

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
RAMONA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP**

A regular meeting of the Ramona Community Planning Group (RCPG) was held November 7, 2013, at 7 p.m., at the Ramona Community Library, 1275 Main Street, Ramona, California.

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL (Piva, Chair)

In Attendance:	Chad Anderson (Arr 7:20)	Jim Cooper	Matt Deskovick (Arr 7:30)
	Scotty Ensign	Carl Hickman	Eb Hogervorst
	Kristi Mansolf	Donna Myers	Jim Piva
	Paul Stykel	Richard Tomlinson	Kevin Wallace

Excused Absence: Torry Brean , Barbara Jensen , Dennis Sprong

Jim Piva, RCPG Chair, acted as Chair of the meeting, Scotty Ensign, RCPG Vice Chair, acted as the Vice-Chair of the meeting, and Kristi Mansolf, RCPG Secretary, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

ITEM 2: Pledge of Allegiance

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF 10-10-13

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2013.

Upon motion made by Jim Cooper and seconded by Donna Myers, the motion **passed 10-0-0-5**, with Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick, Barbara Jensen and Dennis Sprong absent.

ITEM 4: Announcements and Correspondence Received

Ms. Mansolf announced SANDAG is celebrating the 25th anniversary of TransNet, the local half cent sales tax for transportation in San Diego County. They want to acknowledge the transportation improvements TransNet has brought to the region.

At the December 5, 2013, RCPG meeting, SDG&E will be presenting their solar project proposal near the Creelman Substation.

Mr. Ensign said the project will be at Creelman and Ashley.

Ms. Mansolf said County Parks will make a presentation on the upcoming changes to the Parks and Recreation fee ranges, and Parks and Recreation building and facility naming rights. These items will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in January/February 2014.

The Chair briefly discussed the funding of the Highland Valley/Dye/SR-67 intersection. First we were told a Project Report was necessary for the intersection, but there was no money to fund it. Then Caltrans found the money to fund the Project Report and it is now completed. But without funding for the construction, the cost of the intersection improvements will continue to go up over time. The Chair talked to Supervisor Jacob's policy advisor for roads about funding the improvements. Some TIF funds were scheduled for the straightening of Highland Valley Road that had been carried over from when the new TIF roads were identified. This money is available for our buy in for the project construction, and we were told we could use this money for the

intersection improvements. Supervisor Jacob said that amount won't be enough for the whole project, but if we agree to delay the Dye Road project, San Vicente to the 2nd curve for 1 year, and also agree to delay the Ramona Street Extension project for 4 years, we will have enough to fund the construction of the intersection improvements. We will need to vote on this and the Chair said the item will be placed on the next agenda.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Group on any subject matter within the Group's jurisdiction that is not on posted agenda.

Speaker: Jeanine Hawkins, Ramona Resident

Ms. Hawkins had submitted a property referral request when the GP Update was going to hearing a couple of years ago. Her family was the original settlers for her property in 1860. The land was passed on to the family without ever being subdivided. Originally the property had been a 10 acre lot size and in the GP Update it went to 80 acres for one residential dwelling. This is an 800 percent increase. At the Board of Supervisors meeting in January, 2012, Ms. Hawkins represented herself. The County recommended she present her request to the RCPG. In April, 2012, she presented to the RCPG her request for the land to go to 40 acres rather than 80 acres. The RCPG wrote a letter and asked the County for the parcel to have a 40 acre minimum lot size. She went to the County after the letter was sent and found out the request had been denied. She is losing trust in the government and needs help to not lose her property rights.

Athena Wolfe did not wish to speak. Her speaker slip shows support for Ms. Hawkins request.

ITEM 6: ACTION ITEMS:

6-A: STP13-013, Robertson St. Apartments. AMCAL Project. Possible Reconsideration of Motion Made 7-11-13 "To Approve the Project As Presented." Based on New Information. Should The Motion To Reconsider Pass, New Information will be Considered

The Chair said reconsideration of the Robertson Street Apartments was requested to be on the agenda by a RCPG member at the meeting October 10, 2013. He wanted to be sure the item was handled correctly, so he contacted the County Planning and Sponsor Group Coordinator. For the item to be reconsidered, an RCPG member who voted for the project needed to make the motion. Members who were absent during the vote July 11, 2013, or who voted against the project could not make the motion. If the motion was made, no second was necessary. The person making the motion had to present one fact about the project for the vote to be reconsidered. No speakers would be heard on the project unless the vote for reconsideration passed. The Chair asked if any member of the RCPG who was present on July 11, 2013, and voted for the project wanted to make the motion to reconsider the project.

