

WOODCREST MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
March 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Woodcrest Library
16625 Krameria Ave., Riverside, CA 92504

MINUTES

0.0 Call to Order: Chair Alemdar called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

1.0: Roll Call:

Present: Sonya Alemdar (chair), George Perez (secretary), Michael Osmon, Larry Rubio, Marc McClain (first alternate)

Absent: Bruce Rogers (vice chair)

Pledge of Allegiance

2.0: Approval of Minutes: February 9, 2023; Motion to approve by Michael Osmon, 2nd by Marc McClain
Ayes: Alemdar, Osmon, Perez, McClain. Abstain: Rubio

3.0 Community Updates (Invited)

3.1: Congressman Calvert's staff: not present

3.2: Senator Seyarto staff update: not present

3.3: Assemblymember Essayli staff update: Casey Deaver discussed AB 382 that would have added longer prison length when crimes were committed with a firearm. The bill did not advance from the Public Safety Committee. It was brought to Reconsideration but did not receive enough support to advance.

Assemblymember Essayli is developing a Business Advisory Group to offer their thoughts on business matters in his district. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Deaver.

Assemblymember Essayli teamed with Assemblymembers Ocho-Bogh and Seyarto to hold a Town Hall meeting. Essayli will hold ongoing Town Hall meetings with the next being planned in either Norco, Corona, or Lake Elsinore.

3.4: Captain Lamb, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, informed the MAC that the new Sheriff's station is open as of March 1, 2023. It is on Tom Barn's Street behind Target in Temescal Canyon.

Lt. Favero, Riverside County Sheriff's department, updated the MAC on crime statistics within their station's area. There were 297 service calls, 0 arrests, 5 vehicle thefts, 4 burglaries (two residential and one commercial building).

3.5: CalFire representative reported statistics on calls between January 6, 2023 and March 9, 2023.

- 1 commercial structure fire
- 17 false alarms
- 170 medical aids
- 5 other fires
- 1 other miscellaneous calls
- 5 Public assists
- 2 residential structure fires
- 2 rescue calls
- 7 standbys
- 15 traffic collisions
- 3 vehicle fires
- 3 wildland fires
- 231 calls total

3.6: Jamison Cole stated that there has been an increase in grading violations which is common after heavy rains. This is primarily due to unauthorized grade modifications that cause rainwater runoff to flow onto the neighbor's land.

Code Enforcement increased special enforcement to handle street vending and loud noise issues. People who want to report violations should call 951-955-2004.

A community cleanup will be held Saturday, March 11 at the Mead Valley Community Center. Everything but hazardous materials will be accepted. People do not need to be from Mead Valley to bring their disposables to the cleanup.

3.7: California Highway patrolman Ballantine updated the MAC on traffic enforcement in the Woodcrest area. They have been short staffed but expect one patrolman to return soon. Patrolman Ballantine encouraged people report violations, and he provided a business hours telephone number to report ongoing problems 951-637-8000.

3.8: Emergency Management Department's supervisor Cadden reported damage from the recent rains. He encouraged all to have essentials ready for disasters. He said a good measurement for the supplies that should be on-hand would be similar to having enough supplies ready for a camping trip.

Cadden noted that EMD contracted with the CHP to handle traffic for the poppy bloom. The bloom is expected to be a regular bloom and not a super bloom.

Priscilla Galvan encouraged people complete a 10 question survey that was located on the display table during the meeting.

3.9: Sylvia Ornelas, senior strategic communications representative, Western Municipal Water District, updated the MAC on recent snowpack measurements in the high Sierra's. it is currently at 190% of average. This is expected to increase since the rainy season runs through April. Ornelas emphasized that California is still considered in a drought, but this may be modified.

Ornelas reported that rebates are available for numerous home improvements and can be found at the WMWD.com website. She further informed the MAC that on May 20, WMWD will host an open house at their headquarters on Meridian Parkway, Riverside.

3.10: Connie Rynning, Woodcrest Library updated the MAC on a new smartphone app that can be used to checkout books, renew books, search and reserve books, has audio books and e-books. It also holds library cards among other functions.

The library has Homework Helper on their website with live tutors.

The garden on the site is available to those who would like to help and they can also enjoy the benefits of what is grown in the garden.

Story Time is held on Thursdays at 10:30 AM.

Fit After 50 is held M-W-F at 9:00 AM. This exercise class is for all fitness levels.

Art classes are held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

On March 24 the library will host a COVID vaccination clinic from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Rynning suggested making an appointment.

Kids are awarded a meal certificate for every five books they read. The library is looking for food establishments to donate meal certificates to award kids who read five books.

4.0 New Business

4.1: SoCalGas: not present

4.2: Marty Caputo, Caputo Trust, updated the MAC on his proposed development at Van Buren and Gamble. The project will have 8,000 square feet of office space and an 1,800 square foot fast food drive through restaurant. The project is in the entitlement phase and Caputo hopes to clear that phase by end of this year. The MAC encouraged him to incorporate a western themed architecture into his design. Sonya Alemdar asked if the sewer on Van Buren comes down to his property, would Caputo give up his right to vote against annexation into the city. Caputo stated that he believes the City has a reciprocal agreement with the County as it comes to using the sewer line.

4.3: Woodcrest Library Park Update: Erik Sydow updated the MAC on the design progress that now includes a multi-function court which will incorporate both basketball and pickle ball. Bark will not be used, and it will have a rubberized surface. A western theme was added to the park. Council thanked Erik Sydow for his work and agreed that they all approve of the project.

5.0 Public Comments

Melania Castellanos, field representative, supervisor Spiegel's office, provided information on the Department of Animal Services hosting a free adoption event sponsored by the Helpful SoCal Honda Dealers. This event is St. 'Pawtrick's Day' featuring free pet photo's, free ID tags and giveaways. It will be held March 11 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Department of Animal Services headquarters at 6851 Van Buren in Jurupa Valley. (Free adoptions will run all day 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.)

Anahit Markosyan, Sam's Club, originally came to the MAC to hear the SoCalGas speaker, however, in their absence she updated the MAC on her availability as a Sam's Club representative to attend events. She also discussed the grant opportunities offered by Sam's Club.

Richard Necan stated that a developer was seeking approval to build 232 residential units on lots less than one acre. He stated that this development is proposed to take place on the area that was previously the 120 acre orange grove, North of Chicago and Iris. Necan asked the MAC for its position on this development and asked whether supervisor Spiegel supported or opposed this project. Chair Alemdar explained that the MAC does not have the power to vote on matters so could not provide a position. She further stated that the Supervisor's staff cannot comment on proposed projects. Alemdar encouraged him to attend the board of supervisor's meeting to voice his position. Alemdar stated that she is against this development.

6.0: Woodcrest MAC comments: No comments

7.0 Future agenda items: No comments

Proposed next meeting: May 11, 2023, Woodcrest Library at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.