

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 10 April 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 Ulm, Nehring, Wessel, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Scholl, and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 8. Members Rich, Becker and Wilbur were absent, but excused. Member Riggs has resigned Seat 7. Seat 4, Seat 13 and Seat 14 are vacant.

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

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

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. No member of the Planning Group requested to speak.

A resident of Crest expressed concerns about possible code compliance violations at the gasoline station in Crest, especially its night time lighting that continues all night long after the 10 PM closing of the market, in a community and region of the County that is attempting to protect its dark night sky.

Another resident of Crest expressed concerns that refueling the gasoline tanks at this station is carried out during times of heavy traffic on La Cresta Road, and extremely large refueling trucks are used; but that when obtaining approval of the project, its developers assured and promised the community that station refueling would be carried out with small trucks, and not at times of heavy traffic.

(Planning Group member Ron Nehring provided the telephone number for County Code Compliance, suggesting that concerns about conditions at the gas station that could be possible code violation(s) could be discussed with someone at this office who could help determine what might be done to improve the current situation.)

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Abandonment of Placer Trail cul-de-sac (ref. APN 399-300-24 and 399-300-18-00). Group member Mary Manning reported that the property owner changed plans and is no longer carrying out an approved subdivision, the design of which included the Placer Trail cul-de-sac; that the cul-de-sac is not needed and will not be constructed. Member Tim Lucas reported that the original subdivision was to have created 8 lots on 4.75 acres, to be provided access by a road element including the cul-de-sac.

The property owner and/or applicant for the proposed abandonment were not present at tonight's meeting to provide additional information about the abandonment of this previously approved subdivision project.

Mary Manning moved that the Planning Group recommends approval of the proposed abandonment of Placer Trail cul-de-sac (ref. APN 399-300-34 and 399-3000-18-00). The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

F2. Update on the property owner closure of California Riding and Hiking Trail in Sloane Canyon / Beaver Hollow Road (Wessel). Chair Wessel reported that local efforts to protect existing public Trails make it clear that the County needs to accept the easements and maintenance responsibilities for public Trail segments that the State Parks has previously managed in San Diego County, but no longer wants to do so; that it would be constructive to meet with County Parks Director Brian Albright and gain his support for the County Parks supporting and taking responsibility for potentially orphaned public Trail segments and their easements; that as Chair of the Group he would contact Dehesa Valley Community Council to encourage its support and involvement in requesting the County's active role in protecting the public's rights by easements (to trail access and use) from potentially being lost; that he thinks it appropriate for the Group to send a letter of comments and concerns to appropriate officials about this issue, and the need for County involvement for preservation of public Trail segments threatened by property owner closure.

Planning Group discussion included suggestions that copies of this letter should be sent to other public officials, who should be interested in protecting the public's rights and interests in these matters (e.g., State Assembly Representatives and Senators, County Supervisors).

Member Lutz-Partain moved that the Planning Group approves directing Chair Darin Wessel to write and send, on behalf of the Group as its consensus, a letter addressed to Supervisor Anderson (with copies to other appropriate public officials): 1) describing the issues related to the property owner closure of a segment of the California Riding and Hiking Trail in Sloane Canyon/Beaver Hollow Road; and 2) requesting the County of San Diego to take responsibility for the easements and maintenance of public Trail segments the State currently controls but wants to relinquish. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 maintain).

F3. Ad Hoc Committee update regarding evacuation in case of wildfire (Nehring). Ad Hoc Committee Chair Nehring announced that the Ad Hoc Committee will meet at 2:00 PM, 8 May 2023, at the Crest Community Clubhouse; that meeting topics will include: 1) draft changes to the Crest Community Plan regarding evacuation in case of wildfire; 2) status of Suncrest Truck Trail outstanding easements necessary for its use by the public during a public emergency; 3) planning for a Community Education Event regarding wildfire preparedness; and 4) changes to the composition of the Board of Supervisors that could affect County wildfire planning efforts.

Crest resident Kandy Franklin suggested a list of several persons she thought should be invited to attend the meeting on 8 May.

Another Crest resident spoke about the critical need for Suncrest Truck Trail to be available when needed as a public route for emergency operations and/or evacuations, and that the Crest community neighborhoods and Suncrest Truck Trail property owners needed to work out solutions to resolve potential problems regarding appropriate access and long term maintenance.

