

Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Council
Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 6:00 PM
Woodcrest Library
16625 Krameria Avenue Riverside, Ca. 92504

- 1.0 Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance; Les Douty, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
- 2.0 Roll Call Advisory Council: Gary Jensen, Murl Craft, Les Douty, Geoffrey Dooley, Joel Dingman-absent, Derrick Anderson (Secretary; Alternate),
- 3.0 Approval of Minutes: It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the meeting of September 08, 2016. Motion passed.
- 4.0 Updates from Government Agencies

4.1 Riverside County Sheriff Deputy Thomas

Deputy Thomas stated: Criminal activity is up especially car and home break-ins. Thieves are taking things from cars that are visible and he reminded the group to not leave items out in the open in of their cars. He also stated that home break-ins are up and that guns and money are the main targets, not TVs and other belongings. It should be noted that many of these home break-ins are occurring when the residents are home. Another concern is that many of the gun owners don't have serial numbers written down which makes it much more difficult for them to follow up on and this puts everyone in danger including the officers on the street. Mail theft continues to be a problem and someone even stole the whole community mailbox from one neighborhood. He suggests that you get your mail out of the box as soon as possible after it is delivered.

4.2 Cal Fire – Engineer Nelson

Restrictions on out door burning of tumble weeds and curried firewood has been lifted. However you will still need a permit from the fire department and one from the AQMD.

The department had quite a few more calls in the month of December than they had in November.

Finally, if you need to contact the fire department for emergency services, please make sure you give the dispatcher any specific information on how to get to your residents, such as the house sits off the main road. Additionally, someone should be available to be reached by phone in case they need to call you back.

4.3 California Highway Patrol- Not in attendance

4.4 Western Municipal Water District – Michele McKinney

Michele stated that about 40% of the state has been taken out of drought as a result of the season's rains and conservation, also some reservoirs have filled up nicely. In the south we continue to be in a state of drought and we need to continue our efforts to conserve, presently 80% of their districts continues to be within their budget. In one or two months Western might go back to Stage 2, voluntary conservation measures, we are currently in Stage 3. In the near future Western will be asking for a tier 1 rate reduction, however it is their intention to also seek an overall increase of about \$6.00 per household. She said Western had not had a rate increase since 2015.

After some discussion it was suggested that the audience be polled to see how many are in favor of the possible increase. No one was in favor of the increase, the board then asked Michele to let her board know that Woodcrest residents were against a rate increase. Michele told the group they were welcome to attend the Western Municipal Water District board meetings for the rate increase discussion on March 15, 2017 at 6:00pm.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Raincross Corporate Group- Ted Weggeland - GPA 1196

The Raincross Group presented information to the group concerning their desire to change the designation of 240-acre of land owned by three different individuals. They wish to change the designation from Rural Residential to Low Density Residential. They also want to change the designation around the high school to Medium Density. This would affect the number of lots and units allowed per acre. They stated that they were there to inform the group about the process not to determine the number of units per acre. There was a questions about infrastructure issues such as traffic, trails, crime and animal keeping. Ted said those were all important issues that will need to be discussed and settled but that would all be if and after they received permission to change designation. He went on to say that the Planning Commission had given them a conditional okay and had sent their request on to the Board of Supervisors to make a final decision. If the board gives them approval, they then would have 365 days to come back with a detailed map showing exactly what they planned to do with the property. Attending the meeting was a very large contingent of neighbors who were totally against changing the designation. They wanted to speak with the property owners directly but were told they don't live in the area. Many of the group from Boulder Springs and Boulder Summit said no one from Raincross had reached out to discuss this project with them. Raincross stated that many property owners wouldn't accept their calls and that they didn't have everyone's contact information. Bob McGee asked everyone make sure they signed the attendance sheet and that he would make sure that Raincross would get a copy of it. The group then asked Tom Ketcham to please tell the Supervisor that they totally disagree with changing the designation.

