

County of San Diego
BORREGO SPRINGS COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday January 7, 2016 at 4:30 P.M.
Borrego Springs High School Community Room
2281 Diegueno Road, Borrego Springs, California

Administrative Items

- A. Chair R. Caldwell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
- B. Roll Call of Members. Members present: Tom Beltran, Rich Caldwell, Rebecca Falk, David Farley, and Bonnie Petrach. Member absent: Judy Haldeman
- C. Approval of the Agenda. Petrach moved to approve the agenda; Farley seconded. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk, Farley, and Petrach voted “aye”.
- D. Members’ review of maps and other printed materials for meeting: Not applicable.
- E. Consideration and approval of Minutes from the meeting of December 3, 2015: Caldwell moved to approve; Falk seconded. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk, and Farley voted “aye” with minor changes. Petrach abstained.
- F. Public Comment: an opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Sponsor Group on any subject matter within the group’s jurisdiction that is not already on today’s agenda, with a time limit of three minutes (3:00) per speaker.
 - a. Jerry Rolwing, General Manager of the Borrego Water District spoke. He asked that the Borrego Water District presentation on Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) formation and development be placed on the next agenda. He asked how the agenda is distributed and was told the agenda goes on the County website. He asked if he could provide the agenda to their mailing list and was told yes.
 - b. Grace Ricard is the Vice-Chair for Dark Skies Association. She spoke about the new lights that were installed on Palm Canyon Dr by the County. White LED lights had been installed over the summer instead of the LPS lights that had previously been installed. The Nightfall participants complained about the bright lights. They will request the County re-lamp by lowering the wattage or placing a screen over the light. They will be working with the County to correct the problem and may need a resolution of support in the future. Falk asked if the new lighted signs at The Mall are within their limits and she was told no, if they have white backgrounds they are too bright. They will be talking to the owner about installing signs with yellow lights.
 - c.

Action Items

- A. Annual organizational meeting with election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and adoption of schedule of regular meetings of the Sponsor Group through January 5, 2017. Beltran requested that meeting dates for July and August be added to the schedule in case there are items to discuss. Caldwell said that most people in town leave for the summer. Farley said that having them on the schedule makes it possible to discuss if there is something. Falk asked why Beltran wanted to add the meetings. Beltran said things get paused and may lose momentum if meetings aren’t calendared. He knows people go out of town but he is still willing to meet. Caldwell said that July 7 and August 4 can be added. Falk said that she prefers to have the summer off because Haldeman leaves during the summer and she may also leave. Farley said he prefers to have them in the summer because the town core is still here. Beltran said they can always be cancelled if there is no business for the group. Beltran moved to approve the schedule with July and August added, Farley seconded. Beltran, Farley and Petrach voted “aye”. Caldwell and Falk voted “no”. Motion passed. Farley

nominated Beltran for Chair and Caldwell seconded. Beltran agreed to serve. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk, Farley and Petrach voted “aye”. Farley nominated Falk for Vice-Chair and Beltran seconded. Falk agreed to serve. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk, Farley and Petrach voted “aye”. Petrach nominated Farley for Secretary and Caldwell seconded. Farley agreed to serve. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk, Farley and Petrach voted “aye”.

- B. Possible comment on “NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION Borrego Springs Library and Park Project”. No action.

Non-Action Items

- A. Correspondence & Chair’s report. Caldwell opened the notice for Webb’s vacant position with a 2/1/16 deadline. He has not checked on the Library/Park project and he has not been notified they are ready for it to be put on the agenda. Regarding the Health Foundation – it has not been cancelled. It is on hold, not dead, but not ready for the Group’s agenda. The proposal for a Verizon tower in Ocotillo Wells has probably been abandoned.
- B. Discussion of Sponsor Group’s scope and role per County of San Diego Policy I-1 “Planning and Sponsor Group Policies and Procedures”. Each member should read this document.
- C. Continuing read-through of Borrego Springs Community Plan, along with discussion and questions. Public participation in reviewing and understanding this document is encouraged and welcomed! Falk said the December 2015 discussion became unruly. She had agreed to contact the County to ask some questions but she had not been able to do that so she would like to defer the discussion until she can get some of our questions answered. Webb resigned after the discussion. Farley said the document says it must be reviewed annually. Petrach asked if the County asks for any changes we want and Caldwell said the County doesn’t ask and doesn’t know if the County will let us make any changes. Falk said there are factual changes and she will speak to the County. Jerry Rolwing said that the Board of Supervisors voted to be a GSA and part of the process is they will be reviewing this document. Falk said that the public wanted to talk but there wasn’t an opportunity. There are also others who want to participate. Farley said simple changes can be done. If there are policy changes they need to be discussed individually. Caldwell said that normally there would be public discussion meetings before it comes to this Group. 1978 was the plan prior to the current one. The current plan was a lot of work. Falk said she still wants to familiarize the Group with the Plan so we know what’s in there. We need to take a small piece at a time. We should understand it before making any changes. Farley said he has a lot of things marked because some language needs to be changed. Falk said we need to take a few pages at a time because it got very haphazard at the last meeting. Caldwell said if we just spend time familiarizing ourselves with it, it will be good. Falk asked what happens if the public wants to comment on it. Caldwell said to just let the public know they can have any comments they want to make. We can publicize workshop meetings for this to be addressed. Falk said she wants to think through how to review it and structure the discussion better.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m. after Caldwell so moved, Petrach seconded. Beltran, Caldwell, Falk, Farley, and Petrach voted “aye”.

Bonnie Petrach, Secretary

The next regular meeting will be held February 4, 2016 at 4:30 P.M. at the Borrego Springs High School Community Room, 2281 Diegueno Road, Borrego Springs, CA 92004. **If this Agenda is revised, a revised copy will be posted 72 or more hours prior to the meeting. The final Agenda may include additional Administrative or Non-Action items.** For further information contact the Chair at tbeltran@cox.net. Address all

U.S. Mail to: Tom Beltran, Chair, Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group, P.O. Box 1371, Borrego Springs, CA 92004-1371.

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