



## LOS OSOS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 26, 2021

Zoom meeting 7pm

### MIINUTES

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** was taken. Present were Trish Bartel Chairperson, Sue Morgenthaler Secretary, Lynette Tornatzky, Yael Korin, Larry Bender, Jan Harper, Deborah Howe, Jim Stanfill and James Bishop. Sandra Sarouff arrived late. Tim Carstairs was absent.

**ZOOM FEATURES AND MEETING PROTOCOL** were outlined by Chairperson Trish Bartel.

### **COUNTY AND LOCAL AGENCY REPORTS:**

**Sergeant Langston from the Sheriff's Department** reported 67 calls this month, down from 74 during the same time last year. These calls ranged from disturbance calls to thefts, vandalism, property disputes, phone scams, enforcement stops, perimeter control, and mail theft. Regards to mail theft, the Sergeant recommends we all get a locking mailbox, too much personal identification information can be stolen.

The Sheriff's office has Neighborhood Watch signs if anyone needs them.

A clarification was requested regarding what the Sheriff's activity is on Palisades. The Sheriffs are trying to find a middle ground balancing the needs of both the community and the unhoused. They are starting with an educational approach. This week they have been handing out flyers notifying every one of the law which states a vehicle can only be parked in one place for 72 hours, this is an educational visit.

The property to the west of Palisades is privately owned, its owners have requested the tent campers be removed from their land. Sheriffs are giving them notice, with ample time to leave. Liaisons are out on site giving everyone information on safe parking areas and resources to relocate and get help.

**Station Commander Captain Greg Klingenberg of the CHP** reported 8 collisions, 2 of which were DUIs.

## **County Staff Reports**

**County Staff Reports opened with Kristen Eriksson, Administrative Analyst, SLO County Administrator Office.** Her presentation was the Redistricting of Supervisorial Voting Blocs (Districts). This presentation covered the explanation of what the Administrative Office is doing as it redistricts, the laws governing that county process, a proposed timeline, hearing schedules, and the opportunities for public input.

Redistricting is equalizing the population among districts to ensure equal representation (14<sup>th</sup> Amendment). We have 5 districts that must comply with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the Voting Rights Act. They are prohibited from diluting racial and language minority voting rights and are restricted from using race as the predominant criterion in drawing lines.

These governing laws must consider geographical integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest, they must be geographically contiguous, they must minimize division of cities or census designated places, boundaries must be easily identifiable, and they must not favor or discriminate against any political party.

They are required to hold public hearings. Currently they are accepting general public comment and input on Communities of Interest. Examples of these communities of interest are ethnic and language minorities, LGBTQ+ communities, senior citizens, students, and urban/rural/coastal communities.

The public information page is [www.slocounty.ca.gov/redistricting](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/redistricting)  
Public comment can be sent to [redistricting@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:redistricting@co.slo.ca.us) phone number is 805-781-1085.  
Public hearings (Spanish translation and zoom participation available) are November 19 at 9am, November 30 at 9am, and December 14 at 1:30pm.

**Joshua Roberts, County Public Works: Los Osos Road Impact Fee Study** (Document can be found on the Traffic and Circulation Meeting Page on lococ.info)

The purpose of the Road Impact Fee study is to estimate accumulative traffic impact under buildout outlined in the Community Plan/General Plan. It identifies the capacity improvements needed as required by the Board Level of Service Policy and establishes a fair share mitigation fee for new development.

This study is not a comprehensive traffic study, so it will not include concerns regarding all modes of transportation. It is only to estimate improvements and the fair share cost to mitigate traffic congestion along road segments and intersections adversely impacted by growth.

Whenever new construction is applied for, a fee will be charged to the permit based on criteria laid out in this study. New construction is judged by how many trips on average per day will be generated. There are different rates for each type of construction, i.e., businesses vs residential or industrial etc. Pass by discounts are offered for example when a trip to store may also involve a visit to another store or gas station in the area, thus none bears the burden of the entire fee.

Different factors go into the creation of these fees. Speed is not the only criteria; it is more the congestion it creates, and the geometry of the road then becomes a factor.

A concern was stated regarding a couple of potentially proposed routes, both created to serve specific areas but could attract residents as a new through pathway to get out of town, Joshua understands this issue and says they would take these concerns up at the time of new development and the need for these roads. Presently there is nothing like this in the study and neither are necessary for new growth.

Projects are initiated only as new road fees are collected. There is \$600,000 worth of projected construction, yet at present there is only \$70,000 collected road fees. It is often hard to collect road fees fast enough for projects that need to be built, unfortunately need precedes available funding. In the past, the county has partnered with SLOCOG for funds. 30-40% of the funding for the signal at Nipomo came from SLOCOG.

It was asked if they include urban canopy renewal in their plans. No, the fee is developed only to mitigate extra traffic from development but partnering funds can be looked at.