< At 7:10 PM two persons interested in Agenda Item F1 arrived at the meeting, they learned about the action taken earlier by the Planning Group in their absence (Group recommends approval of the proposed abandonment), and they departed. >

F4. Follow-up discussion and potential action regarding Dehesa, Granite Hills and Harbison Canyon joining Crest Fire Safe Council. Group member Mary Manning announced there will be a meeting of the County Fire Safe Council, 10:00 AM, Thursday, 4 May 2023, in Room 171 of the County Administration Building; and she initiated a Planning Group discussion about local Fire Agencies, Fire Districts and Fire Safe Councils having defined areas and jurisdictions that were established without an overall plan for effective coordination between these entities. The discussion included a focus on how the top-down planning for consolidations by CalFire, Alpine Fire Department, Jamul Fire Department and County Fire Safe Council was not solving problems and meeting needs of our Subregion's communities.

Crest resident Kandy Franklin spoke about the need to have a meeting of local community Fire Safe Council supporters, and the need to do grassroots organization of community based and community organized Fire Safe Council, to create a successful functioning council.

Several Group members proposed that the Harbison Canyon community could possibly associate with the existing Crest Fire Safe Council; that the Crest Fire Safe Council could possibly expand and include also the communities of Dehesa and Granite Hills, with appropriate CWPP's prepared for all.

Member Ron Nehring moved that: 1) in the interests of promoting improved public safety; and 2) in light of Planning Group concerns expressed about CalFire/County Fire Authority, etc., and their determinations for the jurisdictions for the Subregion's communities' Fire Safe Councils; 3) the Group supports all appropriate efforts to include the communities of Harbison Canyon, Dehesa, and Granite Hills into the area served by the Crest Fire Safe Council. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Chair Wessel clarified that he is authorized to represent the Planning Group regarding all of the above community Fire Safe Council matters, when discussing these issues with other community officials and community residents.

Member Eutha Scholl suggested that the Group could invite Supervisor Anderson to come to a future Group meeting and hear from local residents about these Fire Safe Council issues.

F5. Follow-up discussion and potential action regarding recent fire issues and code compliance at the property at 1913 Harbison Canyon road. Member Mary Manning suggested this item should be tabled and continued as an agenda item at the May meeting, to provide additional time during which she would contact appropriate County and Fire Agency officials to inquire about the recent fire issues and code compliance, including questions about the numerous vehicles located on the property. Chair Wessel accepted her suggestion.

< Chair Wessel announced a short meeting break at 7:45 PM; he called the meeting back to Order at 7:50 PM. >

F6. Discussion and potential action regarding maintenance and removal of vehicle tire marks on the patio pavement at Olde Ironside Park. Members Eutha Scholl and Mary Manning led a discussion considering the motorcycle tire tracks on the patio pavement, whether pressure washing would remove them, and whether this could/should be done prior to repainting the pavement. Member Ron Nehring offered the loan of his pressure washer, while wondering if the County would accept such an offer, and if the tracks could in fact be removed by washing. It was agreed that the Olde Ironside Park ranger would be contacted and provided the Group's the suggestions for pressure washing the patio prior to repainting it.

F7. Ratification of Chair's comment letter to State Fire Marshall re fire hazard map updates. Member Pat Ulm moved the Group votes to approve and ratify Chair Wessel's comment letter to the State Fire Marshall regarding fire hazard map updates, as well representing the Group's concerns and perspectives. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Report on Chairs Quarterly Meeting. Chair Wessel reported that the Chairs Quarterly Meeting he attended recently included presentations that provided information about 1) County budget/administrative costs, with a projected 7.3% increase for Planning and Land Use Fees; 2) County-sponsored Socially Equitable Cannabis Program outreach meetings scheduled on-line/ZOOM, 18 - 20 April, addressing different topics each day; 3) Public Scoping Meeting, Otay Water District, regarding Water Facilities Master Plans Updates, scheduled on-line/ZOOM 5-7 PM, 18 April; and 4) a proposal by some rural Planning Groups to form an "Unincorporated Community Group Organization," following all relevant conditions of Policy I-1, to be an advocacy group that possibly could place an East County representative on the SANDAG Board, giving the voice of rural East County residents greater impact there to be considered.

G2. Declare Seat 7 vacant due to Wally Rigg's resignation. Chair Wessel reported that in March Wally Riggs resigned his Planning Group membership, leaving Seat 7 now vacant, without a seated Group member.

Member Ron Nehring moved that, due to the recent resignation of Wally Riggs, the Planning Group declares Seat 7 vacant, and open for the Board of Supervisors to possibly fill by appointment until the next election. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

G3. Approval of payment of rental fee for Crest Community Clubhouse. Chair Wessel moved that the Planning Group approves, and recommends that the County pay, the cost of Group's rental of the Crest Community Clubhouse for its regular monthly public meetings during January, February, March and April, at the required rate of \$100/meeting. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

H1. Group Correspondence. None to consider.

H2. Next meeting date, 8 May 2023, at Olde Ironside Park, 326 Harbison Canyon Road, El Cajon CA 92021.

I. ADJOURNMENT. Member Robert Lutz-Partain moved adjournment at 8:15 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)