

SANTA ROSA VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES – February 17, 2005

The Santa Rosa Valley MAC held a meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2005 at 6:00 pm at the Santa Rosa Valley Club House on 11701 E. Los Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93012

1. Call to order

Janis Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. MAC members Rosemary Allison, Mark Burley, Janis Gardner, Ruth Means and Don Shubert were present. Gardner expressed sympathy on behalf of MAC members to six individuals who were involved in three separate accidents on Santa Rosa Road in the last six days.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Officer George Meyers led the salute to the flag.

3. Agenda Review

Two changes were made to the agenda: "Parks arranged for a survey to be sent..." and "Janis Gardner asked about stanchion replacements..."

4. Approval of Minutes

January meeting minutes were approved 5-0 as amended.

5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Linda Parks said she has worked with an ambulance provider and signed a new contract to provide central dispatch. It allows the closest ambulance to go to the scene. The new ambulance contract also allows faster response time.

On March 1, the Board of Supervisors will discuss allowing an Engineer's Report to go forward pertaining to traffic lights on Santa Rosa Road. A subsequent ballot would allow residents to vote for new synchronized signal lights. The lights would be set in such a way that cars would tend to travel at 45 mph. With the new lights, it would be easier for resident ingress and egress to Santa Rosa Road. If the Board of Supervisors approves the measure, the Engineer's Report would determine what the assessment fee would be. The assessment would need a 50% approval rate to pass.

Supervisor Parks also is seeking private funding for the new equestrian park to do shows, put in benches and other amenities.

Supervisor Parks talked about the accident that happened on Santa Rosa Road. It involved a horse being struck and killed. The driver of the car died as a result. There were a few people who were at the scene to help out. Supervisor Parks presented a certificate of recognition to Joan and Jim Hise, residents of Santa Rosa Valley. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the Santa Rosa Valley MAC, Supervisor Parks thanked the Hises for their help at the accident scene before the CHP arrived. The Hises helped direct traffic and prevented a second horse from getting hurt. Thanks to their bravery, more people and another horse were not hurt at the accident scene.

6. Public Comments

Gene West, Chair of Santa Rosa Traffic Safety Committee, has gathered over 600 signatures to support the Benefit Assessment District. He said that safety was the Santa Rosa resident's responsibility and they need to provide for it themselves. Signatures are required by February 28 and so far 641 signatures have been collected. West will present the declaration of support to Board of Supervisors on March 1. West acknowledged Ron Means and Ann Freauf for their help. West said that SantaRosaValley.org web site was set up to collect comments. From the people that West had talked to face to face, the vast majority showed affirmative support and were eager to sign the petition.

CHP Captain Cliff Williams, who transferred from Ventura and resides in Camarillo since 1984, has patrolled Santa Rosa Road and monitored traffic on Pleasant Valley Road and Tierra Rejada. He said he has noticed a significant traffic increase over the years. Stronger traffic patrol of Santa Rosa Valley has been started since January 1, 2005. Captain Williams has reviewed accident history in the area and is working to improve response time.

Captain Williams responded to questions regarding the slow response time in the horse accident. He explained that calls that come to 911 from landlines would be routed to Ventura County dispatch. The calls that were made from cell phones would go to CHP dispatch. The first call was received by CHP at about 5:15 am on February 12 concerning a stray horse walking towards Moorpark Road. Another call was made nine minutes later about stating the horse was killed and another one was loose. It was dark and, unfortunately, the injury to the driver was not known or reported at this time. At 5:29 am, a tow truck request was made. Lack of knowledge resulted in slow response time and Williams said that was not acceptable. Captain Williams will make sure to prevent future slow response times. At the time of the accident, two CHP vehicles were tied up with other events and a back-up CHP officer was dispatched from Ventura area, which resulted in the delay.

Santa Rosa Valley resident Ann Freauf asked Captain Williams what priority was given to the horse incident. Williams responded that a traffic hazard is the highest priority. A code 3 was not issued at the time because they did not realize that a person was injured in the accident. Williams said that CHP has a different frequency than the Sheriff and therefore the Sheriff did not know about the accident.

Santa Rosa Valley resident Joan Hise commented that once rescue people arrived they were very helpful. When Hise made the 911 calls, she explained the situation and that they needed lights. Captain Williams thanked Hise for helping with the situation before CHP arrived at the scene.

Ruth Means said that the response time for this accident was 33 minutes and the average response time for the City of Los Angeles is about 5 minutes. Captain Williams said that there was a head-in collision accident that happened before 9 am the same day and that the response time was 10 minutes. Williams advised residents that the response time of 33 minutes was not the norm and he would be follow up on the issue.

Captain Williams talked about the new command that would be responsible for Santa Rosa Valley and Oak Park area. Officers who belong to this command are local residents living in these areas. They would document all response time and complaints. Williams said that he would also try to attend future MAC meetings to communicate better with the residents.

Ann Freauf complained to Williams about speeding and asked why there was not more enforcement. Williams said the situation would change. Williams introduced CHP Officer George Meyers and gave out his contact phone number (805) 530-1620. The e-mail address for Captain Williams is clwilliams@chp.ca.gov and gmyers@chp.ca.gov for Officer Meyers.

Jim Bradley, Santa Rosa Valley resident of 20 years, said that residents who live outside the area were the ones who causing the problem. Also, he did not feel that Santa Rosa Valley residents should be paying for the new signal lights.

Supervisor Parks commented that some traffic problems have been caused as a result of the widening of Moorpark Park Road as well as new growth in the area. She said that money collected from the assessment could only be used to pay for the new lights. Parks said there is no funding from the County to pay for the lights.

7. Council Comments on issues not on the agenda

Ruth Means said that the Blue Ribbon Traffic Calming Committee decided more than two years ago that physical barriers works best for traffic calming. The stanchions that were in place at E. Los Posas Road and Yucca Drive were run over by drivers. Butch Britt at Ventura County Transportation Department said that it is too costly to keep replacing them. Ruth asked Supervisor Parks if they could use plastic stands. Parks said stanchions or pavement markers do not act as barriers and they are not meant to prevent accidents. Parks suggested looking at other mechanism to help avoid accidents and that she would work with Britt on the issue.

Don Shubert said several neighbors had asked him if a fire station could be built on Santa Rosa Road. If there were an emergency at rush hour, it would take the fire trucks a long time to come from Camarillo or Thousand Oaks. Supervisor Parks said she would ask the Fire Chief to attend one of the MAC meetings and discuss on the issue.

8. Information Items

a. Beautification Day

Don Shubert talked about the Beautification Day that was held at Santa Rosa Magnet Technology School on February 5. The event, which was organized by the County and Consolidated Disposal Service, allowed residents to drop off green waste, metal and electronic waste. The Restore group was also there to educate people about recycling building materials. The event was very well organized and efficient. There were 143 cars checked in at the gate. Shubert would like to do this as an annual event. The County collected 2 ½ ton of green waste, 1 ton of trash, 2 ½ ton of metal and 10,000 lbs of electronic waste.

b. Ad hoc Trail Policy Committee

A trail policy committee was set up with Mark Burley as chair. Santa Rosa Valley Trails Inc, a non-profit organization, was also created to finance a trail plan and to eventually take and maintain trails. Supervisor Parks will present the proposal for a trail plan to the Board of Supervisors and present financing options as well.

9. Future Agenda Items

Request Fire Chief Roper to attend a MAC meeting

10. Adjournment to March 17, 2005