

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 9 January 2023, at Crest Community Clubhouse, 113 N. Park Drive, El Cajon (Crest), CA 92021.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chair Darin Wessel called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Nehring, Wessel, Becker, Riggs, Bretz, Lutz-Partain, Scholl and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 8. Member Manning was absent, but excused. Member Ulm was present as a member of the public, but could not be seated as a Group member, as she has not received official re-appointment notification. Members Page and Rich were absent, not 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 Tim Lucas moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes of its meeting on 12 December 2022, as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Ms. Kandy Franklin, resident of Crest, informed the Group about today's meeting of the Crest Fire Safe Community Council, attended by several representatives of CalFire and other Fire Agencies, at which recent changes to State maps of Fire Hazard Severity Zones for the State Responsibility Areas in the rural unincorporated regions of the County were explained and discussed. She expressed her concerns that the Fire Agencies have not yet adequately obtained involvement in these discussions of all of the important community stakeholders, including County departments, developers, homeowners and the fire insurance industry. She requested that the agenda for the Group's February meeting includes an action item to: 1) consider the revised Fire Hazard Severity Zones; and 2) communicate by letter to CalFire the Group's understandings of relevant stakeholders' and community interests, with respect to issues of wildfire risks and appropriate efforts to increase community protection and safety.

Pat Ulm, resident of Crest, recommended accessing the Internet website www.ReadyForWildfire.org for maps and information concerning landowner responsibilities and insurance regulations regarding wildfire protection and preparation.

Planning Group member Bill Bretz informed the Group that the 2020 Relocation and Referral Guide of the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce identifies the communities of Crest, Granite Hills and Harbison Canyon as parts of the unincorporated community of Rancho San Diego.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Update on the closure of California Riding and Hiking Trail in Sloane Canyon / Beaver Hollow Road (Wessel). Chairman Wessel reported that the Trail access gate is still illegally locked, and that he has no update concerning efforts by public agencies to restore public access to the Trail.

Mr. Zack Peterson, member of the public and Trail user/advocate, expressed his views that this illegally closed Trail segment should be open and maintained for appropriate public use; and he stated that he is interested in helping work to achieve these ends.

This will remain an agenda item for the next meeting of the Planning Group.

F2. Ad Hoc Committee update regarding evacuation in case of wildfire

(Nehring/Lucas). Committee Chairman Ron Nehring reported that updated maps and input from San Miguel Fire District concerning wildfire evacuation are expected to be available for review at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, which is scheduled to be at 2:00 PM on 13 February 2023; that this will enable consideration of a draft updated Community Plan wildfire response and evacuation section; but that no additional property owners have yet provided their voluntary easements, which are necessary for CalFire’s adoption and use of the Suncrest Truck Trail as a potential evacuation route in case of wildfire. He emphasized that if a single affected property owner declines to provide an appropriate voluntary easement, so that the Suncrest Truck Trail is not located on a complete, continuous and contiguous easement over all the properties along its route, CalFire will not consider and support it as a recognized, official wildfire evacuation route.

F3. Discussion and action on County’s pending/proposed Regional Decarbonization Framework/Strategy.

Planning Group Chairman Darin Wessel informed the Group that he was contacted by a person who requested that the Group have a discussion, and take action to send a letter to Supervisor Anderson prior to his 30 January public meeting, to provide the Group’s recommendations concerning the County’s proposed Regional Decarbonization Framework/Strategy; and that this person’s primary concern is that the County prioritizes large-scale, industrialized solar energy farms rather than decentralized networks of roof-top, small-scale solar energy installations.

The Group’s discussion included concerns that the County’s currently circulated concepts about “decarbonization” are misdirected primarily towards energy production, rather than addressing the inter-related issues related to the existing patterns and policies of transportation, land use, jobs and employment; that the County’s agenda favors urban high density development, and discriminates against rural low density development; that the Public Utility Commission policies favor SDG&E monopolistic energy production and distribution sectors, which devalues and discourages small-scale homeowner investments in other potential energy solutions; that the proposed SANDAG mileage tax concept discriminates against rural East County individuals and communities; and that current policies of the State, County and Insurance Industry do not account for the realities of wildfire risks and preventative measures in different communities in an equitable manner.

