

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 14 October 2019, at Old Ironside Park, Harbison Canyon, El Cajon.

**A. CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL.** Planning Group members Rich, Jones, Trial, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Scholl and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 8. Members Ulm, Slagill, Becker, McAndrews, Underwood and Hertel were absent, but excused. Seat 12 is vacant.

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Mary Manning moved the Planning Group approves the minutes of the meeting on 12 August 2019, as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

**E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION.** No one from the public requested to speak.

Planning Group member Tim Lucas described a documentary film, "Everything in Our Power," produced by and about San Diego Gas and Electric, describing the company's current investments and efforts to improve the physical infrastructure and maintenance of its transmission/distribution grid to minimize wildfire related problems; Tim recommended watching this informative film, which can be seen next at 6:30 PM on Saturday, 19 October, on public television.

Group member Bill Bretz described hearing an SDG&E scientist's presentation of the company's research, experimentation and implementation of methods to reduce wildfire potential in its power line corridors through natural, fire-prone vegetation, while minimizing impacts to sensitive habitats and natural resources.

Group member Allen Trial mentioned that anyone interested can connect to the website "SDGEweather.com" and observe what the company's network of cameras is currently showing.

**F. ACTION ITEMS.**

**F1. Discussion and possible action on a four way stop at Noakes and Harbison Canyon Road.** Planning Group member Mary Manning provided background information concerning the proposal to establish a four way stop at the intersection of Noakes and Harbison Canyon Road. She described a 14 September bad accident at this intersection; and that she sent a letter to Supervisor Jacob regarding this accident, the issues of visibility along the County road, and the possibility of establishing a four way stop on Harbison Canyon Road; that she spoke with Supervisor Jacob, and met with her assistant Robert Stanberg on 27 September, and provided them details about the long history of many accidents, the high rate of downhill speed by many vehicles approaching the intersection, the issues of visibility and sight distance problems, and the risks to pedestrians crossing the road due to the nearby grocery store, park and bus stop. Mary learned her concerns and information about the Noakes/Harbison Canyon Road intersection were forwarded to Department of Public Works, that a study concerning the

possibility of a four way stop at the intersection is currently under direction of DPW's Brian Albright, that DPW must determine if the intersection meets the required State standards for establishing a four way stop there, and that if these standards are not met the DPW cannot establish a four way stop there.

Chairman Riggs moderated a discussion by the public and Group members that included 1) long term residents relating historic, unsuccessful efforts to establish a lower speed limit along Harbison Canyon Road; 2) descriptions of past accidents; 3) support for a stop sign to increase safety and slow traffic speeds; 3) support for a traffic light as a better control than a stop sign; 4) support for establishing a four way stop at an alternative intersection (Collier/Harbison Canyon Road); and 5) multiple comments concerning the need for trimming of trees and shrubs for better visibility and sight distances along Harbison Canyon Road near the Noakes intersection.

No Planning Group action was taken on this agenda item. Chairman Riggs announced he would forward the October meeting minutes about this matter to DPW in an email about the community's interest in establishing a four way stop sign at the intersection of Noakes/Harbison Canyon Road.

## **G. GROUP BUSINESS.**

**G1. PLDO Priority List (Manning).** Chairman Riggs asked Group member Mary Manning to provide an update on the status of the Park Lands Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) Priority List. Mary reported that the proposed 2019-2020 list of prioritized projects for Nancy Jane Park and Olde Ironsides Park is the same as the list provided to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) last year, and she provided handouts of the list to the Group to review. The list includes four projects proposed for Nancy Jane Park: 1) permanent raised stage, 2) safety fencing on edge of playground/horseshoe pit area, 3) expansion of existing gazebo, 4) electric service to gazebo; and five projects for Olde Ironsides Park: 1) patio lighting, 2) painting building exterior, 3) equestrian rest stop and hitching post, 4) bike ramp, 5) volleyball court.

She also reported that she had spoken with a DPR staff person who is receptive to considering the concept that if the County can serve as the Maintenance Entity for new parks being established, that perhaps the County can also serve as the Maintenance Entity for existing parks such as South Lane Park. Mary suggested that the Planning Group should send a letter to appropriate County officials, staff and departments in which the Group inquires about having the County accept responsibility as the Maintenance Entity for South Lane Park, so that the deferred priority projects needed for South Lane Park could be moved to the top of the PLDO Priority List for 2020-2021.

Mary Manning moved that the Planning Group 1) approves the 2019-2020 PLDO Priority List as described in the handout, and edited by Group discussion to remove Project 2 and Project 4 from the Olde Ironside Park list; and 2) forwards the approved edited list to DPR. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Mary Manning moved in a separate motion that the Planning Group sends a letter to Supervisor Jacob, requesting that the County becomes the Maintenance Entity for South Lane Park, as it has for other County parks. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

**G2. Briefing/Update on status of East County Advanced Water Purification Program.** Chairman Riggs introduced Mark Niemiec and Melissa McChesney, representatives of Padre Dam Municipal Water District, and invited them to speak about the status of the East County Advanced Water Purification Program. They explained that San Diego area's treated wastewater that currently is disposed into the ocean will, instead, be further processed into recycled water that 1) has been passed through reverse osmosis filtration, 2) has been given oxidation treatment, 3) has been piped to and blended/diluted with Lake Jennings water. From Lake Jennings, its water with blended treated wastewater will be processed through the Helix Water Treatment Facility and then piped out for potable use. This program is anticipated to ultimately provide about 30% of the Padre Dam MWD potable water supply when completed. Construction is projected to begin in 2022 and be completed in 2025. A Joint Power Authority has been established between Padre Dam MWD, County of San Diego and the City of El Cajon for implementation and administration of the program.

Planning Group members questioned and/or expressed concerns about 1) treatment effectiveness for removing pharmaceutical chemicals, 2) cost of the program, 3) cost effectiveness of a program dependent on very expensive technologies/infrastructure, and 4) the possibility for terrorist disruption due to "toilet to tap" linkage between wastewater and potable water.

Mr. Niemiec and Ms. McChesney responded that 1) current Reverse Osmosis is very effective for removing pharmaceutical chemicals, and combined with other improved processing technology the program's treated wastewater will be just as good, if not better, than the treated imported Colorado River water used now, 2) the total cost is estimated to be \$550 Million, which will be a combination of grants and loans from the State and Federal governments, and 3) the program is not just "toilet to tap" for wastewater; it's "toilet to 1<sup>st</sup> treatment to 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment to Lake Jennings to 3<sup>rd</sup> treatment to tap".

**G3. Announcements and Correspondence.** Chairman Riggs announced that due to the Veterans Day holiday on the second Monday, the next meeting of the Planning Group will be on the third Monday, 18 November, Olde Ironside Park, Harbison Canyon. He announced that the agenda will include an item about the proposed gas pumps at the Crest store, and asked all Planning Group members to be present, and to come early expecting a large public attendance.

**H. ADJOURNMENT.** Mary Manning moved adjournment at 8:20 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)