

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 13 March 2023, at Crest Community Clubhouse, 113 N. Park Drive, El Cajon CA 92021 (Crest).

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

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Rich, Ulm, Wessel, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Scholl, and Wilbur were present, forming a quorum of 8. Members Nehring and Lucas were absent, but excused. Member Becker was absent, not excused. Seat 4, Seat 12 and Seat 13 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Member Robert Lutz-Partain moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes of its meeting on 13 February 2023 as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

<Member Christina Becker arrived at 6:45 PM, raising the Group quorum to 9.>

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Planning Group member Bretz reported that a Sweetwater Authority representative will discuss current conditions at (and SWA's management of) Loveland Reservoir on 23 March 2023 at 6 PM at the Alpine Community Planning Group meeting in Alpine.

Planning Group member Manning expressed her concerns about the Planning Group not receiving any information from the County about recent fire issues and code compliance at the property at 1913 Harbison Canyon Road, and suggested this issue be included as an agenda item at the April meeting.

A Crest resident expressed his concerns about problems associated with stormwater runoff drainage along Suncrest Boulevard near South Lane Park, and the nearby school and church properties. (Chair Wessel stated that discussion and possible action regarding this could be covered during the Group's Agenda Action Item F3.)

Another Crest resident expressed his concerns about inadequate planning and preparation for, and the lack of community understanding about, potential evacuation routes for Crest residents in the case of wildfire emergency; that current new development and the recently installed gasoline station on La Cresta Road increase the challenges for any future evacuation needs; and that community education and appropriate road signage are needed, as well as maintenance of potential evacuation route(s) infrastructure that is currently substandard.

Crest resident Kandy Franklin reported that the comment period for the Fire Hazard Severity Map update project is extended into April, and that there is a temporary moratorium declared for the cancellation of existing fire insurance policies for homeowners; that the Crest Fire Safe Council will put together a package of information concerning the possible re-establishment of cancelled fire insurance policies; that any property zoned C-36 could be developed and create future problems like those associated with the gasoline station on La Cresta Road, so property zoning in the Subregion should be reviewed for the consideration of possible re-zoning to avoid the development of

additional challenges for future community evacuation events; and that San Deigo Gas and Electric has a grant program for home owners to improve the wildfire preparedness of their property, but that it is difficult and complex to comply with the requirements for seeking this assistance.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Presentation by San Diego Sheriff's Department and discussion regarding: (1) substations serving Planning Group communities; (2) coordination with CalFire/County Fire Authority in event of wildland fires; (3) and current issues of concern to community including questions on County shooting ordinances (confirmation pending). Chair Darin Wessel reported that the Sheriff's Department was unable to provide a presentation at tonight's meeting; and that the requested presentation and discussion will be rescheduled for a future meeting of the Planning Group.

F2. Update on the closure of California Riding and Hiking Trail in Sloane Canyon / Beaver Hollow Road (Wessel). Chair Wessel reported that the Trail public access gate is still chained and locked closed; that Alex Stahl is no longer the statewide Trails Manager for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, but her replacement is not known yet; and that the issue of illegal blocking of public access to public Trails will be addressed at the California Trails/Greenwaste Conference on 27 March 2023.

F3. Discussion and potential action regarding needed maintenance, improvements to Nancy Jane, Southlane and/or Olde Ironside Parks. The Planning Group discussed potential projects at the different parks, and the differences between requesting and arranging maintenance of existing infrastructure versus the initiation and implementation of new projects and programs.

It was suggested that restriping the basketball/tennis court surfaces at Nancy Jane Park, to provide also for pickleball activity, could be facilitated by considering it as a component of a playing surface maintenance repavement project, rather than the implementation of a new project/program.

Crest resident Kandy Franklin suggested that changes and improvements to night lighting for activities and security at Nancy Jane Park are projects that need to be designed with appropriate involvement and inputs from neighboring property owners and residents of the park; and that the Crest Community Association could include community discussion about these projects at a future public meeting.

Chair Wessel stated that he would communicate with Jessica Turner, Department of Planning, requesting that she forward the Group's requests for various park projects to the most appropriate persons at the County's Department of Parks and Recreation for consideration.

Planning Group member Christina Becker suggested that the Crest stormwater drainage problems associated with South Lane Park and the nearby church and school along Suncrest Boulevard might best be handled as a Department of Public Works drainage maintenance project. Becker moved that the Planning Group sends a letter to Anthony Barry, County Department of Public Works, requesting that the Suncrest Boulevard drainage issues involving South Lane Park and the nearby school and church

are given the highest possible priority on the DPW Drainage Project Ranking List; and that the Group regards the current lack of maintenance of adequate drainage control infrastructure at Southlane Park and along Suncrest Boulevard presents a safety hazard and health issue for school children and others in the community. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Group member Tammy Wilbur moved that Chair Darin Wessel contacts Department of Parks and Recreation to request its carrying out a maintenance project to repave/reseal, and to restripe, the multipurpose paved playing courts at Nancy Jane Park, making them useable for basketball, tennis and pickleball activities. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Chair Wessel stated the issues of maintenance and removal of vehicle tire marks on the patio pavement at Olde Ironside Park will be tabled and continued as an agenda item for the April meeting.

