

THE EL RIO /DEL NORTE MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Serving as Advisory Council for recreational activities in the El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Strickland and Agricultural Areas or El Rio/Del Norte area, including advisory recommendations for the El Rio Roger Jones Community Center and the Nyeland Acres Community Center

Summary Minutes for the Thursday April 18, 2024

John C. Zaragoza Community Center
3334 Santa Clara Ave. Oxnard, CA 93036

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Regular Members

David Souza (Vice Chair) (Nyeland Acres)

Present

Bonnie Bernal (Cloverdale)

Present

Julie Hupp (Strickland)

Present

Lorraine Bailon (Rio Plaza)

Present

At Large Members

Mike Barber (Chair)

Excused

Aaron Wedemeyer

Present

Brenda Heredia

Absent

Alternate

Michael D. Stubblefield

Absent

Others Present: Gina Johnson, Chief Probation Officer; Robert Barna, VC Probation; Sergio Vargas, VC Public Works; Sandy Harrison, VC Public Works; Amanda Aherns, VC Code Compliance; Senior Deputy Brian Zamore, VC Sheriff's Department; Captain Greg Gibson, VC Sheriff's Department; Brian Allen, CHP; Chris Byrd, CHP; Manuel Minjares, Supervisor Kelly Long's office; Brian Miller, Supervisor Kelly Long's office; Timothy Furgal, VC Library System; Sherry Leal-Ryan, VC Library System

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2024.

Bonnie Bernal made the motion to approve, Julie Hupp seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

IV. Public Safety Updates

Ventura County Sheriff's Department, CHP, Oxnard PD

Senior Deputy Brian Zamore introduced himself as the new Ventura County Sheriff Designee for the El Rio, Nyeland, Strickland area.

Officer Byrd with the CHP announced they started issuing parking citations for individuals not moving their vehicles on street sweeping days. CHP has also been engaging the homeless encampments along Santa Clara Ave. and was able to get all of the RV's to move along but still dealing with one Van. They attended an event at Rio Plaza to give away car seats and teach

individuals how to properly install them. CHP can arrange for free car seats if needed. Finally, they have cited RV's in the Strickland area.

V. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Sherry Leal-Ryan, Librarian with El Rio Library announced the summer reading program for kids and there will be raffle tickets given away with a prize being tickets to Disneyland. She also announced their ESL program and an April Calendar of Events for the Library. She also introduced her boss, Timothy Furgal, Regional Librarian with the Ventura County Library System. She also passed out flyers for the April Calendar of events.

**VI. Council Member
Comments** None

Business Items

VII. Discussion regarding Graffiti in El Rio, Nyeland and unincorporated Oxnard

Manuel Minjares briefed the group on discussions that took place at the March MAC meeting where Lorane Bailon brought up concerns about graffiti on large white wall in El Rio, at main entrance to Simon Way, off of Rose Ave. While this graffiti is located on private property, she indicated there used to be a graffiti removal program and stated graffiti is an eyesore to the community. At the request of the board in March, the MAC requested the graffiti removal program should be placed on the April MAC agenda for discussion. Manuel stated there were several county staff members in the audience who agreed to attend this meeting to give their thoughts and perspectives.

Gina Johnson and Robert Barna with Probation provided a history of the graffiti removal program run by VC Probation. Correction Services officers were able to use Work Release members to go out into the community to clean graffiti. They indicated that unfortunately, the program was halted due to staff shortages in the Juvenile Detention Facility on Vineyard and all workers were needed to keep the facility operating within state guidelines.

Sandy Harrison and Sergio Vargas with Public Works provided a brief update on their graffiti efforts. They indicated, Public Works will remove graffiti on road signs, light poles etc. within the County of Ventura's purview as well as Watershed Protection structures. Although on the Watershed structures, there is Board directives to remove any vulgar or gang related graffiti immediately in those areas but other graffiti is a lower priority. Sandy offered to train local community members to paint over graffiti in their communities as well. She would provide each group with paint and supplies as needed. Loraine Bailon volunteered to reach out to Sandy to get more information on setting up a community based team to remove graffiti.

Amanda Aherns with VC Code enforcement provided an update stating that the County of Ventura does not have an ordinance on the books requiring private home owners remove graffiti under the penalty of fines or liens. Most agreed it would be unfair to place that burden on individual homeowners who may be elderly or do not have the means to keep up with the graffiti.

Senior Deputy Brian Zamore said the Sheriff's office responds directly to citizen calls on graffiti and documents the graffiti before it is removed so they could potentially tie these acts to someone when they are caught doing it somewhere else. He indicated that gang related graffiti is always a high priority for their office. The Sheriff will also interact with the individual home owner asking them to take care of the graffiti or in the past, having them sign waiver forms so others can remove it. He reiterated, if there is gang related graffiti, the Sheriff's office should be contacted.

Lorraine Bailon stated she does not like that you can only upload one picture in the Public Works app to report graffiti.

Julie Hupp asked how businesses can sign consent forms to have graffiti removed.

Aaron Wedemeyer suggested that areas which have been hit multiple times with graffiti put a protective clear coat on the surface to make cleanup easier.

VIII. Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

IX. Next Meeting: May 15, 2024 @ 7 PM / John C. Zaragoza Community Center