

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 9 August 2021, at Dehesa School, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Rich, Nehring, Jones, Wessel, Becker, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Scholl, Page and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 12. Member Ulm was absent, but excused. Member Underwood was absent, but not excused. Seat 13 is vacant.

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

D. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS. Chairman Riggs introduced one returning previous member, and three new members, who were appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fill vacant seats on the Planning Group: Ron Nehring, Crest Seat 3; David Jones, Crest Seat 4; Darin Wessel, Dehesa Seat 5; Robert Lutz-Partain, Harbison Canyon, Seat 10; and Dan Page, Harbison Canyon, Seat 12.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, December 14, 2020. Group member Christina Becker moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes for the virtual meeting of 14 December 2020, as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (11 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Nehring).

F. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Kandy Franklin, resident of Crest, spoke about the County's recently announced Healthy Forest Initiative, explaining that this program was providing 100 specimens of several different fruit and shade trees (in 5 gallon to 15 gallon containers) to be distributed on 24 September in Crest to local residents interested in planting and caring for these trees; and that she will send an email with a link to the webpage(s) with information about this program and event to the Planning Group and others.

Deanne Tylor, resident of Harbison Canyon, requested that the Planning Group consider supporting certain specific road improvements in her neighborhood. (Chairman Riggs assured her that agenda Action Item G2 of tonight's meeting would address her concerns.)

Christina Becker, Planning Group member and resident of Dehesa, described her concerns for the safety of bicyclists along Dehesa Road, considering the amount of broken glass she observed in the designated bike lanes, and how she utilized the County's "Get It Done" application on the internet to request a road-sweeping cleanup to address this safety issue; and how the County responded within a few days with road sweeping that did remove the broken glass, demonstrating that system works in some instances, and that the "Get It Done" application is convenient and can be effective.

Darin Wessel, Planning Group member and resident of Dehesa, spoke about receiving in the mail a flyer announcing a virtual public meeting concerning proposed changes for South Lane Park in Crest, which arrived two days after the announced date of the meeting; and that in this instance the system did not work effectively. (Chairman Riggs

mentioned that the South Land Park matter would be on the agenda for the Group's September meeting.)

G. ACTION ITEMS.

G1. Update on progress of Sycuan/Sloane Canyon public trail in Dehesa. Chairman Riggs introduced County staff persons Emmet Kino and Marcus Lucas who were invited to give a presentation about the status of the Department of Parks and Recreation project for establishing the Sycuan-Sloane Canyon Trail; and Chairman Riggs reminded everyone that tonight's progress report is intended for information only, with no Group voting anticipated.

The County presenters displayed and referred to a poster and map depicting the several segments of the Sycuan/Sloane Canyon public trail project, as they discussed the status of these segments and the future work needed for each, and as they responded to questions from Planning Group members and the public. They explained that the County's 2021 General Plan budget provided \$3.5 Million, of which \$1.5 Million was allocated for design, environmental compliance planning, and final design for Phase 1 construction; and \$2 Million was allocated for construction of Phase 1 projects; and also that \$750 Thousand is requested for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 for design of Phase 2 projects.

They described the revised design of Segment 1 on Tribal land between Dehesa Road and Willow Lake, serving the purposes of providing greater separation of the public trail from the maintenance road utilized by Sycuan, and of reducing stormwater runoff impacts from the 10 separate drainages which Segment 1 crosses over, as well as runoff impacts to Tribal land from Dehesa Road and the public trail. The final design for this Segment 1 revision must be completed, and well as the final designs for all other trail segments that are on Tribal land, before the necessary application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs can be submitted. Supplemental environmental review documents for the revised Segment 1 drainage structures, and possibly for other revisions of the trail project on Tribal land, must also be completed before submittal of an application for BIA approval.

The design status of the other segments of the project were described and discussed with the Group. It was emphasized that continued outreach to the Endangered Habitats Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy will occur during the coming months to address design for segments on the lands of those entities. The design for the segment utilizing the existing bridge crossing the Sweetwater River for Sloane Canyon Road will not be shared until it has been finalized. A website is being prepared that will summarize all of the available information (maps, design details, etc. for each segment) for the entire project, and will be sent to Chairman Riggs in a few weeks for sharing with the Group. The presentation map and poster were left by the County staff for the Planning Group to study before returning them at a later time.