Member Eutha Scholl moved that the Planning Group sends a letter with its recommendations about the County’s proposed Regional Decarbonization Framework to Supervisor Joel Anderson, to be received before his scheduled meeting on 30 January. After additional Group discussion of the letter’s contents and difficulties in meeting the 30 January deadline, member Scholl withdrew her motion.

The Group then reached consensus that member Ron Nehring would prepare a draft letter to Supervisor Anderson expressing the Group’s concerns and recommendations

related to the Regional Decarbonization Framework/Strategy; that Group Chairman Wessel would send this letter to Supervisor Anderson by 30 January, with copies of this letter to be sent also to the other County rural Planning and Sponsor Groups; and that the Planning Group would take action to approve and ratify this letter at its meeting on 13 February 2023.

F4. Change of sequence of Planning Group meeting locations. Planning Group Chairman Darin Wessel initiated discussion about possible changes to the long established pattern of rotating the regular monthly public Planning Group meetings between three different Subregional locations, which is: 1) January, February, March and April at the Crest Community Clubhouse; 2) May, June, July and August at the Dehesa School; and 3) September, October, November and December at Olde Iron Side Park Community Building.

Facts related to these different locations for the meetings are that: 1) Dehesa School maintains night staff during the school year, but not during the summer months when school is not in session, so that providing meeting space there during the summer can be difficult for the school personnel; 2) during the winter months, Olde Iron Side Park Community Building can be uncomfortable and potentially difficult or risky to access, due to night darkness and/or weather conditions; 3) Crest Community Clubhouse is potentially available all months, without seasonal issues concerning availability and access.

Group discussion included: 1) the possibility of holding summer meetings at Olde Ironside Community Building and winter meetings at Dehesa School; 2) the possibility of holding meetings October through March at Crest Community Clubhouse, and meetings April through September at Olde Ironside Park Community Building, with no meetings at Dehesa School; and 3) the need to contact the Dehesa School administration about its concerns and preferences related to its hosting of the Planning Group night meetings.

The Group did not take action on this item. Chairman Wessel announced he would contact Dehesa School to learn about the impacts of holding Planning Group meetings there, in order to help determine what might be the best course of action for the community regarding the location of future Planning Group meetings.

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Certificates of Election and welcome newly elected member Tammy Wilbur.

Chairman Wessel distributed a Certificate of Election to Christina Becker (Seat 6), to Bill Bretz (Seat 8), to Robert Lutz-Partain (Seat 10), and to Tammy Wilbur (Seat 14), resulting from the 8 November 2022 General Election. He welcomed and introduced Tammy Wilbur, the new Group member from the Granite Hills area.

G2. Declare Seat 12 Vacant. Chairman Wessel stated that Dan Page did not file to run for re-election to Seat 12; that no one else filed for election to this seat; and that the Planning Group needs to formally declare Seat 12 as vacant in order for the Board of Supervisors to make an appointment of someone to fill it.

Member Ron Nehring moved the Planning Group declares that Seat 12 (of the Granite Hills area) is vacant and available for filling by appointment. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

G3. Consideration of applicant Brian Wilbur to fill Granite Hills (Seat 13).

Chairman Wessel introduced Mr. Brian Wilbur, resident of the Granite Hills area, who is interested in applying for appointment by the Board of Supervisors to fill vacant Seat 13.

Member Wally Riggs reminded the Group that an interested applicant for a vacant Planning Group seat must first complete and submit certain forms to the County (which can be done online by the internet), before the Group can consider, approve and recommend an applicant's appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

Member Tim Lucas invited Mr. Wilbur to tell the Group about his background and interests related to serving as a member of the Planning Group. Mr. Wilbur told about his long-term residency since 1985 in East County, his career here in public education, and moving in 2001 to his present home in Granite Hills; and that he would submit the required County forms so that his application could be considered by the Group at its February meeting.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

H1. Reminder: CPPG Training, Ethics Training, and Form 700s. Chairman Wessel reminded Planning Group members about their responsibilities to complete the required annual personal Planning Group Training, biennial Ethics Training, and Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests; that an in-person, non-virtual Planning Group Training session is scheduled for 11 February 2023 at the Lakeside Community Center.

H2. Next meeting date.

The next meeting of the Planning Group is scheduled on 13 February 2023, at Crest Community Clubhouse, 113 N. Park Drive, El Cajon (Crest), beginning at 6:30 PM.

I. ADJOURNMENT. Member Christina Becker moved adjournment at 8:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)