

County of San Diego Sweetwater Community Planning Group

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY**

January 7, 2014 7:00PM

Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Station 4900 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902

Administrative Items

Co-Chair Sheri Todus brought the meeting to order at 7:00

Item #1: Roll: Sheri Todus, Steve and Liz Stonehouse, Rick Blacklock, Diane Carter, Don Scovel Judy Tieber, Mark Kukuchek, and Uwe Werner, John and Harriet Taylor, Irene Blacklock, Michael Garrod.

Excused: Doc Stokos.

One Vacant seat.

Item #2: Approval of minutes: October Move to approve Don S. Second Rick B. Approved with twelve members voting.

Item #3: Members of the public to speak no longer than three minutes on items not on the agenda:

A citizen spoke about perceived hazards on the trail around the Bonita Golf Course. He was advised that it is still a horse trail and therefore kept in a natural condition.

Action Items

Item #4: Michael De La Rosa from Supervisor Cox's office gave this community update: a. There is now a controversy between Sweetwater Authority and the County as to who is going to sign the Low-Effect Habitat Conservation permit to allow the South Side riding trail to reopen due to the fairy shrimp issue. Sweetwater wants the County to sign, but the County, which has no authority over the land, cannot legally sign. The situation is continuing. Mark asked whether a letter from Planning Group in support of the trail would help.

Michael continued: John Reiss has resigned from Planning Commission so there is a vacancy. He is to hold the seat until January, but Supervisor Cox wants to be sure that all those who want the spot have time to apply.

Uwe mentioned that a neighbor had put new buildings on his property that were illegal in the use of drainage and sewage. After discussion, it was deemed a matter for Environmental Health. Michael closed with the warning, "Please respect the Closed Trail signage".

Item #5: Patrick McDonough of County Parks to discuss Park Land Dedication Ordinance PLDO list. The new trail from the Western Staging Area to Willow Street Bridge-has funding-when does project begin? Action Item: Patrick handed out a sheet discussing a proposal to allow the Board of Supervisors to allow people or groups to name bridges, trails, parks or parts of parks for a fee. The name would remain for five years and cost no more than fifteen thousand dollars. This would help the parks to run more smoothly as they would have more money.

DLPO list: the mountain bike challenge course is doable but not at the site suggested. The County would require a community partner to perform maintenance. There are also some safety and environmental concerns for that spot. Perhaps there is an area near the ball fields which would be better suited.

The Western Staging Area barbeque grills are in question. If you wanted to turn the staging area into a picnic area, there would be less room for horse trailers.

The Christmas Tree Farm: The idea is good, however it is an income generating operation. Perhaps someone could contact the lease holders about subletting a portion of the land for the garden.

Liz asked again about the signage for leashed dogs, citing that it was getting dangerous to walk a leashed dog. More signs would aid the County in evading lawsuits arising from damages caused by loose dogs to other people. Rick noted that there was a County law about leashes and dogs. Michael said he'd get someone on it. No action was taken on this by Planning Group.

Item #6: PDS2013-050 Tieber Zoning Verification, Permit horse stable 6558 Jonel Way. Action item.

Judi came as a private citizen and showed maps of the new configuration of her horse stable. The County has grandfathered her in for 25 horses on the western side of her property.

Don asked whether neighbors minded. Answer: all are horse oriented.

Uwe said that one of his neighbors had complained about excessive dust from the stables. The setbacks are at 60', the arena lights are out at eight at night.

Motion to approve: Rick seconded by Liz. Approved with 11 voting. Judi Tieber recused herself.

A citizen got up to speak in favor of the stable saying that it was the last low cost training facility in the area.

Item #7: Trail closure due to endangered species along the Gateway Trail east of Summit Park on Sweetwater Authority property. Action Item: After discussion Diane made the motion to write a letter to Sweetwater Authority to encourage them to sign off on the HTCP temporary permit for the Gateway Legacy Trail established in 1978. Liz seconded. Approved with 10 voting. Michael Garrod recused himself. Rick Blacklock opposed.

Item #8: Election of officers for 2014. After discussion:

Mark Kukuchek was elected as co-chair to replace Sheri Todus

Vote: 11 aye- Mark recused himself.

Harriet Taylor was reelected co-chair Vote: 11 aye -Harriet recused herself.

Liz Stonehouse was reelected Secretary Vote: 11 aye- Liz recused herself.

Item #9: Notice of vacancy on the SCPG seat 13 and request for potential candidates to present. Discussion: It turns out the vacant seat is for seat number 4, which was Alan Sachrison's. The County requires posting of vacancy for 10 days. No action at this time.

Item #10: Bonita Hospice Annexations to S.D. County Sanitation District. Done. No action.

Updates

- a. Segment 4 trail re-alignment of trail in front of Sweetwater Dam: There is a funding proposal going before the Board of supervisors on Jan 8. It was approved by the board.

- b. Acacia Pathway: Michael Long was contacted. The idea when through, but there is no funding. There is discussion about a CBG Block Grant.
- c. Willow Street Bridge Project: It is now due to start in September for phase 1. Phase 2 is due to start March of 2015.
- d. There were workshops which were for new members and prospective members. Two members went to it. Everyone else will have access to computer training same as last year.
- e. Review ethics and planning group members training. See above.

Michael mentioned that there was a negative mitigation declaration out for wetland habitat restoration at the extreme East side of the Reservoir due to invasive species taking habitat from Bell's Least Vireo, a bird. Perhaps this can be an action item next month.

Move to adjourn: Rick second Don unanimous 8:45PM Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Stonehouse, secretary

Next meeting February 4, 2014 Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Station.

