

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 14, 2024

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Call to Order: Call to order by Andrea Mares at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Jimmy Sheldrake, Secretary James Horecka, Kathryn Holmes, Grant Becklund, Kate Alder.

Approval of the Agenda:

Need to amend agenda, as the speaker for item 8 A won't be present.

Motion to approve agenda, as amended, by JH; seconded by KH. Ayes: Unanimous.

Approval of the Minutes from October 10, 2024:

Motion to approve minutes by KH; seconded by GB. Ayes: All but KA, who abstained (was not at Oct. mtg).

Election of Chair:

Kate Alder nominated Grant Becklund for Vice Chair. Approved..

Staff Reports:

A. Riverside County Third District Supervisorial District; Andrea Mares:

- Supervisor Washington's office is aware of the damaged Winchester sign on Simpson at Briggs. Assessing damage. They'll determine next steps.
- The Board of Supervisors voted on October 22nd to continue the Winchester Community Plan (GPA 1207) off-calendar so that conversations about regional solutions to traffic and transportation can be held. To hear the discussion, visit www.rivcocob.org. Meetings with county staff and city staff will begin next week.
- Caltrans will be performing corridor improvements along State Route 74. Construction day & night. Caltrans will be with us in January to present.
- Estimated costs of improvements at Simpson & Columbia have come back much higher than expected, at \$860,000. Scope: Widening the intersection to provide left-turn lanes on Simpson Road at Columbia. County is exploring funding options. If they can fund it, it could come on-line relatively quickly (perhaps about 8 months after funding has been secured).
- The Department of Waste Resources will be hosting a community clean-up on December 7th, from 8 a.m. to noon, for residents of Winchester, Homeland and Romoland.
- The Emergency Management Department will be hosting a free CERT training event here at the Francis Domenigoni Community Center: December 6th thru 8th. Advance registration is required.
- The Thriving Third's Fall Festival will be November 16th at the French Valley Library, from 4-6 p.m.
- Comment, by Andy Domenigoni: The damaged sign has been taken to his ranch.
- Q (by A. Domenigoni.): There are new industrial buildings under construction in Hemet. Was Riverside County TLMA at the table during the entitlements processes for these projects, as the uses would be using streets in unincorporated areas as well? A: Unknown. Mares stated that she would look into this.
- Q (Becklund): What damaged the sign? A: Unknown; perhaps a vehicle hit it.

B. Riverside Sheriff's Office. Sgt Brad Talbott:

- Statistics: Oct, 348 calls (down 40). (Perris had 7,100.)

C. California Highway Patrol. Lt Steve Rusk:

- Crashes have trended downward.
- Good news: Increase in staffing in his office (Beaumont). New officers in training.~20% increase.
- Possibly moving units: Focus on enforcement in underserved communities (perhaps).
- His captain will be retiring. New: Craig Howard. Plans to attend next MAC meeting.
- The last fatal crash in this area was in September.

- Q (A. Domenigoni): Due to 20% growth, any thought of making another station? A: No: budget challenges.
- D. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34. Not present; representative had to leave on a call.
- E. Emergency Management Department. No representative present.
- F. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office. No representative present.
- G. Department of Animal Services. No representative present.
- H. Code Enforcement. No representative present.
- I. Eastern Municipal Water District. No representative present.
- J. Valley Wide Recreation & Park District. Craig Schultz, Public Information Officer:
 - Various new parks opening up.
 - VWR&PD is seeking a new name for the new sports park in town. See form at the front desk.
 - November 23rd: The annual Turkey Trot!
 - Build a Gingerbread House event, at various venues.
 - Tree Lighting at the main park in San Jacinto. Additional Christmas events coming up
- K. City of Menifee. No representative present.
- L. City of Hemet. No representative present.
- M. Winchester Homeland Town Association's Land Use Committee (LUC). Cindy Domenigoni: No report.
- N. Other Departments and Public Agencies: None.

New Business:

- A. Riverside County Equity Access & Opportunity Efforts presentation by Barry E. Knight, EAO Officer.
 - Not present. Struck from agenda.
- B. Temecula Valley Charter School Operations Presentation by Dr. Charity Plaxton-Hennings, Superintendent.
 - Dr. Charity Plaxton-Hennings introduced herself. Brief history.
 - She stated that the school is technically outside our MAC area, but she desires to connect with us.
 - She delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting facets of the school. Location: Washington & Abelia.
 - Their 31st year. Founded in 1994, it's the oldest charter school in Riverside County.
 - Philosophy: "Intentional development of the whole child, through experiential learning, with science, visual and performing arts, rigorous academics and family-focused education."
 - Ages: Pre-K through 8th. They hope that students find their niche. ~600 students: Dramatic growth.
 - They have a new property across the street from existing. Hope to break ground in February 2025.
 - The maximum number of students will be 900. 34 classrooms, 70 family & staff.
 - Cougar highlights: Various accolades, for academics, athletics, and performing arts department.
 - They offer field trips, foreign languages, instrumental music, gifted/talented program. College / career focus.
 - Advancement by individual determinism.
 - They are a Purple Heart school: Military families are attracted. Popular among veterans and first responders.
 - Dr. Plaxton-Hennings fielded questions:
 - Q: Does the school receive funding from the state? A: Yes; \$ based on average daily attendance. No funding for facilities or transit.
 - Q: Any student? A: Students can come from anywhere. There is an enrollment lottery. Students who have priority include children of staff members, students with siblings enrolled, & students living in Temecula. Openings vary by grade level.
 - Q: Any plans to expand beyond 8th grade? A: Unknown. That would be a big lift.
 - Q: What will be the capacity of the new campus? A: 900. (Cap at 900 -950.)
 - Q: Where does funding for the new campus come from? A: A loan. They are fiscally healthy.
 - Q: Are teachers certified, similar to the state? A: Yes. Their operation has less bureaucracy, & is more nimble.
 - Q: The focus on arts is nice, but what about the Trades? A: Yes, that's a challenge. Finding teachers certified to teach trades is challenging. She noted her husband was in FFA, high-up; they value that.
 - Q: Is this charter school in the Temecula Valley School District? A: No, they are not part of that. Charter Schools do have to be authorized by local districts, so the TVSD reviews and authorizes them.
 - Q: Is there a governing body? A: Yes, they have their own elected school board made up of parents and community members.
 - Q: So this school must comply with state requirements, but need not hire union? A: Right.
 - Q: What about road improvements around the new campus, which is often a problem at new schools? A: They must go through the entitlements process, contributing to mitigation fees for traffic, etc.

- Q: What of the current campus? A: It is currently school district property. Revert?

Public Comments:

- Gregg Cowdery announced the Winter Marketplace, December 13th, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Community Center.

Councilmember Reports and Comments:

- Horecka presented & read a letter expressing the gratitude of our W-H MAC board for Andrea Mares for her service. He motioned that we forward this letter to Supervisor Washington. Second: KA. Approved unanimously.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Caltrans will likely present.

Adjourn Meeting:

- The next WH-MAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2025, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WH-MAC adjourned at 7:30 PM.