

**COUNTY OF PLACER
NEWCASTLE/OPHIR MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

175 Fulweiler Avenue

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**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015 MEETING
OF THE NEWCASTLE/OPHIR MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Ophir Elementary School, 1373 Lozano Rd., Newcastle, CA**

Members Present

ED SANDER
STEVE PALMER
KAREN GREEN
SAM MOORE
JOE IRVIN

Members Absent

ELLIOTT ROSE

County Staff Present

LEAH ROSASCO

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2015 MEETING WERE APPROVED

Motion made by Karen Green to approve the August 19, 2015 Minutes, 2nd by Ed Sander, Motion carried.

4. The November 19, 2015 AGENDA WAS APPROVED

Motion made by Joe Irvin to approve the November 19, 2015 Agenda, 2nd by Karen Green, Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

- a) California Highway Patrol: No one in attendance
- b) Newcastle Fire Department: No one in attendance
- c) Placer County Sheriff's Office: No one in attendance
- d) Placer County Fire Department: No one in attendance

6. Public Comments:

Sue Stack: The one hour parking in downtown Newcastle is not being enforced. People park there all day long and she has often been blocked by cars parked in front of her house. This has been made worse by the Post Office not providing parking for their employees.

Karen Green: Has anybody contacted the Downtown Community Association? Where do the Post Office employees park?

Sue Stack: There is parking behind the Newcastle shed.

Sue Stack: Tree Ordinance – Which species of trees are to be protected and which

ones can be cut down? Six months ago, the magnolia tree next to the Post Office was cut down.

Karen Green: Is the Tree Ordinance a County Ordinance?

Planner George Rosasco: Tree Ordinance is a County Ordinance. Only native trees are protected. The Trees Ordinance is currently being updated. The Ordinance will come back to the MAC in the spring and it will be substantially different.

- 7. **County Updates:** Leah Rosasco, Administrative Aide to Supervisor Jim Holmes reported Holmes was at an ARD Board meeting to discuss the multi-generational community center.

Vacancy on the Newcastle MAC – two applicants.

Criteria for serving on the MAC Board: Applicant has to live within MAC's boundaries, own property or business West of I-80.

- 8. **Informational Non-Action Items:**
 - a) **Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) Unmet Transit Needs Study**

PCTPA staff provided an overview of a study that is underway aimed at determining the feasibility of expanding public transit service for rural Placer County. This feasibility study came about as a result of rural residents' concerns about limited transportation access to various services located in more urbanized Placer County. The PCTPA study will help determine whether there are "unmet transit needs" in rural communities and whether they are "reasonable to meet" and should be funded. PCTPA is seeking the MAC's input regarding expansion of public transit service for rural Placer County.

Presenter: David Melko, Senior Transportation Planner, PCTPA

County transit plan covers all counties, eight communities, one of these is Newcastle. The plan will focus on transit needs, public and stakeholders input, evaluate transit needs that make sense, consider impact to existing services, and identify recommended strategies.

The study is to pay close attention to these new recommendations so not to reduce existing efficiency of services. Board will have to balance cost and efficiency. There will be a series of recommendations with a phasing strategy over the period of seven or eight years, piecemealed out in phases.

Exhibit Map of existing services showed Roseville has own transit services as does Auburn. Placer County has 'Dial a Ride', but most services center in activity areas.

Nontraditional public transportation alternatives:

1. Health Express Dial Ride to call center is for non-emergency services for seniors and the disabled to medical appointments in Placer County and Sacramento. It also offers phone information re rides services. There is a fare and discount card. Sutter Health and Kaiser contribute for these services.

2. 'My Ride' is a volunteers program for families with limited needs and for disabled people. Volunteers, people helping people, are recruited to drive and are reimbursed for mileage. Funds for this program come from Area Agency on Aging.

Community of 16K population, 1600 households, 47% are transit dependent, as defined by the Transit Administrative Agency. Youth is dependent on public transportation.

The study will use census figures and consideration is given to the specific demographic groups. For the transit dependent population – what are the service alternatives?

1. Shuttle commuter services will do deviations in $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Deviations could be extended, but with trade-off, as someone else will have to sit on bus longer. Beyond the $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, advance reservation would be required and a surcharge on top of fare.

2. Inconvenient time – Intervals between rides. Increase frequencies

3. Park and Ride is a service that is more tailored for commuters.

Joe Irvin: Can services overlap? Uber Company for example does provide services.

David Melko: It will be looked into.

Karen Green: Many HS students do not drive. Many use Uber services.

Sam Moore: Park and Ride services sound good. There are easement permits to be obtained and there is the complexity for parking.

Sue Stack: Auburn, Loomis, Roseville all have kiosks with transit information. Placer County is moving away from kiosks.

Karen Green: Any thought given to provide public transportation with extra bus services for events as the Mandarin Fest, the Eggplant Fest, etc.?

David Melko: Federal funds are used for public transportation. Special Events fall under Charter Services and have Charter Rules. Private operators willing to provide services in Placer County will have to be paid by Placer County. Most private operators stay away from providing these services.

Sue Stack: Is there a direct bus service from Placer County to airport?

David Melko: No, there is a shuttle service, unless several different buses are ridden, which would take four hours to arrive at destination.

9. Action Item: None

10. MAC Member Reports and Correspondence: None

Joe Irvin: Mandarin Festival is on this weekend. There are 2 for 1 passes. It is going to be at the Auburn Fairgrounds. Cost is \$3.00.

Sam Moore: Fire District proposal from South Fire to provide services looked more like a merger consolidation report than a service arrangement. Proposal was rejected last night.

Ed Sander: The Newcastle Fire Department building was deeded to citizens from County, it cannot be sold because county does not own it.

Karen Green: Everything on hold till the study is complete?

Sam Moore: About ready to get bids. Project seems to be moving forward.

- 11. The next scheduled MAC meeting is Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**
- 12. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**