

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 13 February 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 6:35 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Rich, Ulm, Nehring, Wessel, Becker, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Scholl, Wilbur and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 11. Member Riggs was absent, but excused. Seat 4, Seat 12 and Seat 13 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Chair Wessel requested a correction for Item A of the February meeting minutes, to change “Chairman Wally Riggs” to “Chair Darin Wessel.”

Member Pat Ulm moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes of its meeting on 9 January 2023 as submitted by Secretary Bretz, but with the correction requested by Chair Wessel. The motion passed (10 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain, Mary Manning).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Planning Group member Eutha Scholl spoke about her discussion with an assistant of Supervisor Anderson concerning recent costs and proposed future rate hikes for services provided by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDGE); and that Supervisor Anderson shares her concerns, and he encourages SDGE customers to present their complaints and concerns about SDGE service/costs to the Public Utility Commission.

Planning Group member Tammy Wilbur requested information about which Rules of Order are utilized by the Group to govern its meetings. (She was informed that the Group meetings are governed by Ray Keeseey’s Modern Parliamentary Procedures.)

Planning Group member Pat Ulm reported that the County is providing the funds requested for South Lane Park improvement projects recommended by the Group, and she expressed her thanks for the support and efforts of Crest resident Kandy Franklin and the Crest Fire Safety Council which helped gain this funding. She also expressed concerns about not having any information about the County’s actions (or possible lack thereof) regarding enforcement of County Code compliance at the property at 1913 Harbison Canyon Road (Dehesa), the location of several recent fires.

Planning Group Chair Darin Wessel informed the Group that the Final Agenda for tonight’s meeting failed to include in Item H that the Planning Department had sent him correspondence as a reminder for Group members to complete their individual Ethics Training requirements; and that also he had received a follow-up letter from Supervisor Joel Anderson regarding the Supervisor’s concerns and actions related to the impacts of the influx of asylum seekers crossing the international border into San Diego County.

Planning Group member Mary Manning spoke about the difficulties and problems she has encountered, while attempting to complete her Ethics Training by connecting to the online website established for providing the required training.

Crest resident Kandy Franklin expressed her thanks for letters of comment from the community and Group members concerning the updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps; she reported that the deadline for comments on this issue has been

extended until 4 April 2023; and that it is possible the County may establish a moratorium to delay the cancellation of fire insurance policies while FHSZ issues are being resolved. Ms. Franklin also spoke about concerns that the County's planning and implementation of improvement projects at South Lane Park and Nancy Jane Park depend upon meeting required deadlines for completion of construction documents, and for the hiring of contractors; that there could be problems arising from poor coordination of the County's required actions that could delay the implementation of some of the projects requested by the Group.

Chair Darin Wessel commented that the agenda of the Group's March meeting will include consideration of a proposal to install night-time motion-activated security lighting, and pickle ball court lighting, at Nancy Jane Park.

Planning Group member Christina Becker commented that the County Department of Parks and Recreation has a timeline to complete the planning and design of a currently proposed park project before the end of 2023, in order to avoid a requirement to solicit public bids for the project.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Update on the closure of California Riding and Hiking Trail in Sloane Canyon / Beaver Hollow Road (Wessel). Group Chair Darin Wessel reported that the Trail segment in Sloane Canyon/Beaver Hollow Road is still chained and locked, preventing public access; that shooting along the Trail portion on Beaver Hollow Road has resumed; that County Code regulations prohibit firearms shooting on Trails; and that he is requesting the Sheriff Department to give a presentation to the Planning Group to describe and explain its services and coverage for enforcement of County Code regulations in our communities.

F2. Ad Hoc Committee update regarding evacuation in case of wildfire (Nehring/Lucas). Ad Hoc Committee Chair Ron Nehring reported that the Committee met today at 2:00 PM, to continue its work to create a draft update of the 2011 Crest Community Plan; that the County continues its efforts to obtain the needed voluntary easements from three affected property owners on the Crest end of the proposed Suncrest Truck Trail emergency evacuation route; that these easements apply only in the event of an official Declared Emergency, in which case any risk and liability for problems related to use of the route are borne by the emergency responding agencies, and not by the property owners providing the easement for the route; that if all of the necessary easements for the route are obtained, the emergency responding agencies can obtain grants and funding support to clear, prepare, improve and maintain the Truck Trail; that without adequate maintenance Suncrest Truck Trail will degrade within several years to become accessible only by 4 WD vehicles, making it useless as an emergency evacuation route for Crest; that CalFire is working on determining the projects needed to provide a properly established and maintained emergency evacuation route along Suncrest Truck Trail; that CalFire, San Miguel Fire District and other agencies are working together to define the necessary interagency relationships, responsibilities, and operational plans to enable the rewrite of a clear, updated Crest Community Plan regarding evacuation in case of wildfire; and that the Committee recommends that it holds a community meeting

(possibly in April) to discuss the interrelated issues of wildfire risks, property preparedness for wildfires, fire insurance possibilities for property owners, and community evacuation planning.

Group member Mary Manning expressed concerns that she was told the Harbison Canyon community is no longer considered to be a part of the Greater Alpine Fire Safe Council (GAFSC), and that it should be developing a County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with the Rancho San Diego Fire Safe Council.