**Supervisor Bruce Gibson** spoke about Palisades, emphasizing what the Sheriff said, they are taking a balanced approach to correcting the situation by concentrating on outreach and developing resources to take care of the diverse needs. Those parking on the street as well as those camping have been given notice that they will not be able to stay.

Tomorrow will be 2 weeks that Kansas has been open. Many from the community have been helping both in person and with suggestions, the staff is on track to continue looking into necessary resources and more areas for safe parking.

The Sheriff and the CHP have started the process of enforcing the move and are offering a free tow to Kansas for inoperable vehicles.

Staff is also working to develop a No Overnight Camping Ordinance in Los Osos that will hopefully be presented to the Board of Supervisors at the end of September. With that in place, the county will have a stronger tool with which to require relocation to an alternative site.

The process is not overnight, a visible change on Palisades will come slowly, one that gets Los Osos back to a safe, secure, and inviting public space.

It was mentioned that the Kansas site is about 75% full. It is being used in as a stopover, a way in which it was not intended. This needs to be addressed as there needs to be spaces for all those on Palisades to move over. It was not intended as a highway rest stop.

Yael Korin feels the homeless on Palisades are being forced against their will, that is not the answer. Kansas does not serve those on Palisades, the county needs to find a site that the Palisades people would be willing to go. The county needs to engage the homeless. Yael had previously submitted a site for consideration but apparently this site is not under consideration because of deed restrictions, specifically a sewer easement.

Supervisor Gibson again agreed they need to develop more resources for safe parking.

Paul Hershfield was concerned that those who must leave the bushes will leave without their possessions, which will be removed and trashed. Supervisor Gibson said the belongings were not going to be trashed, they will be stored. And again, where will those with mental issues go? It is all being extensively looked at by those working on this move. This is part of the argument for the development of a sanctioned tent encampment. All issues are important.

Linde Owen asked if there is a point person that can be approached for those in the community who wish to help. Supervisor again thanked the community, appreciating their engagement. He asked if anyone wants to communicate, please contact his office.

Patrick McGibney inquired about the Title 19 offset recalculation. Has a consultant been hired? Who will pay? Why are they using old figures when the county has admitted to him they do not work?

Supervisor Gibson stated the offset numbers have not been declared bad. He does not have the answers to Patrick's questions. An audit is underway, and he will let us know when the new formula for offsets has been decided upon.

**The CSD Report** was made by CSD Director Troy Gatchell, first mentioning the lower aquifer well at South Bay Blvd and Bay Oaks Drive. This well will function in a way they hope will encourage less sea water intrusion.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Street well is in the works, part of the plan to mix treated upper and lower aquifer water. The grant was approved this year, work will be started this fall.

CSD is discussing whether to determine area boundaries in Los Osos to conform with state voting rights. These new districts would be used to elect their representatives.

The CSD is expecting a letter this coming week that was requested by the Coastal Commission. This letter will be written by the 3 water purveyors, coming together to express concerns regarding ADU and new water usage in Los Osos.

Troy reminds us we are in the middle of a very serious drought. Please pay close attention to your water use. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the CSD at 805-528-9370.

**The Chamber of Commerce**, as reported by Lynette Tornatzky, has a new website and a new logo. Please go to [lobpchamber.org](http://lobpchamber.org) to check it out. They are hoping to host Oktoberfest in a couple of months.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Javier Soto asked if LOCAC was planning to offer any financial support for anyone affected by Palisades. LOCAC does not have the ability to do this, but it was suggested the appropriate place for these concerns is the Unhoused Residents Committee.

Linde brought up her concerns regarding all the ministerial permits that are approved in Los Osos that we never know anything about. While we have no say in them, they are certainly a concern for us and often regard things that are important to us, like new water usage and tree cutting. If we could find out about these things, we could at least have a chance to change minds or create some sort of mitigation. All she is asking for is a chance to see what is going on in our community.

One response to her plea was from Patrick McGibney. Please send him information any time we hear of an ADU or new water usage permit. Los Osos Sustainability Group plans to appeal them all but needs to hear about them first.

Another asked Supervisor Gibson if they can determine whether people are just going to Kansas for the night, and if so, can they be turned away. The Supervisor said they are looking into this, and he feels they can work it out.

As to his response to Patrick McGibney earlier over water offsets, the Supervisor said Patrick is welcome to his opinions, the offsets are being reviewed and new numbers are being used for the recalculations.

Eve Gruntfest reminded LOCAC that we agreed last month to review the Morro Shores project. She was told yes, we will review the project, it is on the agenda for September.

#### **MINUTES APPROVED**

Minutes were approved from the Regular LOCAC meeting July 22, 2021. Motion was made by Lynette Tornatzky to approve, seconded by Jan Harper. There were no dissentions.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Deborah Howe reported she is making progress getting access to our funds at Mechanics Bank. In 1993 LOCAC applied for an EIN number. We never file taxes, so the IRS inactivated our tax ID number. It has now been reactivated and we are filing as a 501 C4 Civic Organization. We are waiting for a letter of determination that will get us access to our funds. Apparently all that is required each year for a tax return from us will be a post card.