5.2 County Transportation- Updates on Van Buren Widening Project- Khalid Nasim

The Riverside County Transportation Department, in cooperation with the City of Riverside, is proposing to widen Van Buren Blvd. from Washington to Wood going from two lanes to three lanes in each direction. The proposal also provides sidewalks within this area, with a total estimated cost for the County of \$20 million. It was stated that the county has no money to extend the project past Washington and hopefully in twenty-five to thirty years the funds would be available to extend the widening project past Washington. There is no construction start date at this time because they don't have any funding to actually do the work, but they do have funds for the design and planning. There was lots of concern voiced over the fact that the County doesn't have any funds and is looking at having to make cuts across the board so how are they going to pay for this? It was stated that the funds for this project wouldn't come from the general fund they would be ear marked funds for transportation and possible some state moneys. Comment cards were passed out for anyone who may have questions or concerns. You may also call 951-955-6859 or write to: Riverside County Transportation Department, Attn: Jan Bulinski, Senior Transportation Planner, 4080 Lemon Street, 8th Floor, P.O. Box 1090, Riverside, CA 92502-1090

5.3 Riverside Public Utilities- Updates on Van Buren Sewer Project- Andrew Walker (PSOMAS)

Many businesses along Van Buren have been having a problem with their septic systems not being able to handle the volume that they generate and some have to have their tanks pumped daily. Several years ago there was some talk about them forming a Community Facilities District (CFD), which would allow them to investigate what kind of infrastructure was needed to improve their situation and increase their property values. The problem was complicated by the fact that the area involved included city and county jurisdictions. The project would run from Wood to King and construction would be conducted at the same time the Van Buren widening Project happens.

So they spoke with Councilman Paul Davis and Supervisor Kevin Jeffries. Both said it was important to meet the needs of the citizens in this area so they started to look at possible solutions. They looked at Western Water District who services most of the area, and they looked at the City of Riverside as another alternative. It was determined that it would be a 9.7 million dollar savings to have the city provide the services. It is believed that construction would take about a year and any residents whose homes bordered the project could tie into the line at a cost. If residents didn't want to do it at the time of construction they could do it later as well. There was lots of discussion as to whether or not this was an attempt by the city to annex Woodcrest. The group was told this is a CFD only for those who have been identified. The pipe they are putting in would not be large enough to service all of Woodcrest.

6.0 Public Comments

6.1 Lee Cussins

Lee spoke out against the General Plan Amendment 1196 as presented by Raincross earlier in the meeting. He was very vocal in his disdain for the project and for those pushing its passage. Lee told the group that this development would decrease home values, add traffic, and increase crime. Lee said that he had a petition against the project and asked anyone who agreed with him to please sign it.

6.2 Scott Diehu and Gerard Haff

Both wanted to know what the process was for getting Warren Road paved. They said it was impossible at times to drive down their road and that traffic is unbearable at times. Thomas explained the process that the county uses to determine what roads are paved. Thomas and Tricia also offered to come out and meet with them in person on the next day.

7.0 Woodcrest MAC Member Comments

7.1 Members Comments

Several members acknowledged the large number of people in attendance at the meeting and shared their appreciation. Geoffrey Dooley apologized for the county having an open house and not getting the word out to the residents. He feels the county should be ashamed for doing such a poor job of informing the people. He once again voiced his dissatisfaction with code enforcement and said they are virtually nonexistent. He stated that signs are visible everywhere, cars that are for sale are located up and down Van Buren and code does nothing. Murl Craft asked that Code Enforcement be added to the next meeting agenda.

8.0 Legislative Updates:

8.1 Brandon Webb from the Assemblywomen's office said that Jeff had accepted a position with CHP and he introduced Katlyn Blackmer as one of the new Field Reps, she may be assigned to the Woodcrest area but the office is in the process of reorganizing. Brandon stated that the assembly session has just started and there hasn't been a lot of action. An item of note is AB 27 which would change the rape of an intoxicated person from a non-violent crime to a violent crime.

8.2 Thomas C. Ketcham—Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jefferies reported that a brand new newsletter had just come out from the Supervisor and is now available. Thomas asked anyone who wanted to be contacted by the Raincross Group to please make sure they signed the attendance sheet so that he could get Raincross a copy. He introduced Tricia Almiron who replaces Kristen Huyck, as the co-county rep for the Woodcrest area, she comes to us from San Bernardino County. He also introduced Daniel Gregoriro as the new Code Enforcement Officer for the area. Thomas explained the three different categories of roads in the county, private, dedicated and maintained. He gave an explanation on the process to get a road paved.

9.0 Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

10. Upcoming Dates

Next MAC meeting March 9th 2017, 6pm @ Woodcrest Library