? And, how can VC Public Works Agency help and leverage such a need.

[See attached power point]

13. Presentation from Ojai Valley Land Conservancy – Strategic Plan.

Tom Maloney, Executive Director of the OVLC, will appear to present the Land Conservancy's new strategic plan and five-year vision. This short presentation will hopefully lead to discussion with the MAC members on ways that the Land Conservancy can help the MAC meet some of the Valley's planning and conservation challenges.

Representative: Tom Maloney, Executive Director

OVLC Executive Director, Tom Maloney presented the new strategic plan efforts that are currently underway. Addressing the issue of drought as discussing 220 acres additional land acquisition to the conservancy. Water transfer rights to nature thinking about groundwater, doing projects with Oaks, Arundo removal and wanting to "ReWild Ojai" by bringing back native plants, and looking into rebranding the conservancy logo. As the organization is looking towards the future, they are looking at new potential for stewardship as it relates to its 27 miles of trails. Mr. Maloney mentioned that the community found resilience in nature during Covid and after Covid with nearly 7,000 volunteers strong.

OVMAC if able to assist or support OVLC on the following items:

- *Vegetation/landscaping "ReWild Ojai" – Native vs. drought tolerant;*
- *Full management/breaks*
 - *Combining with climate resilience.*
- *Storm Water Treatment*

14. Announcements and Updates

15. Councilmember Comments

Member Kennedy announced Christmas Carolers event – December 16 at Ojai Valley Ranch Market, 5PM.

16. Adjournment: Next Meeting will be held on **Monday, January 22, 2024**, at 7:00PM IN PERSON at the Oak View Community Center
Council Adjourned meeting at 9:37PM

Item No. 6 - Approval of the Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2023 – DRAFT MINUTES ATTACHED

Item No. 7 - Approval of the Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023 – DRAFT MINUTES ATTACHED

Item No. 8 - Approval of the Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2023 – DRAFT MINUTES ATTACHED

Item No. 10. Request for approval of the DRAFT 2024 OVMAC Meeting Calendar

Item No. 11 – Meiners Oaks Park – Concept Drawing