We have \$309 of expenses that are waiting for reimbursements. Planning for 6 months of in person meetings, Deborah estimated a \$2894 budget. That minus our inaccessible money, she requested a grant from Supervisor Gibson of \$1461. This money has been approved.

Supervisor Gibson suggested we hold off on the tax ID and filings, we should check with other councils, see what they do. This is a problem he has never seen and is concerned that if we organize ourselves in this formal manner, filing taxes may be too expensive. There might be a simpler way, he and Blake will help us figure this out.

## **LOCAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Land Use Committee, Larry Bender** reported the committee did not meet in July.

**Traffic and Circulation, Jan Harper** made a motion that LOCAC recommend approval of the RIF study. Traffic and Circulation voted to recommend approval. Larry seconded the motion, it passed with no opposition.

Jan is not planning to hold any meetings in the foreseeable future. If anyone sees anything of concern, call Public Works, the Sheriff, or the CHP.

**Trees and Landscaping, Yael Korin** had nothing to report. They are making progress with the El Morro trail, but nothing is final. They are working towards getting the county to allow them to abate the dry weed so fire risk can be avoided.

**Outreach Committee, Sandra Sarrouf** keeps our Newsletter published twice a month. It would be great if someone would volunteer to help her with this and to help her reach out to places like the Estero Bay News.

The Outreach Committee is looking for someone, perhaps a student, who could help LOCAC with a social media presence.

**Ad Hoc Water Committee** did not meet this month, there was no BMC meeting, no news to work with.

**Unhoused Residents, James Bishop** chaired the committee this month, holding 2 meetings. The 3 rotating chairpersons will be James, Sandra Sarouff, and Jim Stanfill.

Their meetings featured engagement with the public, a discussion regarding the Kansas safe parking site, the community expressed how they felt, and the committee heard lots of recommendations as to how to improve the site. Many volunteered with both donations and labor.

The Committee gathered these recommendations and wrote a letter for sanctioned encampments that was sent to Supervisor Gibson. They thanked the county for creating the Kansas site. This letter is posted on the Unhoused Residents Committee page.

The committee and community both are encouraging the county to develop more sites and would like to talk with them and offer their help with finding them.

It was asked if the committee has recommended the El Chorro site. It was suggested there is some undeveloped land near El Chorro. Supervisor Gibson told us there are deed restrictions to the campsite at El Chorro from when it was deeded to the county. It is legally devoted to recreation so they are looking elsewhere and perhaps into expanding Kansas.

Javier asked if there was any talk of helping those affected by the presence of the homeless on Palisades. There has not, but it is certainly worth talking about. LOCAC has no money, it has no ability to give anyone money, but maybe the committee can help with information as to where they could apply for a grant. Sandra volunteered to help brainstorm, perhaps a capital campaign?

Patrick remarked that El Chorro is public property. What if the homeless just went there and camped out? Could you remove them legally? The Supervisor's answer was yes, because of the park regulations people can be removed for not paying rent. Supervisor Gibson reiterated this is just speculation on his part.

It was then suggested that if the county could free up a few sites for use by homeless who could afford to pay, some of the trailers might move there. Perhaps they could share a site?

**There was motion from Lynette to accept the Treasurer's report and the Committee reports. Jim Stanfill seconded, there were none in opposition.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no regular agenda items for discussion.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**What is the role of LOCAC?** We have been maligned on Next Door. Do we reach out, do we say who we are, or do we just keep leading people back to our website?

Comments from the council and the public were:

- We have information on our website.
- If you see comments that are about us on, for example, Next Door, just ask the commentors to visit our website.
- We have an about section on our website, perhaps it should be more visible, move it to the top of the page.
- We are here to represent the community; we must remember that.
- One felt we need to repair the bridge that has been broken on Next Door.
- Morro Bay has a presence in the Estero Bay News, perhaps we could have one as well.

Trish will send a questionnaire to all Council members, to get input on this question and those posed by Code Enforcement Officer Daniel Del Rio. Those questions are:

- What are the Priorities for the Council?
- Where could code enforcement staff be a potential resource for ongoing LOCAC issues.
- Are there specific needs in the community that could be met with the help of code enforcement?
- Where can code enforcement help connect the community to the appropriate department or agencies for reporting concerns? (ie tree removal- Planning Dept, street right of way- Public Works, wetlands- California Department of Wildlife)

The purpose of these questions is to give him a base understanding of where code enforcement staff could be in alignment with LOCAC priorities to help accomplish common goals.

## **New Password for the LOCAC Zoom account**

Because of technical problems, a new password has been created for our zoom account. It will be made available to all in the morning. Please sign out when you exit, ALWAYS! Never check the save password box and always check exit all devices. If you have problems with this, please delete your zoom download and re load it onto your computer.

Meeting was **Adjourned** at 9:11.