F4. Ad Hoc Committee update regarding evacuation in case of wildfire (Nehring).

An update of Ad Hoc Committee actions was not possible, as Planning Group members Nehring and Lucas were absent at tonight's meeting.

Member Pat Ulm recommended that everyone should check out the website: readyforwildfire.org.

Chair Wessel commented that the Ad Hoc Committee is considering issues of both vehicle ingress and vehicle egress, not only the issue of evacuation, from areas impacted by wildfire.

A Crest resident expressed concerns about past instances of poor evacuation planning and effectiveness, and raised questions about available studies and data that could inform and guide planning for future wildfire situations.

Group discussion included concerns about evacuation problems, the need for a Community Evacuation Practice Day, and managing access through Suncrest Truck Trail locked gates.

F5. Discussion and potential action regarding Dehesa, Granite Hills and Harbison Canyon joining Crest Fire Safe Council. Members of the Planning Group and the public discussed the rejection of Harbison Canyon wildfire protection planning by the Greater Alpine Fire Safe Council; that each of the Subregion's communities need to have a County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and representation within an appropriate Fire Safe Council; that the Jamul Fire Department has been proposed as the fire agency to provide solutions for these needs in our Subregion's communities; that the Crest Fire Safe Council status as a 501.c.3 non-profit organization is important to preserve for purposes of qualifying for potential grant funding opportunities for wildfire planning/preparation activities; that the communities of Dehesa, Granite Hills and Harbison Canyon need to have similar Fire Safe Councils with 501.c.3 non-profit status; and that the existing Crest Fire Safe Council could possibly incorporate the needs of all of the Subregion's communities.

Member Eutha Scholl moved that the Planning Group directs the Ad Hoc Committee regarding evacuation in case of wildfire to consider the needs and relationships of every Subregional community, to arrange appropriate representation by a Fire Safe Council. This motion was discussed, and then withdrawn by Scholl, without a Group vote.

Member Mary Manning moved that the Group tables this agenda item and continues it at the April meeting, while additional information and potential appropriate actions are reviewed with the Fire Chief of the Alpine Fire District and others. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

F6. Discussion and potential action/comments on Vehicle Miles Traveled mitigation program. Chair Wessel reported that the comment period for the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) mitigation program has been extended to 3 April 2023; and that Group member Ron Nehring has been working on a draft comment letter, which presents the Group's concerns about the VMT program proposals.

Planning Group member Pat Ulm moved that the Group approves: 1) directing Chair Darin Wessel to prepare a letter on behalf of the Group, coordinating with and incorporating the relevant draft comments of Ron Nehring, that express the Group's concerns about the potential impacts of the proposed VMT mitigation program to the residents of rural East San Diego County; and 2) submitting the Chair's letter of comments by the 3 April deadline to the appropriate officials of the relevant public agencies. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

F7. Change of sequence of Planning Group meeting locations. Chair Wessel reported that he contacted Dehesa School officials, and was told that the school does not have a preference concerning the time of the year when it accommodates the Group's meetings.

Member Christina Becker moved that beginning with May 2023 the Group schedules its future regular monthly meetings so that: 1) the September, October, November and December meetings are held at Dehesa School; 2) the January, February, March and April meetings are held at Crest Community Clubhouse; and 3) the May, June, July and August meetings are held at Olde Ironside Park. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Chair Darin Wessel stated that he will appropriately inform the County about the Group's decision concerning the locations of its future regular monthly public meetings.

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Consideration of applicant to fill vacancies – David Geiger. Chair Darin Wessel reported that he received the application materials submitted by David Geiger, who announced his interest in being appointed to fill the Group's vacant Seat 12 at its February meeting; and that Mr. Geiger meets all the necessary conditions to be qualified for appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

Member Christina Becker moved that the Planning Group recommends that the Board of Supervisors appoints David Geiger to fill vacant Seat 12 of the Crest-Dehesa-Granite Hills-Harbrison Canyon Subregional Planning Group. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Chair Wessel stated that he will provide the Group's recommendation to the Planning Department, requesting it to be forwarded to Supervisor Joel Anderson for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

H1. Group Correspondence. Chair Wessel reported that there is no Group correspondence to discuss, but that he had received a reminder from the Planning Department concerning the members' filing of their Form 700 reports, due 31 March 2023.

H2. Next meeting date, 10 April 2023, at Crest Community Clubhouse, 113 N. Park Drive, El Cajon CA 92021 (Crest).

I. ADJOURNMENT. Member Christina Becker moved adjournment at 8:35 PM. The motion passed unanimously (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)