

MEAD VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 14th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

MEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Rider Street, Mead Valley, CA 92570

MINUTES

0.0 Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

1.0 Roll Call: Tony Davila (Chair), Paz Trevino (Vice-Chair), Tania Garcia (Secretary), Ali Mazarei (Member), Charles Romero (Alt) and Rogelio Rawlins (Alt) – All Present

2.0 Approval of Minutes: November 12th 2014 – Moved/Seconded/Approved

3.0 Public Safety Updates:

3.1 Riverside Sheriff's Department: Lieutenant Berk and Deputy Thomas

- Lt. Berk: I just want to introduce myself. I am new to the Perris Station and this is my first Mead Valley MAC meeting. I have worked with missing persons, search/rescue and sheriff's dive team. If you have any questions let me know.
- Deputy Thomas: We have arrested a man that has been stealing cars in the area. I have been doing probation and parole checks. It has been busy out here with a couple burglaries and thefts. But for the most part it has been pretty quiet. I like that I have been receiving calls from people on suspicious individuals around their area. That is what we are here for, call us. You can contact me at 951-210-1125. Again please call if there is anyone suspicion around your neighborhood. Any questions.
 - ROMERO: What about the guys that were stealing our mail? *Answer*-There were two gentlemen that both had felony warrants and had also stolen mail. They are still in custody for their warrants right now.
 - Yolonda Williams, Resident: Is the Department hiring? *Answer*- Yes, visit our website.
 - ROMERO: Can you elaborate about your comments on getting dogs for home security. *Response*- Yes, basically a dog is the best alarm for your property and of course having an actual alarm system is great too.
 - Resident: When is something going to be done about the marijuana being grown around here. *Answer*- The County is trying to get an ordinance right now that can help with this but until then our hands are tied. We do try to find other avenues to deal with growers by working with our County partners (Code Enforcement).
 - Gerardo Avila, Resident: a friend has a neighbor with a lot of diesel trucks and he leaves them running for more than an hour. *Response*-Give us a call and we can see if the noise is above a certain level and we can cite them. Also you can give CHP a call.

3.2 Riverside Fire Department: Captain Shawn Arnold (Station 59)

- Captain: Last month there were 2 structure fires, 23 other types of fires, 160 medical aids, and 2 hazardous materials calls. In total there were 188 calls.
 - DAVILA: We are having problems with tumbleweeds. We are being told we cannot burn them. *Answer*-No, they cannot be burned. We determine burning criteria based on weather, dryness, and other factors related to fire behavior. AQMD controls everything and they relate burning criteria to the cleanliness of the air. When you call the fire station all we do is tell you if it is a burn day or not. There is a process where you can burn with certain restrictions. You can come down to the station and we can give you a list of steps to get this permit.
 - Yolonda Williams, Resident: What are we supposed to do with all the tumbleweeds. Code enforcement is giving out citations for having too many on

our property. *Answer-* There are other means to get rid of them like taking them to the dump.

- Resident: I have a wood burning stove in my house. Can I use it outside to burn? If it has an open flame you need a permit, if not you are fine.
- Resident: The government has plenty of money so then why not make trails in the mountains to get to the fires faster? *Answer-* It is not only about the finances. The fact that some of that land is private property makes it difficult. Also there are a multitude of other hurdles such as EPA and protected habitats. Again it is not only about the funding.

3.3 Code Enforcement: Britt Starkweather

- Starkweather: I am the Code Enforcement Supervisor for District 1. Our office is located at the old fire station down Cajalco. You can reach me at 951-776-3233.
- First of all, to make it clear someone cannot be living in a mobile trailer next to a house.
- There are two Pot dispensaries in our district that are still open but we are working to close them. We are working on preventing Pot farms but must wait till the ordinance passes. If you are having problems with pot fields, give us a call and we will see what we can do.
- Tumbleweeds: If they are uprooted on the road then we can deal with them. Give us a call.
- Resident: How many RVs can be on a property? *Answer-*We don't have an ordinance on this but as long as they run and no one is living in them it is ok.
- Resident: What is the current number of chickens/roosters that we can have? And why is it that before we could have all sorts of animals and nobody from the county would give us a problem and now they are? *Answer-*The amount of animals varies depending on acreage, so give us a call. And as to why now, well as time goes by laws change. So what was legal then may not be legal now.
- Resident: What's the status on automobiles such as cars, trucks or tractors on ones property? *Answer-*As long as they run it is fine.

