

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 11 October 2021, at Olde 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 Ulm, Nehring, Jones, Wessel, Becker, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Scholl, Page and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 12. Member Rich, was absent, not excused. Seat 13 and Seat 14 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Planning Group member Mary Manning moved that the Group approves the minutes of the meeting of 13 September 2021, as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Tim Johnson, Harbison Canyon resident, explained that he has donated the American flag at the meeting tonight, after observing at the 13 September meeting of the Planning Group that the renovated community meeting place lacked an appropriate flag for providing reference for the meeting's Pledge of Allegiance; he also commented that at that meeting it seemed to him, and also to other members of the public attending the meeting because of the agenda item concerning potential road improvements, that the Planning Group needed to give the public speakers more time, and to listen seriously to their concerns.

Pat Ulm, Planning Group member from Crest, welcomed the CalFire representatives attending tonight's meeting, and urged everyone to learn about the website that CalFire maintains to provide up to date information about wildfire preparedness, current wildfire conditions, community plans and resources, etc.

David Jones, Planning Group member from Crest, asked the Fire Chief from Crest to speak about the work the community needed to contribute to efforts to obtain grants for helping with wildfire preparedness and protection. (Chairman Riggs intervened to halt the start of a discussion, explaining this topic is appropriate as part of tonight's Agenda Item F1, but not as a discussion during Public Communication.)

Tim Lucas, Planning Group member from Granite Hills, expressed his happiness about the recent improvements to the Olde Ironside Park community building, but expressed concerns about the safety hazard created by the non-functioning walkway light system between the building and the lower parking area by Harbison Canyon Road. He also called attention to the County's stakeholder outreach concerning proposed changes to the process used for handling inactive permits (changes which would establish a possible 7-year period of delays and postponements of inactive permits); and he urged everyone to prepare for providing comments during the upcoming community inputs stage for this project, so that this project is not decided without the receiving the attitudes and perspectives of our community.

Darin Wessel, Planning Group member from Dehesa, thanked Tim Johnson for his donation of the American flag, and for his comments about the public's reaction to the 13 September meeting of the Planning Group; and he commented that as a Planning Group

member he appreciated the public input at that meeting, and observed that the Planning Group members have frustrations about the community planning process also.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Report by Ad Hoc committee regarding evacuation in the case of wildfire (Nehring). Chairman Riggs reported that he had provided Group member Ron Nehring, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Wildfire Preparedness, information from the Planning Group meeting minutes record, of its previous actions that pertain to the issues of wildfire preparedness; and he asked Nehring to provide a report for the committee regarding evacuation in the case of wildfire.

Committee Chairman Nehring reported that Group member Jones has been coordinating Ad Hoc committee involvement with interested Planning Group members; that a meeting of the Committee is proposed for Monday, 25 October, to consider current issues and status for routes such as Suncrest Truck Trail for wildfire emergency egress by evacuating residents, and also for access by firefighting crews and equipment (including such matters as informative signage, open access, legal easements, liability responsibilities, and communication with the community); and that tonight's meeting has two guest representatives from CalFire, Fire Chief Meacham, and Carrie Thompson, who are attending to discuss wildfire preparedness, and the needs to have an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the communities of the Subregion. Nehring invited Chief Meacham to describe the CalFire policies and programs it coordinates for providing and promoting wildfire preparedness.

Chief Meacham described the transition from 2015, when there were 43 separate Fire Safe Councils in San Diego County, to the current effort of CalFire to develop, under the management of a single Resilience Officer, one comprehensive plan covering the County that includes CWPPs for all appropriate communities, each of which would include four elements: 1) Community Education, 2) Defensible Space, 3) Community Protection, and 4) Evacuation Planning. He said that property located within CWPP area that is part of the CalFire Unit Fire Plan is eligible for grant funding for some wildfire preparedness projects; that CalFire has budgeted \$2.7 Million to prepare, conduct environmental review for, and gather stakeholder input for an Evacuation Plan map covering the entire County based on a single set of roads appropriately designated for community emergency evacuation, and for fire response equipment access and egress.

