



OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

18 Valley Road, Oak View

Monday, February 24th, 2025, 7:00P

MINUTES

Chair: Grace Malloy, **Vice Chair:** Barbara Kennedy

Council Members: Marilyn Miller, Joseph Westbury, 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:** the meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Malloy
2. **Flag Salute:** Chair Malloy
3. **Roll Call:** Chair Malloy, Vice Chair Kennedy, Secretary Miller. Absent: Joe Westbury; Terry Wright
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** 4 – 0; Terry Wright absent
5. **Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda:** none
6. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 2025:** Moved consideration to March 17 meeting.
7. **City of Ojai Planning Commission Update:** Jonathan Chesley gave the following updates:

An exploratory meeting was held to discuss the Ojai Valley Inn Winery project. Subcommittees were established to examine the design standards and fire hardening/impact on power grid.

Cabin Village design was presented, and conditions were approved. There is a meeting tonight concerning the economics of the project. It will go to the City Council and then back to the Planning Commission for approval of design issues.

8. Ojai Valley Trail Update: Vice Chair Kennedy shared updates on Phase 2 of the project.

It is intended that the whole trail will be done by the end of April before the Ojai Tennis Tournament. Further, she stated that the wooden fences would be replaced only 50 feet from each intersection and at the areas where the trail drops off and might pose a hazard. Signage will be replaced, and any encroaching vegetation will be removed. The last phase is the section from Vons to Soule Park Golf Course and that will be done this spring.

Dee Bennett stated that she felt the trail felt safer without the fencing and asked for the trail to be widened with fences or no fences at all.

Vice Chair Kennedy and Chair Malloy expressed their concern about fencing; they will contact Supervisor LaVere directly.

Concern was also raised about cars currently driving on the trail because there are no barriers at intersections. This is an issue the County is working on.

9. Meiners Oaks Park Update: Fifteen people were present for this item.

Derek Poultney, Executive Director for CREW and Board Member of the MOP provided information about funding and permitting. Mr. Poultney emphasized that it was the intention of the Board that the park design be community driven; nothing is set in stone at this point and there is still time for adjustments to the plan. Fundraising is still needed for maintenance, the public bathroom, and other amenities.

A significant discussion was held between members of the Council and the public concerning the type of playground equipment, the involvement of the County in permitting the playground equipment and the safety of children while using the equipment. Natural materials are preferred over the premade, plastic type, however, cost and permitting requirements must be taken into consideration.

Sarah Carter, from the MOP Board, spoke in favor of the project, and her involvement, particularly in the playground design and materials.

Don Sanders exhibited a photograph of a 3-D model of one of the playground components.

Laura Gruenther presented a current plan of the park.

Celeste Matesevac discussed the “beehive” component of the playground and stated it is currently in her back yard.

Mr. Poultney added that they are working with the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens on design.

Concern was expressed by the Council about the safety of children getting to and from the park and the need for sidewalks; crosswalks were also discussed. Chair Malloy requested a copy of the County ordinance requiring cars to be parked a certain distance from an intersection be provided to the Council.

Councilmember Westbury asked about the costs of the project. It was stated that the estimated cost to build the park is \$2 million; a \$2 million endowment is needed for ongoing maintenance.

Ms. Carter stated that the intention is to remove the existing concrete and grade the site by December.

Mr. Poultney stated that CREW is committed to maintaining the park. The Board is working with County Planning on permits. The hours of operation are anticipated to be from dawn to dusk and they are still working on security for the site after hours.

Chair Malloy suggested they look at the Tunnel Top Park in the Presidio in San Francisco.

10. Councilmember Comments:

- a. **Staff** - presented information on the upcoming CERT training
- b. **Malloy** – Foodshare at Thomas Aquinas every 3rd Saturday
- c. **Kennedy** - Foodshare at OVPARC every 2nd Thursday of the month 12pm – 1pm.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. by Chair Malloy

Next Meeting **Monday, March 17th, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m. at Oak View Community Center.