



Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

MINUTES

September 5, 2017

Westport Community Church, 24900 Abalone Street, Westport

1. Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

In attendance were Chair person Thad Van Bueren, Vice Chair Robert Scott, Director Kevin Michel, Director Gary Quinton, Alternate Sally Grigg. Absent was Secretary Bill Knapp.

Gary Quinton was welcomed as a new director and asked to serve as the Secretary which he agreed to do. Director Kevin Michel offered to serve as Treasurer and was so appointed.

It was noted that in Bill Knapp's absence our alternate Sally Grigg would be a voting member for the evening.

Approximately 20 local residents were in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 1, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Public expression:

Russ Barnes wanted to discuss the problem of a secure mail drop at the end of his road DeHaven Valley Road and it was decided to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Baile Oakes wanted to discuss opening Clay Road as an emergency exit from the Westport area and it was decided to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

An application from Heather Davis had just been received by the WMAC for a marijuana grow on Sea View Drive and the item was added to the agenda for the evening.

4. New Business:

a) Siler CDP#2016-0044.

One email was received by the WMAC that was opposed to the whale in the application.

A large number of the residents in attendance had a comment regarding the application and the general consensus was that the artistic value of the whale might not be what everyone would do themselves but it was within the flavor of the community and should not be discouraged. The sign on the building was about the same with the exception that the general feeling was that the lettering which is large now should not be increased, and no one had any objection to the renewing of the garage.

The Board decided the WMAC would comment on the project and that a letter would accompany our suggested approval of the project stating the communities concern about increasing the size of the lettering BLACKSMITH and that there should not be allowed any inhabitants inside the whale in the application. Additionally the safety design of the whale was a concern of the Board and residents. The concern was that someone would find the whale an attractive thing to play in and on and that it might collapse and someone would get hurt. It was agreed by the board these concerns would be included in a letter suggesting approval of the project to the BOS and Planning Department.

5. Old Business:

a) Marijuana Cultivation Permits: Most in attendance has some input into the subject of two marijuana permits. The majority of concerns were about the size and visual effects of the pending Buchanon permit (AG#2017-0111) and the subsequent impact on the neighbors. It was stated that the pending permit on DeHaven Valley Road which has received much controversy in that neighborhood is in the process of being dismantled, moved, and closed down. Baile Oakes suggested and reminded us that the area is not opposed to the business of marijuana growing or even hoop green houses. In fact, green houses for growing food should be encouraged, but it is the size and visual effects to neighbors that we should be concerned with. It is the difference between Commercial/industrial and small local operations that the attendees focused on. Follow up on the Buchanon permit will include advising County of local concern with expansions of pre-existing cultivation projects under Phase 1.

With this being said, the application of Heather Davis and Cyrus Maahs (AP#2017-0030) was brought up. Most in attendance were familiar with the location of the applicant and the fact that the operation was at the end of the road, not visible to anyone on the public road, plus the size of the operation would not exceed past operations on the property and the application met with a unanimous approval of the attendees' and Board. It was decided the Board would recommend approval of this application with the comment that this was the type of operation considered appropriate to permit under Phase 1.

b) Camping issue: Several attendees had comments as did Board members. The concerns were centered around sanitation at the camping sites. There were no clear solutions suggested, so the Board decided to send a letter to the responsible agencies requesting that the subject be discussed in detail looking for solutions.

c) Pacific Street traffic: Thad Van Bueren stated he had spoken to Caltrans and the county about the problem of people using the street as a short cut and the problem of speeding on the street. It appears the County will not take action, but Caltrans will monitor and potentially intervene with signage and CHP enforcement related to traffic queues resulting from work in the local vicinity. No further WMAC action is proposed.

6. Announcements/correspondence: There was none

7. Set preliminary agenda for the October 3, 2017 meeting:

Items will include: Camping issue, Post office boxes, and Clay Road opening.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

Attested by:

Thad Van Bueren, Chair

Gary Quinton, Secretary