Planning Group members expressed concerns about the Community Plan referring to Suncrest Truck Trail and Bullard Lane as fire emergency evacuation routes, that these routes may not be feasible for wildfire emergencies, and that the communities of the Subregion need CWPPs with clearly designated, feasible wildfire preparedness road routes for emergency use. Other preparedness issues discussed included defensible space brush management on protected lands and adjacent property, and voluntary easements.

Meacham explained that CalFire considers the designation of "primary routes" for fire emergencies to be used only for paved, permanent and open roads; and that CalFire wants to consider Suncrest Truck Trail as a "contingency route" for fire emergencies, due to its being unpaved, minimally maintained and not open for public use; that CalFire's first priority is preparedness planning for communities with only one-way in and out access, and working with County Planning and Development Services to assure that all new

development is planned with adequate fire emergency access; he said that CalFire could enter private roads and private lands during an active emergency, without owner permission and opening locked gates if it was deemed necessary; he emphasized that the Community Education element of CalFire's programs for wildfire protection preparedness is critical for addressing the concerns about community confusion over fire emergency road routes and evacuation plans; and he mentioned that protected land conservancies are supposed to have prepared fire emergency management plans, and urged the Group to invite conservancy managers to talk to Group about management of defensible space for wildfire preparedness on their protected lands.

The Planning Group took no action on this agenda item.

F2. Discussion of traffic issues on Habison Canyon Road, in Harbison Canyon.

Chairman Riggs began discussion of traffic issues on Harbison Canyon Road with a brief review of his research of past meeting minutes as far back as 2015, for relevant Group considerations and actions, concluding that a four-way stop at Harbison Canyon Road and Noakes is not possible by law, due to the off-set of the intersection of the two streets.

Group discussion included alternatives to stop signs, policies to slow down traffic, seeking school district support for a school bus stop crosswalk, and other traffic calming strategies.

Chairman Riggs announced that this agenda item will be continued, and included on the agenda of the November meeting.

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Declaring Seat 14 in Granite Hills vacant. Chairman Riggs reported that Bryan Underwood sent a letter of resignation from Seat 14, Granite Hills, to the County; that the Planning Group needs to declare that Seat 14 is vacant; and he asked for a vote of all those members in favor of declaring Seat 14 vacant. The Group's vote was to declare Seat 14, Granite Hills, vacant (12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Chairman Riggs reminded the Group that if it does not nominate a candidate for approval by the Board of Supervisors within 90 days, then Supervisor Anderson will nominate a candidate for Board of Supervisors approval in place of one nominated by the community's Planning Group. He stated that Seat 13 and Seat 14, both Granite Hills, are now vacant, and that he will provide application material to anyone who wants to be considered for nomination by the Planning Group to be the candidate to fill one of the vacant seats.

G2. Discussion on changing time of Planning Group meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Chairman Riggs asked the Group to discuss and consider the possibility of changing the time of starting the Group's regular monthly meeting from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Members' discussion included possible impacts to personal schedules and activities, and possible impacts to the public or other non-member persons attending the meeting for agenda item matters.

Planning Group member Christina Becker moved the Planning Group approves changing the beginning time of its regular meetings from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The

motion failed, not receiving a necessary quorum of 8 yes votes for approval (7 yes; 4 no: Manning, Riggs, Page and Lucas; 1 abstain: Nehring).

Member Lucas requested a second vote, indicating he would provide the 8th vote to provide Group approval, but Chairman Riggs determined that a second vote in the present circumstances was not allowed.

G3. Update on Park issues (Mary Manning). Planning Group member Mary Manning did not have an update on Park issues for the meeting tonight.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRSPONDENCE.

The next meeting will be on 8 November 2021, at Olde Ironside Park, Harbison Canyon. It will begin at 7:00 PM.

I. ADJOURNMENT. Member Christina Becker moved adjournment at 8:45 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)