4.0 New Business:

4.1 Director of Transportation/Planning: Mr. Juan Perez

- The County has been active over the years with paving roads but In the past 2 years we have lost redevelopment funds, so we are trying to complete projects as best as we can.
- We have just completed paving the road just south of the community center (Lee St.).
- We have a project to repave Cajalco between Harvill and the 215 entrance. We are starting that before summer.
- The County is working on a much larger project that is widening Cajalco from the 215 all the way to the 15 freeway, which is about 16 miles. There will be major acquisitions of land and a lot of environmental studies that have to be done. Right now it is in the environmental studies stage. We hope to have in the next couple years a very detailed environmental document. This way the supervisors can make informed decisions.
- Supervisor Jeffries has asked us to see what can be done in the meantime, to get short term relief. We are seeing if we can do a small road widening between Brown and Day St. on Cajalco basically adding a center lane, over the next 60-90 days we are going to work on some ideas and come back to the MAC to present our plans for this project.
- The county will continue to do what we can until we can make the larger project happen. You have to understand that this will take some time because of the cost and complexity of the plan.
- We are making progress on widening of the 215 freeway.
- Sometime later this year the metro link service is expected to start in the Perris Valley area.
- There are over 2 billion dollars in transportation road projects in the county now. We rely on gas taxes. There is less gas being sold now because car are more efficient. So there needs to be a discussion about how to cover fees in the future.

- Resident: Why can't the road west of the 215 (military road) from Clark to Van Buren be opened to help congestion. *Answer-* There is a limitation as to what we can do since it is not county property but we will have a discussion with them to see what can be done.
- Gerardo Avila, Resident: in the long term how many lanes are going to be added in the Cajalco widening? *Answer-*There will be 6 lanes from Harvill to the 15 freeway.
- Tom Ketcham: Can you mention the transportation center? *Response-*Yes, There will be a transportation center located on the corner of Placentia and Harvill. It will be the central point to dispatch transportation crews for the entire county. It will help us bring jobs here to Mead Valley. We are also looking into locating an emergency operation center here.
 - ROMERO: How many jobs in total? *Answer-* about 130 county employees are required.
- Resident: Do you have any plans for Clark from Cajalco to Old Elsinore Rd. *Answer-*I am not aware of anything.
- TREVINO: Earlier on we were talking about the widening of Cajalco. *Question-*aren't the environmental studies supposed to be done by now. *Answer-* We anticipated to be further along than we are now. There have been a lot of hurdles with the environmental studies. It is a long process because of environmental protections laws. *Question-*Can you give us a timeline? *Answer-* I can't give you a specific timeline. We have to complete the studies, complete the design and have to line up funding as we go through the steps. But it will probably be over a decade to complete this project. *Question-*a lot of the problems we have here are land use and the limitations we have. Some of the ordinances out there are denying people use of their own property. It gets a little frustrating for people that want to be able to use the land that they purchase. Are there any kind of changes that are going on regarding this? *Answer-*The County is working to become more business friendly. We are working on changing our zoning ordinance to make it easier for folks to put up accessory structures (not containers but permanent structures) and 2nd units on properties. *Question-* What about outdoor storage? The current limitation is a person can only use 120 sq. ft. of outdoor storage. Is there going to be any change in this? *Answer-* The Board of Supervisors & Supervisor Jeffries would need to change those standards. If you guys have specific requests funnel them through Mr. Jeffries office and we will take a look and see what can be done.
- ROMERO: How many homes will you have to take to widen Cajalco? *Answer-* That can't be answered until environmental study is done.

