

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 8 August 2022, at Dehesa School, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Nehring, Wessel, Becker, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Scholl, and Page were present, forming a quorum of 9. Members Rich, Ulm and Lucas were absent, but excused. Seat 4, Seat 13 and Seat 14 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Member Mary Manning moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes of its meeting on 11 July 2022, as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Planning Group member Bill Bretz reported that he had filed for re-election to Seat 8 on the Group; member Cristina Becker (Seat 6) and member Robert Lutz-Partain (Seat 10) reported that they had also filed for re-election.

Member Mary Manning described learning about a project for sheltering 300 homeless persons at Butterfield RV Park, which currently lacks both potable water and a functioning sewer system.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Update on the closure of California Riding and Hiking Trail in Sloane Canyon / Beaver Hollow Road (Wessel). Darin Wessel reported that as of 24 July 2022 the gate on Sloane Canyon Road, for public access to the California Riding and Hiking Trail segment on Beaver Hollow Road, is still chained closed and locked; but several signs discouraging public Trail use have been removed; that Alex Stehl, Trail specialist with State Parks, was not available for providing an update on her efforts to discuss the easement issues with the property owners blocking access to the Trail; and that this issue should be kept on the agenda for the next meeting of the Planning Group.

F2. Ad Hoc Committee update regarding evacuation in case of wildfire (Nehring). Ron Nehring reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met on 2 August at the Crest Community Center; that attendees included Planning Group member Mary Manning, representatives from CalFire, San Miguel Fire District, Crest Fire Safe Council, and San Diego County Real Estate Office, and also property owners along Suncrest Truck Trail from whom voluntary easements providing legal access are being sought; and that the meeting discussions focused on practical and legal limitations regarding Suncrest Truck Trail and its potential use in case of wildfire.

The Fire agencies are pursuing voluntary easements for use of the truck trail “solely in the event of emergency.” If the appropriate easements could be secured from all the affected property owners, then the Fire agencies would want to improve the truck trail to a condition that provides a safe evacuation route in the case of wildfire, available 24/7,

even in dark and smoky conditions, in all kinds of weather and at any season of the year, for ordinary family vehicles. Without the appropriate easements the Fire agencies would not be able to develop the necessary funding for adequate improvements and maintenance of a private truck-trail. In a declared emergency, the Fire agencies would use the truck trail to the extent determined to be necessary and possible by their authority, whether easements exist or not.

Some property owners have concerns about their potential liability, and the need for indemnification, that could result from their providing voluntary easements for the emergency use of Suncrest Truck Trail in the case of wildfire.

The County Real Estate office will seek legal opinion of the County Counsel prior to the next Ad Hoc Committee meeting, regarding whether the appropriate voluntary easement would increase a property owner's liability associated with the use of the truck trail in the event of wildfire emergency, compared to the liability in that event, if not providing a voluntary easement.

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will be at 2:00 PM, 13 September 2022, at the Crest Community Building.

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Suggestion to forgo December 2022 Meeting. Chairman Riggs reminded the Group that its Standing Rules of Order specify that the Chairman appoints a Nominating Committee for electing 2023 Group officers at the November 2022 meeting, with the Group's voting for the election of 2023 officers to be conducted at the December 2022 meeting; and that since the suggestion to forgo the December 2022 meeting of the Group conflicts with its Standing Rules, the Group will hold its regular monthly meeting on 12 December 2022 in order to elect its officers for 2023.

G2. Discussion on holding a public event in Harbison Canyon in September to provide information on fire preparedness and evacuation. Chairman Riggs opened discussion about, and recognized the need and value of, the community holding a public event in Harbison Canyon in September to provide information on fire preparedness and evacuation; and he commented that official Planning Group sponsorship/leadership for this could be inappropriate and/or ill advised.

Member Mary Manning said that the Harbison Canyon Lions Club will provide the necessary sponsorship for holding this public event at Olde Ironside Park Community Building on Tuesday, 13 September 2022, 6:00PM; that representatives from the Fire agencies, insurance businesses, and others will give presentations and answer questions about the current status of the community's fire preparedness and evacuation plans; and that information will be provided, for residents and property owners, concerning evacuation, defensive space, insurance and other wildfire related issues specific to their circumstances. Member Ron Nehring volunteered to provide a projector for use in giving Power Point presentations; Mary volunteered the Lions Club for providing refreshments.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Reminder: Even numbered seat filing date 18 July thru 12 August 2022.

Mary Manning announced that on Saturday, 13 August 2022, from 8:00AM to 1:00PM, the Harbison Canyon Lions Club is holding a free Shop and Swap event at 117 East Noakes, Harbison Canyon (across the street from the Olde Ironside Park parking spaces). Items available include clothing and office equipment.

Ron Nehring announced that Padre Dam Water District is conducting cleanup and improvement of the defensible space at its site on Old Mountain View Road, removing excess vegetation and planting new trees.

The next meeting of the Planning Group is scheduled on 12 September 2022 at Olde Ironside Park, Harbison Canyon, El Cajon, and beginning at 6:30 PM.

I. ADJOURNMENT. Member Robert Lutz-Partain moved adjournment at 7:10 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)