No motion was made. The original vote from July 11, 2013, stands. The Chair said the County Department of Housing and Community Development was consulted regarding concerns for project requirements. There are multiple layers of regulation involved with using public money to build the project. County, State and Federal regulations must be adhered to. Whatever AMCAL says in their application is the basis for which they are awarded funding. They have to do it and keep documentation. They agree to hold the rental rates at certain levels. There is ongoing monitoring.

Dr. Andrew Crain and Steve Dasher filled out speaker slips but did not speak because the item was not reconsidered.

6-B: (Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Business – PLDO) Barnett School Playground Project Presentation.

Mr. Cooper said the Barnett School Playground Project was presented to the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee. David Osterman of the RUSD was in attendance for the presentation. The proposal is to replace the current playground facilities with new facilities at a cost of \$117,675. The Parks and Recreation Subcommittee voted to make it priority #8 on the PLDO list.

Denise Drum and Breeana Purcell presented the project. Ms. Drum has been working on the project for 2 years. The primary play structure at the school is the original playground from 1992, and it does not meet current Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) safety guidelines. Parts are not available to refurbish the equipment and upgrade it to required safety standards. The rubber mat on the concrete slab is peeled up and broken. There are 500 children at the school and the playground equipment is used by kids in first through sixth grades. There is a separate structure for kindergartners. The school playground is open and accessible to the community when school is not in session.

They have been looking at the Peaceful Playground program. As part of the program, there will be paint added on the playground to create play elements.

They have already started fundraising. When Barnett School received the Distinguished School Award, there was an ice cream social to celebrate and they invited RUSD staff and the community to purchase tiles for a tile wall.

Ms. Drum talked about rising obesity statistics. The playground will promote family activity. There are different levels of training/working out available using the equipment so kids can move up and the program can be done as a family. The Peaceful Playground program is a physical fitness based program.

Mr. Cooper said the school district will consider accepting the project after funding has been identified. He asked the RCPG to consider adding the project to the PLDO list at \$75,000..

MOTION: TO SUPPORT THE BARNETT SCHOOL PLAYGROUND PROJECT TO BE #8 ON THE RCPG PLDO FUNDING LIST AT \$75,000.

Upon motion made by Chad Anderson and seconded by Paul Stykel, the motion **passed 11-1-0-0-3**, with Kevin Wallace voting no, and Torry Brean, Barbara Jensen and Dennis Sprong absent.

6-C: (Transportation/Trails Subcommittee Business) Concerns Regarding Congestion Caused by Starbucks Drive Through on Main Street and Impacting Traffic Waiting to Turn Onto 13th Street (North of Main)

Mr. Hickman gave the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee report. A community member came to the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee meeting and said she went to the doctors' offices on 13th Street recently at 9 a.m. and could not turn onto 13th Street from Highway 67 due to the back up out of Starbucks drive through and onto Highway 67. She was approaching the intersection from the west/south. Mr. Hickman suggested we ask Caltrans and the County to look at this problem and try to find a solution. One possible solution

would be that the drive through traffic cues up on 13th Street in the morning rather than waiting on Highway 67.

The Chair said we knew there would be a lot of traffic at this intersection once the library and the PPH facility were built. More projects are slated for the property by the library for the RICC in the future.

MOTION: TO DRAFT A LETTER TO STARBUCKS CORPORATION, RAMONA STARBUCKS, CALTRANS AND THE COUNTY REGARDING CONCERNS OF TRAFFIC BACK-UP ON SR-67/MAIN STREET. TYPICALLY A.M. TRAFFIC BACK-UP CUES UP OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY ONTO SR-67.

Upon motion made by Kristi Mansolf and seconded by Kevin Wallace, the motion **passed 11-0-1-0-3**, with Chad Anderson abstaining, and Torry Brean, Barbara Jensen and Dennis Sprong absent.

6-D: (Transportation/Trails Subcommittee Business) Consideration of Time Zone Parking Restrictions and/or Other Parking Restriction Mechanisms for Commercial Area at 225 8th St. to Allow for Loading Vehicles for Businesses. Limit Request is from Main St. to Alley on 8th St. (North of Main, West Side of Street)

A representative from Car Quest attended the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee meeting. He said he and the Aire-Co business could not park on 8th Street by their businesses to load and unload delivery vehicles with the merchandise that is necessary for operating their businesses as people going to the thrift store are always parked there. He had asked for some type of parking restriction such as a commercial loading time or restricted parking along the south/west side of Main to remedy this situation.

Mr. Hickman told him 8th Street is a public street and he thinks the 2 business owners should go directly to the Traffic Advisory Committee with their request. This is not a safety issue but a quality of life issue. He suggested the RCPG send a letter to the Traffic Advisory Committee on this issue and include a letter from the 2 impacted businesses.

MOTION: FOR PROPONENT TO CONTACT THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING THE TOPIC OF A PARKING RESTRICTION AT 225 8TH STREET.