G2. Discussion and possible recommendation of change in road improvement priority list. Chairman Riggs explained the request from the County (which he had forwarded with its attachments in his 22 July 2021 email to Planning Group members) for an updated prioritized list of County road projects to be considered for the Department of

Public Works Capital Improvement Projects; that the County wants this list of projects immediately; and that the list should include all possible projects throughout the Subregion's county-maintained roads.

Planning Group discussion included the possibility of including projects to pave dirt roads such as Editha Drive in Harbison Canyon; and the lack of current information about road system problems in the Subregion for the Group to consider while prioritizing a list of possible and needed projects.

Chairman Riggs expressed approval of the idea of tabling and continuing this item to the September meeting, to allow time for members of the Group to review previous priority lists for the Subregion, and to gather and consider inputs and requests from community residents. Group member Mary Manning volunteered to prepare some history and documentation of previous priority lists, and to email this information to other Planning Group members. Chairman Riggs declared that by consensus of the Group, preparing and taking action to create an updated road improvement priority list will be continued as an agenda action item at the September meeting.

G3. Review of Community Plan section 2.3, Policy CM3.1.1. Chairman Riggs introduced and invited Group member Ron Nehring to describe and discuss with the Group his review of the status of Suncrest Trail serving as a functional emergency evacuation route for the Crest community.

Group member Nehring described his review of related planning documents, and his attendance at a meeting of interested stakeholder in the field at Suncrest Trail, to assess its suitability and readiness to serve as an emergency evacuation route. Access to the road is limited by the existence of four separate locked gates, which certain landowners want to maintain to exclude unauthorized, undesirable use of the road. The local fire agencies do not have keys to these locks, nor is there a coordinated plan for making the road accessible during emergencies. There are other issues concerning maintenance of the road and its culverts; concerning legal easements on certain properties; and concerning signage and community education about access to the evacuation route during an emergency. Nehring advocated for the Group to initiate an update of the Crest Community Plan in order to resolve the existing problems, and to establish Suncrest Trail as a functional emergency evacuation route for the Crest community in the event of a wildfire.

Chairman Riggs decided this agenda item will be tabled and continued to the September meeting of the Planning Group, to provide time for members of the Group to continue review and consideration for taking action to update the Community Plan for section 2.3, Policy CM3.1.1, and well as other possible sections and policies of the other Community Plans in the Subregion.

G4. Discussion of support of Jacumba Sponsor Group in reference to installation of Solar Panels. Chairman Riggs introduced Cherry Diefenbach, Chairperson of the Jacumba Sponsor Group, and invited her to explain and discuss with the Group the proposed 600-acre solar panel project, and the Jacumba Sponsor Group's request for the Crest-Dehesa-Harbison Canyon-Granite Hills Planning Group's support in opposing approval of this project at the 18 August meeting of the County Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Diefenbach made a brief presentation to the Group, referring to a poster with photos and maps of the Jacumba community area, and also depicting location and appearance of the proposed 600-acres solar panel array the community opposes. She also described a balanced project alternative called the Equity for Jacumba alternative, which would allow for a 300-acres solar panel array to be developed, while allowing the community of Jacumba reasonable opportunities for future growth and survival of the community.

Group member Christine Becker moved that the Planning Group sends the Board of Supervisors a letter finding that a smaller project in order to save the community of Jacumba is appropriate, and the Planning Group requests consideration of the Equity for Jacumba alternative project. The motion passed (10 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain: Nehring, Jones).

H. GROUP BUSINESS.

H1. Report on Parks, etc. Group member Mary Manning provided a handout distributed to all the Group members that summarized the South Land County Park Improvements project. This project is on the agenda of the Planning Group's September meeting, and County staff will give a presentation at that time. Chairman Riggs decided that discussion of this project, and of other park projects, will be continued to the September meeting.

H2. Reminder by Chair of Training and Ethics requirements. Chairman Riggs announced that the next in-person annual training for Planning Group members is scheduled for February, 2022, so that any member needing the training will have to do the on-line version; and that his 30 June 2021 email to Planning Group members included an attachment that summarizes each member's status as of 06/29/2021 regarding training and ethics requirements (Crest-Dehesa CPG.xlsx).

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE. Next meeting date, September 13, 2021, Olde Ironside Park, Harbison Canyon.

J. ADJOURNMENT. Group member Ron Nehring moved adjournment of the meeting at 9:10 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)