

WOODCREST MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
September 14, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.
16625 Krameria Ave., Riverside, CA 92504
MINUTES

0.0: Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

1.0: Roll Call: Members present Bruce Rogers (chair), Larry Rubio (secretary), Marc McClain (first alternate). Absent: George Perez (vice chair), Michael Osman.

Member Sonya Almendar advised she would be arriving soon.

Pledge of Allegiance

2.0: Approval of Minutes, May 11, 2023: M/S/C (RUBIO/McCLAIN) approving the minutes of July 13, 2023, Woodcrest MAC meeting.

3.0 Community Updates

3.1: Congressman Calvert's Staff Update: Jett Benevidas reported that the Congressman serves on the Defense Appropriations Committee. The Congressman is working on the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) reauthorization, that could bring \$100M into the area to reduce diesel emissions and provide health benefits to our community. Benevidas stated that the Congressman's office is always available to help people with issues. They can call for assistance with federal agencies, passports, immigration, Social Security, Medicare, the VA, or legislative concerns.

3.2: Senator Seyarto Staff Update: Madison Marks-Noble "Maddy" informed the MAC that today was the last day for the Legislature to pass bills and October 14, 2023, was the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills. They had two bills passed, two bills waiting for signature and two bills in the Senate. The Senator and his staff are available to help with state agencies like EDD and DMV.

6:08 PM: Member Alemdar arrived during discussion of Item 3.2

3.3: Assemblymember Essayli Staff Update: Casey Deaver stated that the Legislature was at the end of its cycle. SB14 that would include sex trafficking of a minor in the lists of crimes that are defined as serious under California law, passed 80 – 0 through the Assembly. The Assemblymember's office is officially in their new Dos Lagos location. He will host a grand opening October 12, 2023, from 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

3.4: Riverside County Sheriff's Department: Lt. Favero updated the MAC that the Lake Matthews Station had 1,900 calls for service station-wide, 281 in the Woodcrest area with 31 arrests, some were drug related, domestic violence, assault with a deadly weapon, but mostly theft related, burglary, larceny, and a couple stolen vehicles. October 3, 2023, is National Night Out it will be held at Sandals Church that evening. The Lake Matthew's Staton will host a Trunk or Treat on October 26 from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M., and they are accepting the community's help with candy for the event.

Chair Rogers reported that there is a homeless encampment on Iris Avenue between Porter Avenue and Gardener Avenue.

APPROVED MINUTES

3.5: Riverside County/CAL Fire Representative: CAL Fire had 260 calls, 33 were false alarms, 152 medical, 16 other fires, 8 public service assistance, 4 residential fire, 2 ringing alarm, 6 standbys, 21 traffic collisions, 7 vehicle fires, 10 wildland fires.

3.6: Code Enforcement: Jamison Cole reported that grading continued as their biggest complaint. They have assembled a team to deal with short-term rental complaints and have an after-hours hotline to report these issues.

3.7: California Highway Patrol: Officer Balantyne updated the MAC on traffic enforcement in the Woodcrest area. During the 3rd quarter there were three DUI's, 92 citations, 31 crashes (three with injuries). They have been tagging and towing motorhomes and trailers. They had 12 inspections with one citation. The Start Smart classes are from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Riverside Office for 15 to 18-year-olds. If there is enough interest at the Library, they would hold a class there.

3.8: Riverside County Emergency Management Department: Representative updated the MAC on the impact of Tropical Storm Hillary. The storm caused \$140M in damage mostly in the eastern part of the County. The County provided shelter for initial and longer-term recovery.

3.9: Western Municipal Water District Staff Update: Sylvia Ornales informed the MAC that nonfunctional turf must be removed. The improvements at Dallas and Riverside are about 2-3 weeks out. And appliance and toilet rebates are still available.

Member Alemdar asked about a proposed increase in WMWD board member compensation and the number of meetings a member would be eligible for compensation which is on their agenda for next week. Ornales did not have details on the proposal but stated she would update the MAC at their next meeting.

3.10 Woodcrest Library Update: Connie Rynning announced they have a tutoring/lunch program with activities that is funded by a grant. The library will host a Halloween event over two Saturdays that will include a magician. Rynning noted that the library is a designated cooling and warming center.

3.11 Supervisor Karen Spiegel's Office: Chief of Staff Phil Paule updated the MAC that on October 7, they will host a Community Clean Up. Waste Management will partner with the Supervisor's office to collect trash in the community. This event is not for large items.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Riverside County Auditor – Controller's Office Update – Ben Benoit: Benoit provided an update on the status of the office including the revenues generated, the departments they fund, the payroll, and property tax rolls.

4.2 Riverside County Transportation Update – Dennis Acuna: Acuna updated the MAC on two major projects. They are timing the projects to avoid when schools are in session. Concern was raised by a member of the public over a proposed development project concerning lack of access to the proposed development. Member Alemdar noted that was to prevent general traffic pass throughs. Member Alemdar requested that general traffic not be allowed to drive through neighborhoods during planned construction to roadways. Acuna suggested that an update be provided at a future meeting to share the preferred alternative for the Cajalco project.

APPROVED MINUTES

4.3 Riverside County Assessor – Clerk – Recorder Update – Steven Nguyen: Nguyen updated the MAC on property values in the County and Woodcrest area. He provided a PowerPoint presentation showing how to navigate the Assessor’s website to see property values.

5.0 Public Comments:

Gracie Torres, WMWD board member, stated that she would address the question from earlier in the meeting regarding the agenda item on WMWD’s agenda next week to increase board member compensation. Torres explained that the item proposes raising compensation from \$240 per meeting to \$300 per meeting, keeping the maximum ten meetings per month. For the board member who represents WMWD on the Metropolitan Water District Board, the maximum number of meetings proposed would be an additional ten per month. Torres stated that developer sewer fees will increase in January.

6.0: Woodcrest MAC Board Comments: Member Alemdar stated that she hoped we would have another clean up like last year’s where a central drop-off location is used like Sandal’s Church to accept small and large items. She also requested an update on the sewer project from the city since it impacts all of us. McClain commented on the District Attorney’s office successfully prosecuting a second-degree murder conviction in a Fentanyl case. Hopefully this area will aggressively prosecute these cases to keep our area safe.

7.0 Future agenda items: No comments

Proposed next meeting: October 12, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.