Upon motion made by Carl Hickman and seconded by Richard Tomlinson, the motion **passed 12-0-0-0-3**, with Torry Brean, Barbara Jensen and Dennis Sprong absent.

ITEM 7: GROUP BUSINESS (Possible Action)
7-A: Santa Maria Creek Cleanup Update

The Chair said the RMWD has completed their portion of the creek cleanup, removing all of the trash from the creek on their property.

Ms. Mansolf doesn't know if the citizens group working on the creek cleanup has gotten started yet. She has tried to contact them and not had a response. Someone with property by Black Canyon Road along the creek contacted her and asked if anything was planned for that part of the creek? According to the property owner, 125 homes were destroyed or damaged in 1980 when the creek

flooded. She sent him the resource we received from Supervisor Jacob's office that says what individuals can do if the creek crosses their property that was developed with the help of the water regulatory agencies.

Speaker: John Degenfelder, Ramona Resident

Mr. Degenfelder volunteers with the Sheriff's Mounted Patrol. If there were a trail along the top of the creek, the Mounted Patrol could patrol the creek.

Speaker: Arvie Degenfelder, Ramona Resident

Ms. Degenfelder supported Mr. Degenfelder's request for a trail along the top of the creek to be used by the Sheriff's Mounted Patrol to enhance community safety along the creek.

The Chair suggested passing this information along to the citizens group.

7-B: LED Billboard Update

Ms. Mansolf said that the Board of Supervisors has given no direction to amend the Zoning Ordinance to include digital LED billboards. The report from the County, which the RCPG gave input on, went to the Board of Supervisors last spring. Should they decide to amend the Zoning Ordinance in the future to add digital LED billboards, the project would take 18 to 24 months to complete, and community input would be solicited.

7-C: Update on Coordinated Plan – Transit in Ramona – Meeting in Ramona 10-17-13 Comments Due on Outreach Questionnaire regarding Transit Needs 2014-2018 by 3-15-14. Questionnaire is available at: http://www.sandag.org/uploads/projectid/projectid_318_16676.pdf

Ms. Mansolf attended the public outreach meeting with SANDAG on October 17, 2013. SANDAG is holding meetings County wide to present changes in transit and is encouraging input on how to improve transportation options for seniors, low income and disabled San Diego County residents as they go into updating the Coordinated Plan. In Ramona, there are people who depend on the limited transit we have to go to work. Ramona is far from other communities in San Diego County, and our only regular transit goes daily to and from Escondido twice in the morning and afternoon. While there are other transit options available – these must be scheduled and some are limited to certain demographics. A questionnaire is available until March 15, 2014, and SANDAG wants input on people's transit needs to update the Coordinated Plan. Ms. Mansolf encouraged RCPG members and people in attendance at the meeting to share the questionnaire with people they know who depend on public transit.

7-D: Report on Public Scoping Meeting 10-17-13, Wood Pole to Steel Pole Project TL 637. Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration out for Public Review until 11-7-13

Mr. Ensign said he attended the SDG&E Public Scoping Meeting on October 17, 2013, as did Mr. Cooper and one Ramona resident. The project is 14 miles long and 156 poles will be replaced. They will range in height from 43 feet to 110 feet tall. In the area where the wires came down and started the Witch Creek fire, the poles will be replaced. No poles will be added – they are only replacing existing poles. The project leaves the Creelman area and follows the existing project footprint. The project will take 1 year and SDG&E is hoping to condense it to 9 months.

7-E: Subcommittee Reports (Possible Action)

7-E-1: Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Meeting Business – Update on Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) Priority List Submitted August 2013

Mr. Cooper gave the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee report. The subcommittee recommends PLDO items #1 – the amphitheater fencing, sod and seed project, #4 – the girls softball LED scoreboard, and #5 – the Girls and Boys Club tennis court conversion be funded. These projects are all shovel ready. The skate park is still many months away from being ready for funding. The subcommittee recommends funds be released now for projects #1, #4 and #5.

Speaker: Becky Ocampo, Ramona Resident

Ms. Ocampo is a board member for the Ramona Soccer League. She asked that the list be kept as it is. She feels the money should be spread out. She is the director of the competitive program. There is a need for more field space. There will be 3 more competitive teams next year and more field space is needed. The competitive side does fundraising to pay for the kids who would not be able to play without it.

Speaker: Kathy McKown, Ramona Resident

Ms. McKown spoke in defense of the shovel ready projects. The soccer project is #2 on the PLDO list. They don't have enough money to finish the project.

Speaker: David Williams, Ramona Resident

Mr. Williams is the vice president of the Soccer League. He feels priority should be given to organizations who are willing to help with work of the project. He is willing to help with the work on the soccer project.

Speaker: Ken McKown, Ramona Resident

Mr. McKown supports funding all of the PLDO projects.

