

**CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 16, 2019**

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, January 16, 2019,
6:00 p.m. at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Wendy Zimmerman** at 6:04 pm. MAC members **Richard Gaz, Edward Villa, Sr., Dustin Woomer,** and **R. Scott Horn** were present.

2. Flag Salute

Chair Wendy Zimmerman led the salute to the flag.

3. Election of MAC Chair and Vice Chair

Scott Horn moved to nominate **Wendy Zimmerman** to serve as Chair for 2019, and **Ed Villa, Sr.** seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

Wendy Zimmerman moved to nominate **Scott Horn** to serve as Vice Chair for 2019, and **Ed Villa, Sr.** seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

4. Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2018

Ed Villa, Sr. moved to approve the minutes from November 7, 2018 as written, and **Richard Gaz** seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

5. Agenda Review

There were no changes to the agenda.

6. Public Safety Reports (CHP, Sheriff's Department)

Ventura County Sheriff Captain Renee Ferguson said that even with the tragic shooting on November 7, 2018 at Borderline Bar and Grill, and with the loss of her colleague Sergeant Ron Helus, Thousand Oaks remains a wonderful and safe community. She thanked the community on behalf of the Sheriff's Department for the tremendous outpouring of love and support after the tragedy. She reported that residents may have heard a flash bang in the morning at 5:00am when the Sheriff's Department SWAT Team assisted the Oxnard Police Department with a search warrant on Dorena Drive. She said two people were taken into custody without incident. She encouraged residents to beware of phone scams contacting people, particularly the elderly, to pay bills using gift cards. She said any suspicious activity should be reported to the Sheriff's Department for investigation, even if you're unsure if the call is a scam. She also urged anyone who is selling their home and having open houses to lock up or remove all valuables as thieves will target these events.

Wendy Zimmerman extended her thanks and sympathies to Captain Ferguson and the Sheriff Department on behalf of the MAC for their hard work after the Borderline tragedy and wild fires.

7. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Linda Parks expressed a deep appreciation for the Sheriff and Fire Departments for their tireless work during the back-to-back tragedies of the Borderline shooting and Hill and Woolsey fires. She also thanked the District Attorney's office for the quick response in setting up a resource and services center in her office within 24 hours of the shooting, which provided a multiple array of services, including mental health services. She said there were many silent heroes during the tragedies, including Thousand Oaks Police Chief Tim Hagel and Jim Friedl, Director of the Conejo Recreation and Park District, who opened up the Teen Center as a reunification center for families and victims after the Borderline mass shooting, and later as an evacuation center for fire victims. She said the City of Thousand Oaks will be looking into erecting a permanent memorial for the Borderline victims, and also that Growing Works took the many flowers generously donated at the memorial in front of the

Borderline Bar and Grill and will compost them and use the compost to grow trees from Thousand Oaks acorns to be given back to the community. Supervisor Parks said she is working with mayors of several cities in Ventura County to pursue undergrounding utility lines in an effort to prevent more fires in areas prone to high winds. She announced there is an alternate seat open on the Casa Conejo MAC and residents are welcome to apply. She also gave updates on working with County Planning to keep Wendy Drive as a 2-lane road, Transportation moving forward with plans to install an ADA ramp at Wendy Drive and Ruth Drive, and an ordinance establishing a wildlife corridor in Ventura County to be heard by the Planning Commission on January 31st and by the Board of Supervisors on March 12th.

8. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Dustin Woomer commented that now is the time to add strategic grazing and other efforts to manage brush into the County's General Plan.

Richard Gaz commented about needing a training program for volunteers during a disaster, and **Scott Horn** suggested looking into the CERT program.

Wendy Zimmerman mentioned a pothole on Bella Drive and Wendy Drive, and announced that she is on the Bike Route project with the City of Thousand Oaks and can bring any suggestions or needs to their attention.

9. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Debby Ellis inquired if there are any assistance programs for trimming palm trees. **Supervisor Parks** said County Transportation will cut trees if they are in the public right-of-way and impeding the roadway.

10. Updates

a. Update by Jay Spurgin, City of Thousand Oaks Director of Public Works, on California American Water's request to consolidate districts and increase water rates

City of Thousand Oaks Director of Public Works Jay Spurgin announced that the water rate case started by California American Water (Cal Am) in 2016 to consolidate water districts and raise rates was denied by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on December 13, 2018. Consolidation would have resulted in rate increases up to 10 percent per year. The final decision from the PUC did not establish new rates and Cal Am has 90 days to return with a new proposal using the existing rate structure. They were able to increase the water rates in January 2018, which was higher than the City and Cal Water and will be adjusted. Since Cal Am's current rate case is for the years 2018-2020, they will be beginning the process for a new rate case for the years 2021-2024 in July 2019. The City will continue to watch their case very closely.

Dustin Woomer asked about wells and using groundwater. Mr Spurgin said there is an existing well on the golf course but it's been offline for a while because the water is too salty, even for golf course standards. However, the City is looking into a reverse osmosis treatment plant for possible potable water or to irrigate the fairway. He said there is groundwater but the aquifers are not very productive.

Scott Horn thanked the City of Thousand Oaks for its work on the water rate case and asked about drought tolerant landscaping. Mr. Spurgin said older neighborhoods tend to be leading the way in using drought tolerant landscaping, and there is a new project on Reino Road south of Borchard Road that will re-landscape to be more water friendly.

b. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team

Ed Villa, Sr. reported some graffiti on the Jenny Drive bridge that will be removed once the rains ends.

11. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

a. CERT Program

14. Adjournment at 7:04 pm until Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at Walnut Elementary School