4.2 Riv. CO Parks Department: Absent

4.3 New MAC Board officers for 2015: Tom Ketcham

- When we took office in 2013 the previous MAC members were in place, we did the change over in January of that year. We found out that changeover is supposed to be done in July to match the fiscal year. A resident contacted our office and asked why there had been no change of board members yet. We did some research and found policy A-21.
- Policy A-21 recommends that MAC officer positions rotate annually, so rotation will occur this July. Please refer to this policy for recommendation on rotation of officers.
- We are taking applications. If you would like to serve on a council, please apply.
- Yolonda Williams: How long do alternates stay alternates? *Answer-*As long as they want. If they want to move up they can apply and they will be considered.
- DAVILA: I would like to see one of our current alternates become a member and would like to nominate Mr. Charles Romero to fill the vacancy, and then a new alternate can be found. That will allow us a sitting member with experience to be eligible for rotation this July. This will give the new Alt member time to learn the ropes without pressure.
- Resident: What happened to the Spanish community meetings? *Answer-*The 1st meeting only about 10 people showed up and then it dwindled down from there. If there is an interest in restarting this please let me know.
- Gerardo Avila: I don't like that it is up to the county when to rotate MAC officers. It should be up to the residents, I don't want the officers rotated. They are doing a great job. *Answer-*Policy A-21 came into effect in 1975. This policy applies across the board.

- Yolonda Williams: Mr. Avila is right the community needs a say in this. But if you want something to be changed you have to speak up and speak at the Supervisors meetings.
- Resident: Why can't you send calendars of events in Mead Valley to us? The city of Perris does this. *Answer*-You can go and see Inez and look at a calendar of events. We don't send calendars because events may be subject to change.
- Resident: Could you add another position in the MAC to interpret to the Spanish community? *Answer*-We do have people that speak Spanish in the MAC (Tania, Paz, and Rogelio). We used to translate the meetings in Spanish but the meetings would be 4 hours long. That is part of the reason we started the Spanish community meetings but it did not work out. *Question*-Why not have headphones to translate? *Answer*-I did bring them and offered them but no one seemed interested. So I stopped bringing them. I can bring them again. A translator does not have to be on the board to translate, If you have questions in Spanish please ask and we will accommodate you.

5.0 Public Comments:

- Yolonda Williams: Happy New Year to everybody. I thank all of you for coming tonight. We use to be able to get fishing license for free. We are working on this coming back. Seniors are looking into doing bus trips and we need community support on this. We are happy to report that the senior meals have improved in quality and quantity. The staff are more approachable. We are happy with Smooth Transitions and would like them to continue with what they are doing. Tom I want to talk to you about the Charles Meigs sign. Thank you very much.

6.0 Report from Supervisors' Kevin Jeffries Office:

6.1 Tom Ketcham, Legislative Assistant to Supervisor Kevin Jeffries

- There are still some sidewalks that need to be done for the center but we are getting there.
- Renewed Hope is open and recruiting. They are just waiting on certification of the toilets.
- Breakfast with Santa: about 800 people showed up. It was not as big a turnout as last year but it went very well. I would like to thank everyone who donated items and the volunteers. Smooth transitions helped us with the cooking.
- The Concerned Family had a turkey event here. It went really well.
- We had a turkey give-a-way. Gave away 30 turkeys.
- Marijuana ordinance: On November 25th an ordinance passed unanimously. Right now it is in the planning commission then it will be back to the Supervisors for final approval. The proposed ordinance makes it so that you have to have a registered prescription from a doctor to get a medical marijuana card from the State. The prescription is only good for 12 plants per person. Only a maximum of 24 plants per parcel. Costly tickets (\$1,000) will be given to anyone that has over 24 plants. Keep in mind though that code enforcement can still give citations (\$10) for having any marijuana plants since it is still illegal under federal laws. Commercial grows and dispensaries are not allowed. This ordinance would come into effect sometime in March.
- Ordinance 348 (bins): is now in phase two still has to go the board for approval.
- There are new gates and locks for the side entrance of the Community Center. The gates now go all the way down unlike other gates that left a big gap at the bottom.
- ATVs: We have received a lot of complaints. Unfortunately, it is not a sheriff issue if they are on the road, it is a CHP issue. Please email me with time and day and the street that the ATVs are flying around. I will forward it to CHP. I will be asking CHP to come to a MAC meeting and speak on this.
- Paving on Cajalco: the paving from the freeway up to Seaton will be started in the next month or so.
- Vacant Lot: This is a lot on the corner of Martin and Clark. We have had issues with kids going in there and smoking marijuana. It has been really difficult to get that cleaned up because it is private property. We have to follow certain steps to make this happen legally.
- Tumbleweed: We can't do anything if they are on private property, but if it is on the street transportation or Code can take care of that.

