

McSwain MAC Minutes 2-25-2016

PRESENT: Darren Olguin, Maria SKORDOS-Moore, Andy Kersten, Roy Torres

ABSENT: Toby Soares, Gerald Solano , Valerie Roden

Approval of Agenda by Andy Kersten, 2nd by Roy Torres. Approval of Minutes by Roy Torres, 2nd by Maria SKORDOS-Moore

Reports

Sheriff James Pacheco talked about a phone scam going on now in Merced County. He passed out flyer with info to watch out for if anyone gets a call. If anyone calls from a 876, 809, or 284 area code be aware it is most likely a scam. Darren brought up the issue we have been having with door to door solicitors in some of the neighborhoods in McSwain. Question was brought up if there were any ordinances to prevent this from happening - Supervisor McDaniel will look into it.

House at 1026 Buhach Road (the corner of Buhach and 140) has become a eye sore and nuisance with people living in it, all tires have been removed from truck parked in front. Front door has no locks and garage door is still partially open. A complaint has been filed with the fire department. Sheriff Pacheco says they can't do anything unless someone is there when they show up. Owner is retired CHP.

Action is being taken to coordinate all the Farm Watches to better serve the area.

Planning Department - Pam Navares brought the Fleming Hills project is working on some issues, including water, before it will be approved. Fleming Hills has 24 homes. Sussex Estates is also another project that is moving forward it will have 10 homes.

Old Business

MAC representatives and Public Works Director Dana Hertfelder met with Caltrans officials to discuss concerns and solutions to improving the intersection at Gurr and 140. There have been 11 reported accidents over the last 5 years. With increase in traffic, growth in McSwain - Gurr road is becoming a more active route for trucks.

Zip Code Change. In an effort to build McSwain into its own identity and community the need for our own zip code could provide economic benefits as well as our plan to grow McSwain with balance and forethought. McSwain can be an economic benefit to the county by maintaining high property values, low crime, access to major freeways and a great school district. By building a community that reflects the area, we can be assured that we have a voice of our own. Senator Jim Costa's office will help with the process. MAC representative spoke with Atwater Postmaster (Joanna) who is preparing what needs to be completed in order to make the transition.

Public Works

Welcome to McSwain signs will be installed at the following locations:

Applegate and Gianinni, Thorton Road and 140, Bert Crane and 140, Buhach and SP.

We are working with public works to determine if we can help high school students who need to complete community service, by having them clean up the roads, overpasses, etc. It is an insurance issue.

Also discussed was to make the Buhach overpass a "Love Atwater" project. Roy and Darren will work on the Love Atwater Project for April 2016. Also mentioned was to see if "adopt a road" in McSwain could be established.

Someone requested a light be placed on SP at the curve.

Doug Stabelfeld, private citizen had issue with uncontrolled intersections throughout McSwain. Would like to see lower speed limits. Pam Navares offered the County has money for safety issues, which this might fall under. Supervisor McDaniel will look into it. He also asked if the MAC was going to be doing anything for National Time Out which is the 1st Tuesday night of August. It was suggested to post it on Next Door as a way to get the community involved.

Chairman Olguin received a message via Next Door suggesting we send out a mailer to ALL residents of McSwain before we "accomplish our goals to improve McSwain...". Discussion on how this would be paid for, and if we could do a survey. Supervisor McDaniel suggested we get a Google phone number for the MAC that could be posted on our facebook page, etc.

Supervisor McDaniel comments

Went to a conference in Oregon with the Local Government Commission where they shared ideas and ways to establish bike paths, horse trails, and other forms of alternative transportation. Currently there will be a ½ cent sales tax on the June ballot to fix roads in Merced County, 20% has to go towards Alternative Transportation.

May 14th "Welcome Home Heros" event out at Castle to recognize Fire, Police, Vets, Retired Military. It is going to be a huge event and everyone should go.

Roy Torres motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Andy Kersten 8:01pm