

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES of May 19, 2010

The Casa Conejo MAC held an official meeting Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 6:00 P.M.
Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Dr., Newbury Park

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by *Chair Dustin Woomer* at 6:04 P.M. MAC members *Jennifer Lee Clark, Clara Ann Deemer, Megan Sandoval, Janell Smith, Edward J. Villa, Sr, and Bobbi Ross-Neier* were also present.

2. Flag salute

The MAC led the flag salute.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The adoption of the agenda, with the change of moving item 8.b. ahead of item 8.a, passed 7-0 on a motion by *Ed Villa*, seconded by *Janell Smith*.

4. Approval of the minutes of January 20, 2010 and March 17, 2010

The minutes of both meetings were approved unanimously on a motion by *Megan Sandoval* seconded by *Clara Ann Deemer*.

5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks spoke about the continuing effects of the State budget cuts on County government. She commented on how the Board of Supervisors was taking action to improve programs for foster children. She said that the new Transportation Director *David Fleisch* from the Ventura County Public Works Agency would be meeting with the MAC in the summer. Resident *James Keatley* asked about the County policy for repairing sidewalks, and resident *Nathan Borin* commented that the County allocated funding out of the General Fund for a homeless center but not for fixing sidewalks. *Janell Smith* raised the issue of public employee pension reform, and Supervisor Parks noted the example of the County's deputy sheriffs voluntarily accepting reductions to their pensions.

6. Public Comments

Resident *James Keatley* spoke about his disagreement with the County policy on sidewalk repair. Resident *David Harris* described his problems with a neighbor's backyard track for racing motorcycles on Devia St. *Captain Brent Kerr* said that he would see what the Sheriff's Department could do to help. A resident commented that a motocross track permit was required, as of the previous year. A female resident said that the traffic noise from new construction was unacceptable on Frankie St., and she requested a sound wall along Old Conejo Rd. *Douglas Sullivan* from Lake Sherwood commented on a report made by Sheriff Bob Brooks to the Board of Supervisors on the previous day which contained the information that sheriff's response times to unincorporated County area calls averaged twice as much time as calls to incorporated areas. He advised the MAC that the members had the authority to establish a Casa Conejo independent district with control over residents' tax money and the power to control services such as law enforcement in order to improve response times and other matters. *Captain Kerr* pointed out that his department's level of service was based on calls for service from an area, not the amount of tax funding provided by an area.

7. Council Comments

There were none.

8. Information items

a. Power point presentation and discussion: re-envisioning our local flood control channels, with a look at a model pedestrian and bicycle "greenway" program the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District is undertaking in Simi Valley

Dustin Woomer gave a presentation showing examples of improvements that could be introduced along the Casa Conejo flood control channel. There was a discussion that followed about the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing these ideas. *Jenny Lee Clark* and *Bobbi Ross-Neier* agreed that a greenway could improve public safety if it were done properly. *Nathan Borin* asked who would pay for the project,

and **Dustin Woomer** said grant funding existed and could be applied for. **Clara Ann Deemer** wondered about the problem of stagnant water and whether some segments of the channel were too narrow, and others brought up questions regarding the proximity of the channel to backyards, and use of the greenway after dark. **Dustin Woomer** replied that there would be a reconstruction of the banks and the buffers and better plantings, that the distance from backyards varied but that in most areas the access roads along the channel were already twelve feet wide. He said that the greenway could have a cut-off time in the evenings, like the parks, and that there would be lighting strategically placed. The Watershed Protection District's Director **Norma Camacho** said that the access roads were fifteen feet across. She noted that County Public Works could not be held responsible if the walkways or plantings were damaged in storms, but she also emphasized that increasing recreational opportunities was part of the mission of Watershed Protection District. She said that there existed multiple grant fund sources for improving the channel, including the Federal government, the California Coastal Commission, and River Parkways. She said that the first step in developing the concept of a greenway in Casa Conejo would be to build community support. **Sergio Vargas** of the same department pointed out that some parts of the channel were presently insufficient for meeting FEMA requirements, so adding more vegetation now could further restrict them. But he said that recreational usage could be added to the planning for future work on the channel. A greenway could create many new issues, such as fences being removed, and what to do in cases of flooding. Nevertheless, the next steps were identified as first, looking at funding possibilities; secondly, looking at the channel's flood bearing capabilities, and third, canvassing residents for their ideas. Norma Camacho added that for residents paying flood insurance, there was currently some federal legislation in process to give relief where projects were already underway.

b. American Medical Response (AMR) report about emergency response to Casa Conejo

Tiffany Hepple and **Teresa Castro** of AMR provided information about ambulance service, pointing out that the Newbury Park AMR unit was kept off Wendy Drive, in the closest possible proximity to Casa Conejo residents. They said the entire Newbury Park area was averaging 60-70 calls for 911 ambulance responses monthly, and in the month of May 92.8% of these calls were being responded to in less than eight minutes.

c. Street Sweeping service: with VC Public Works

Public Works Real Estate Division Director **Keith Filegar** said that the present service was started in 1986 for sweeping on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The current contract dates back to 2001, and in 2004 the voters in Casa Conejo approved raising the assessment to follow the CPI. The cost is now \$19.22 per parcel each year, for a total payment to the contractor of \$13,000. It was agreed by the MAC members that the placement of some signs would be helpful to remind residents to keep vehicles off the streets on sweeping days, and that the sweeping calendar could also be publicized in newspapers. Cards could also be mailed twice yearly to residents to remind them of the schedule.

9. Action items

a. MAC recommendation, street sweeping in Casa Conejo

No action was taken.

b. July MAC meeting location options

The Supervisor's office would look into obtaining permission to use a meeting room at either the Library or the Borchard Center.

c. MAC recommendation, Casa Conejo community clean up event on September 18, 2010

Cleaning up the channel and inviting Boy Scouts were suggested as activities to accompany the recycling and disposal event at Newbury Park High School.

10. Suggestions for future agenda items

Clara Deemer noted that many houses in Casa Conejo were lacking identifying house numbers.

11. Adjournment to 6:00 P.M., May 19, 2010

Chair Woomer adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM to July 21, 2010.