Speaker: Dean Welch and Cori McDonald, RHS Baseball and Softball Coaches

Mr. Welch coaches at Ramona High School. The dugouts are unsafe. The average dugout is 50 feet to home – our dugout is 35 feet to home. He is asking for \$100,000 for the RHS Baseball/Softball Fencing and Dugout project (#6). He is working with the School District on the project. He asked that projects that were approved for the PLDO list in August move forward. He is concerned the skate park will get all of the money. A lot of people have worked hard on the RHS project and he wants to see funding proceed.

Speaker: Arvie Degenfelder, Ramona Resident

Ms. Degenfelder said the Ramona Library occupies 2 acres of the 7 acre County site. Five acres are left for the RICC. There is now an MOU in process involving the corner piece of the Caltrans property on 12th that is next to the site. Ms. Degenfelder said this will become the Ramona Adult Center. The skate park is also in the plan. The design of the RICC goes to the Santa Maria Creek.

Speaker: Nancy Roy, Ramona Resident

Ms. Roy is part of a group in the community with a dream for a free community skate park. Now people drive their kids down the hill and spend money in other communities. Borrego Springs, with a population of 3,000 people, has a skate park. A skate park was proposed years ago and is long overdue. She would like to ask that current PLDO funds be held for the skate park, and realizes others groups are waiting for funding, too – but the skate park is so long overdue and we may not have a chance to fund it again for a very long time.

Kim Lasley filled out a speaker slip in support of the skate park but did not speak.

Mr. Cooper said projects #1, #4 and #5 are ready to be funded. He feels there is still work needed on the skate park before it can be fully funded. The 3 projects ready to be funded will add value to the community. Mr. Cooper said he also feels #6 (RHS Baseball) is not ready to go forward and will continue working with the subcommittee.

The Chair said he would like to see some buy in for the skate park project. He sits on the SDCE Board. Funds were approved for SDCE to come up with plans for a skate park. Due to the recent changes in groundwater regulations, the site selected can't be used. The people who designed the plans are willing to donate the plans to the skate park committee and expand it for the community skate park. This could be a huge buy in for the skate park. One of the top guys in the County designed it. Maybe they can save the \$90,000 of PLDO funds designated for project design and use the SDCE design. He would like to see money go to as many projects as possible. There needs to be buy in. All 3 projects -- #1, #4 and #5 have buy in.

MOTION: TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNTY PROCEED WITH FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION ON PROJECT 1 - AMPHITHEATER FENCING, SOD AND SEED - \$27,500.00; PROJECT 4 - GIRLS SOFTBALL LED SCOREBOARD - \$40,000.00; AND PROJECT 5 – GIRLS AND BOYS CLUB TENNIS COURT CONVERSION TO BASKETBALL COURT - \$70,620.00.

(Discussion on the motion)

Mr. Hickman asked about including #6 – RHS Baseball – in the motion?

Mr. Cooper said he would not consider doing this without County input. He is in touch with the County and the latest information will be shared at the next Parks and Recreation Subcommittee meeting.

(Voting on the motion)

Upon motion made by Jim Cooper and seconded by Scotty Ensign, the motion **passed 11-1-0-0-3**, with Kevin Wallace voting no, and Torry Brean, Barbara Jensen and Dennis Sprong absent.

7-E-2: DESIGN REVIEW REPORT (Cooper) – Update on Projects Reviewed by the Design Review Board – *Meeting was Canceled*

7-E-3: VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE REPORT (Brean, Stykel)

Mr. Stykel said there was no meeting, but a meeting will be held in the near future.

7-F. Discussion Items (Possible Action) – *None*

7-F-1: Concerns from Members – *None*

7-F-2: Future Agenda Item Requests

Mr. Cooper and Ms. Mansolf wanted to put on the next agenda taking the Design Review Board off the RCPG Subcommittee list of the RCPG Standing Rules.

7-F-3: Addition of New Subcommittee Members

Mr. Hickman said there are 2 vacancies on the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee, and he has 3 people interested in being added – Kevin Wallace, Jim Cooper and Bob Hailey. He would like to have the 3 attend the next subcommittee meeting on December 2 to present themselves and their interests in serving on the subcommittee.

7-G: Meeting Updates

**7-G-1: Revitalization Meeting to be at Ramona Community Library on
11-20-13, 2:30 to 4:30**

**7-G-2: Future Group Meeting Dates – Next RCPG Meeting to be 12-5-13 at the
Ramona Community Library**

The Chair said the first Thursday in January is January 2, 2014, the day after New Years. He was thinking of moving the meeting back a week to January 9, 2014. We don't know yet if the library will be available on that date, but we are checking. Should the library not be available, we will be able to meet at the Ramona Community Center.

ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Mansolf