- Senior meeting: We have meetings to take care of issues as they relate to seniors. We are working on starting youth group meetings.
- Old Village West Drive (military rd.): was closed due to illegal dumping. It is not our land; it is Joint Powers Authority March Air Base and cemetery land. We understand that it is a very vital to help ease congestion. We are working with the cemetery director and JPA but it will be a lengthy process.
- Fishing license: I am going to ask parks to look into this.
- Senior Bus Trips: I am going to look into this. We are having some youth trips during the summer.
- Motown night: We are planning a Motown night in March with Tomas Rivera and Mead Valley Elementary. We will let you know how this goes.
- Easter egg hunt: working on this with Dr. Rios, Giovanna Sedgwick, and Parks.
- Clean-ups: Resident: When is the next clean up going to be? Also is there a place to put a dumpster at the center once a month. *Answer*-I have met with Waste Management Inc. and our Waste Management Department. WM Inc. has a county contract that requires them to provide a certain amount of bins for a certain amount of clean-ups. We have a Mead Valley clean-up in the beginning of the year around April and another joint clean-up with Woodcrest at Citrus Hill. We are trying to establish a dropping point for trash on certain days with limitations on amount of drop-offs and not be charged anything. This is still very tentative but we are working on having monthly clean-ups. For those of you unaware, you guys are entitled to a certain amount of bulky pick-ups from waste management. If you guys have trash piled up nice and neat and waiting for a clean-up and get in any trouble with code enforcement, give me a call.
- Shooting Range: Gerardo Avila-It is very annoying to have to hear shots all the time. When is something going to be done? *Answer*- Shelly Kennedy Smith was the Captain over on Lake Elsinore she has been promoted. The Perris station reports to her. I will be having a meeting with her and bring this up.

7.0 Mead Valley MAC Board Comments:

- Charles Romero: Thanks Anne Miller and Doug Miller for his service on the MAC. May he rest in peace.
- Tania Garcia: No comment.
- Ali Mazarei: Regarding the shooting range, the sheriff department is actively trying to resolve this. Solution can be silencers but a budget of \$2.5 million is needed. Thank you for coming.
- Paz Trevino: We have to get a little bit better at asking questions of our guest speakers. We can get a lot more out of them if we talked to them with a bit of compassion and understanding of what they do. Today we missed an opportunity at asking questions to Juan Perez, who we always ask to, attend. He is the director of planning and transportation and 80% of our problems are in this area. Instead of asking him the appropriate questions we drilled the guys who are only doing their job. They are not responsible for the ordinances they are just enforcing them. We need to get better at asking the right question to the right people.
- Tony Davila: I would like to thank Tanya Gonzalez, the new coordinator for our senior center, she is an asset to the center and I would like to see her permanently assigned to the seniors, if possible. She is the right person for the job. I want to thank Chef Mike for working on making the senior lunches better, he takes pride in quality food. I would like to thank Mr. Romero who has been volunteering serving the senior lunch for almost 8 months, since back when we served it at the library. He is a senior himself but served lunch to his fellow seniors 5 days a week without a complaint. Thank you Mr. Romero I've asked Tom for letters of appreciation for the commodity volunteers and a few others, If we don't show we are thankful to volunteers we might seem ungrateful. I would like to thank Supervisor Jeffries and Mr. Ketcham. They have done more for our seniors and Mead Valley than most resident could ever know, if you want to know just ask me 951-742-1607. I would also like to thank Mr. Ketcham for the ride-a-longs he does with code enforcement, keeps him on his toes. I would like to thank the Youth Advisory Council (YAC). They helped during the Breakfast with Santa event and did an outstanding job. The leader of the Council would like to come to our meeting in the future. I would also

like to thank Paz Travino for helping promote business in Mead Valley. He will make a great leader come July, I look forward to working with him. I would also like to thank the MAC members for serving on this Council.

8.0 Future Agenda Items:

- Transportation & Planning, again.

Date of proposed next meeting, February 11th, 2015 6pm @ Mead Valley Community Center

Adjournment time: 8:30pm

Attendance: 27