The Group discussed the need for Crest, Dehesa, Granite Hills, and Harbison Canyon to each have a CWPP; that the Subregional Community Plans for these communities need to match the CWPPs prepared, regarding details related to wildfire preparedness, protection, and emergency response; and that a Harbison Canyon CWPP could possibly be integrated into the planning of the Crest Fire Safe Council.

Chair Darin Wessel commented that he has contacted the San Diego County Fire Safe Council, but has not yet been able to learn how the communities of Dehesa and Granite Hills and CWPPs for them could be integrated with the County Fire Safe Council plans.

Crest resident Kandy Franklin commented that the Crest Fire Safe Council could be inclusive and incorporate the communities and CWPPs of Dehesa and Granite Hills, as well as Harbison Canyon and its CWPP; and that it is essential to avoid jurisdictional politics, and to determine who can be contacted to determine how the planning needs for wildfire protection can best be met for all of the Subregion's communities.

F3. Discussion and potential action on Cal Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps. Group Chair Darin Wessel confirmed that the comment period for the proposed updated Cal Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps has been extended until 4 April 2023; but that the possible date for an extended moratorium for property fire insurance cancellation is unknown.

Group member Ron Nehring commented that the criteria used for determining zone designations on the CFHSZ maps are not clearly defined; that an important impact of these maps is that it becomes too expensive to acquire property fire insurance and maintain residences in most of the rural East County; and that it is essential to provide comments about how fire hazard severity could be mitigated and reduced throughout the zones, and about specific pathways for the implementation of mitigations that would reduce wildfire risk and the insurance cost for residential properties.

Group member Pat Ulm commented that the CFHSZ maps and related policies are the product of unelected State bureaucrats, and that it is important to directly contact our elected government officials to make the case for, and to request, that pathways for mitigations to reduce wildfire risk and fire hazard severity are developed for all zones.

Group discussion included the possibility that at the Thursday night meeting (16 February 2023) of the Crest Community Association comments about the CFHSZ maps could be developed; and that the agenda of the March meeting of the Planning Group could include an agenda action item to discuss and draft comments for a Group letter on this issue to be sent to appropriate elected officials.

F4. Ratification of Chair's Letter re comments on County's proposed Regional Decarbonization Framework draft playbook. Chair Wessel reported that he submitted a letter on 23 February 2023 to the County on behalf of the Planning Group, informing the County about the Group's concerns related to the proposed Regional Decarbonization

Framework draft playbook; that copies of this letter have been provided by email to Planning Group members; and that there is still time to provide comments about the County's planning that involves policies concerning vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and a proposed vehicle's miles tax (also VMT).

Member Becker moved that the Planning Group approves, and votes to ratify its approval, the letter of 23 February 2021 which Chair Wessel submitted to the County on behalf of the Group. The motion passed (11 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

F5. Change of sequence of Planning Group meeting locations. Chair Wessel reported that he has not yet discussed the impacts of holding Planning Group meetings at Dehesa School with the school's administrators. Group member Christina Becker volunteered to pursue such a discussion with the school's Superintendent, to obtain information for the Group's consideration related to a potential change of sequence of Planning Group meeting location. This item will be continued as an item on the agenda of the Group's March meeting.

F6. Discussion and potential action regarding lots being developed along La Cresta Ave. and potential safety concerns. Planning Group member Michael Rich provided the Group with photographs of, and described, lot development activities occurring on several properties on the North side of the 2900 block of La Cresta Road. He commented that access for these developments to La Cresta Road will require new cuts through the roadside banks and curbs on blind curve; that he is concerned that these new access driveways will create risks and safety issues for bicyclists and vehicles on this section of a public highway; and that he thinks these are serious concerns that should be evaluated by the appropriate County authorities and engineers.

Group discussion included consideration of the necessity for additional roadway markings and signage, and of requesting a review of the situation by the County's Traffic Advisory Committee for its recommendations.

Chair Wessel suggested making contact with Jessica Turner, of Planning and Development Services, to obtain her help in properly addressing the public safety concerns raised by the development of these lots.

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Consideration of applicant(s) to fill vacancies – Brian Wilbur for Seat 13 and potential applicant for Seat 12. Chair Wessel reported that Brian Wilbur is not present at tonight's meeting; that he has not yet received Wilbur's application materials; and that Mr. Wilbur cannot be considered tonight for filling vacant Seat 13.

Chair Wessel introduced Dave Geiger, resident of Harbison Canyon, who is interested in applying for appointment to vacant Seat 12. Mr. Geiger spoke about recently becoming a property owner and resident in Harbison Canyon, and wanting to become involved in, and contribute to, the community planning process as a member of the Planning Group. Chair Wessel offered to provide Mr. Geiger with the necessary application documents for him to complete and provide to the County, so that he could be considered for the Group's approval and recommendation at its March meeting.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

H1. Next meeting date, March 13, 2023, at Crest Community Clubhouse, 113 N. Nark Drive, El Cajon, CA 92021

I. ADJOURNMENT. Member Ron Nehring moved adjournment at 8:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)