



## OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND NOTICE AGENDA

18 Valley Road, Oak View

Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 7:00PM

### 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](mailto: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 by Chair Malloy at 7:07 p.m.

2. **Flag Salute** – The flag salute was led by Chair Malloy.

3. **Roll Call** – Present: Chair Malloy, Vice Chair Kennedy and Secretary Miller

Absent: Members Wright and Westbury.

4. **Adoption of the Agenda** – The agenda was adopted by 3-0.

5. **Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda** –

Ron Solarzano, Ojai Library Director, gave the following report:

The Ojai and Oak View libraries are seeking student interns. Applications can be obtained from the County website or the library website at [www.library.venturacounty.gov/locations/ojai](http://www.library.venturacounty.gov/locations/ojai).

On April 24<sup>th</sup> all libraries will be closed until 2 p.m. for staff training.

Ojai library has after school enrichment programs as well as adult programs. An upcoming program to be held is with the author Katherine Jones.

Newly appointed Ojai Police Chief Steve Jenkins introduced himself and spoke about his 25-year career with Ventura County Sheriff's Office and his history in the Ojai Valley. He said three pressing issues in the Valley are e-bike enforcement, homelessness and vagrancy incidents, and the ongoing concern for wildfire avoidance and evacuation routes during wildfire incidents. Chair Malloy asked about a Chataqua like town hall concerning e-bikes.

The City of Ojai will have a motorcycle traffic enforcement officer. This will be paid for by the city and patrol that area only. Also, he will be providing e-bikes for his officers to assist in enforcement.

He announced a search event on Saturday from 10-3 at Nordhoff High School.

6. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January & February 2025 (No meeting in March 2025)** – Approval of the Minutes tabled until the next meeting as Chair Malloy wasn't present at the January meeting and the February Minutes did not reflect the notes provided by Secretary Miller.
7. **City of Ojai Planning Commission Update** – Judy Murphy, with the Ojai Planning Commission, reported that they have not had any projects of note on their agenda, some lot line adjustments and design review.
8. **Ojai Valley Trail Update** – Staff member Brian Brennan read from an email from Jeri Cooper Ventura County Parks Director:

Phases 1 and 2 of the trail are complete with surface, striping, fencing and bollard installation.

Phase 3 is complete with asphalt and striping. Fencing and bollards will be installed after the Ojai Tennis Tournament as requested by the City of Ojai.

Parks Department is working with a vendor to obtain detectable warning applications for intersections. Anticipate completion by mid-May.

E-bike enforcement is an ongoing concern, and research is being conducted to determine what other agencies are doing to get the best policy and move forward. It was suggested that staff should look at the County of San Bernardino.

Vice Chair Kennedy expressed her continuing concern that people are driving cars and trucks onto the trail, and the need for some type of barrier to prevent them from doing so.

9. **ACTION ITEM: Meiners Oaks Park – Meiners Oaks Park Board would like OVMAC to officially back the project with a vote.**

Paula Power, with the Meiners Oaks Park Board, gave a brief presentation on the park and the status of the project. She was not at the February OVMAC meeting where a lengthy presentation and discussion was held. The park will be privately owned on property leased from the County of Ventura and managed by a non-profit organization. She addressed some of the MAC's concerns brought up at the February meeting regarding amenities for children, benches and other resting places, fencing, insurance and the permitting process through the County. There will be an area dedicated to small children, ages 1 through 6 with a climbing structure and sandbox. It will include benches for parents and children to rest upon, along with some low fencing. They currently have an insurance policy consistent with the County's requirements and will acquire a more comprehensive liability policy when the park is in operation.

The County is the applicant on the permit because they are the property owner. All aspects of the project will conform to County regulations. The non-profit will operate the park under a Memorandum of Agreement with the County.

Ms. Power stated that there is a great deal of momentum going with the community and the Park board wanted to ensure that it continues. They are conducting a canvas of the community to gauge the willingness of the property owners in the vicinity to pay an assessment on their property taxes for maintenance of the park. A consultant will be hired to establish the parameters of such an assessment district and to establish the level of the assessment. The Park group is holding a community event on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Celeste's bookstore and she invited members of the OVMAC to attend.

Chair Malloy asked about the fencing in the children's play area and about the safety of the route to the park from the surrounding neighborhood. She asked if a crosswalk would be considered. A discussion was held regarding the current sidewalk situation in the area, and the need for safer access.

Vice Chair Kennedy advised that if they removed the chain link fencing, it will not be allowed to be replaced under current County ordinances. She also gave her advice on several issues based on her experience with permitting the Oak View Resource Center. She invited the park group to visit the Resource Center to view what has been done there.

During public comment, Chief of Police Jenkins asked if there would be signage designating the hours for the park and other restrictions to aid in enforcement once the park is built. Ms. Powers stated there will be signage.

After some discussion about the appropriate point in the process for OVMAC review, Secretary Miller moved and Chair Malloy seconded a motion that the OVMAC approve the concept of the Meiners Oaks Park as presented with the request that it be brought back to the OVMAC once the application is submitted to review the issues of concern, namely, fencing, safe routes, signage, and playground equipment. The motion carried 3 to 0, with two members absent.

#### **10. Councilmember Comments –**

Vice Chair Kennedy announced the following:

“Touch the Truck” event May 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-6 at the Oak View Park and Resource Center

Food Share provides food assistance to the community every second Thursday

CERT training is coming up and recommended it to everyone in the community.

Caltrans will be conducting a public meeting on the Highway 33 changes coming up at the end of May or the first two weeks in June.

She also asked about the existence of new group homes in the area.

#### **11. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting **Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, at 7:00PM at Oak View Community Center