

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 13 May 2013, at Dehesa School, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, California.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Bowen, Slagill, Walls, Krickhahn, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Harris and Hertel were present, form a quorum of nine. Member Ulm was absent, but excused. Members Vandover and Myrick were absent, not excused. Seat 4, Seat 14 and Seat 15 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Wally Riggs moved the Planning Group approves the minutes of the meeting on 8 April 2013 as submitted. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Krickhahn).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. No one from the public requested to speak. Planning Group member Lory Walls reported that the Dehesa Valley Community Council received the second \$100,000 settlement payment from the Sycuan Tribe; that the third \$100,000 payment is due in August, 2013; that Sycuan settlement funds are being used to construct a safe roadside bus stop for school buses near the intersection of Dehesa Road and Tavern Road; and that DVCC wants the community to provide any other ideas for suitable road safety improvement projects to be considered for funding from the Sycuan settlement funds. Planning Group member Wally Riggs mentioned that a stop sign with blinking warning lights could improve safety at the Dehesa Road intersection with Harbison Canyon Road, but that this project requires a Memorandum of Agreement with the County Department of Public Works before it can be implemented.

< At 7:25 PM member Jack Vandover joined the meeting, increasing the Group quorum to 10. >

F. ACTION ITEMS.

1. Discussion and action on the proposed consolidation of Rural Fire and the County Fire Authority. Planning Group member Mary Manning opened the discussion about the proposed consolidation of the Rural Fire Protection District and the County Fire Authority. She distributed copies of an article from East County Magazine reporting about the 8 May 2013 meeting of the Rural Fire Protection District Board, copies of a letter sent to the community from the District Board, and also copies of a personal letter that she wrote in response to the District Board's letter to the community.

Summarizing the situation, she explained that the County is not willing to continue providing funds to the Rural Fire Protection District beyond June 2014, and wants the District to agree to a one-year extension of the current contract with Cal-Fire on the condition that the District agrees to its dissolution by the Local Agency Formation Commission, with the District's responsibilities and services being transferred to the

jurisdiction of the County Fire Authority. The District could reject the County's proposal and remain independent, but it would then not have sufficient funding after June 2014 to maintain professionally staffed fire stations in Harbison Canyon, Dehesa and elsewhere, and would also have to raise special assessments within the District from \$100 per household to \$450-\$500 per household despite closing several fire stations and only keeping open the stations in Jamul and Otay.

Mary Manning pointed out that if the District refused the County's proposal, staffing at the fire stations in Harbison Canyon and Dehesa would revert to the volunteer staffing levels of 2006, the FEMA funds that have been allocated for construction of sleeping quarters at the Harbison Canyon station could be lost, and the improved ISO ratings allowing for better fire insurance ratings in the community (based on fully staffed fire stations and the recently installed hydrants) would also be jeopardized.

Mary moved that the Planning Group writes a letter to the County and District that states the communities in the Subregion want to maintain the current (or better) staffing of their fire stations, with professional paid staff, and with Harbison Canyon and Dehesa fire stations maintained at their current budget levels; with the stations' current abilities to fight fires maintained in order to continue homeowners' opportunities to obtain fire insurance; and with better lines of communication and a simplified command structure regarding contacts between community fire stations and administrative authorities.

Before a vote on the motion the Group discussed possible problems that might be associated with an independent District, or with a consolidated County Fire Authority; if the Harbison Canyon and Dehesa stations could be removed from the District (should it seek independence) and join the County Fire Authority; and also that the Group would not be able to prepare an adequately informed letter to the District and County Fire Authority prior to the 4 June submission date.

Wally Riggs suggested an alternative action whereby the Group sends an email to Supervisor Jacob requesting her views about how the Subregion and its fire stations would be affected if 1) the Rural Fire Protection District is dissolved, 2) if the District becomes independent; and specifically, how the Harbison Canyon and Dehesa fire stations can best be maintained at their current or better levels of staffing and service.

Mary Manning withdrew her original motion. She then moved that the Group writes a letter addressed to Supervisor Jacob, and Kenneth Miller, Herman Reddick and Susan Casarano of the County Fire Authority, recommending that the Rural Fire Protection District is dissolved and its responsibilities and services are merged and consolidated with the County Fire Authority, because without protection provided by CFA there will be effectively no local fire protection at all in the communities of the Subregion. The motion passed (10 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

1. Announcements and correspondence. Chairman Wally Riggs reviewed for the Group correspondence from Department of Public Works concerning its plans to install and/or replace guard rails on certain roads in Crest. (Jason Harris volunteered to scan this letter and email it to Group members.)

Mary Manning announced that the Harbison Canyon Lions Club is sponsoring a Shop and Swap event at Old Ironsides Park, 18 May, 8 AM to 12 noon. Free sunglasses will be given out until supplies are gone.

2. Expense reimbursement requests. There were no requests.

3. Discussion and Group action items.

a. Introduction of Bryan Underwood, applicant for Seat 14 (Granite Hills).

Chairman Wally Riggs introduced Bryan Underwood, explaining that Bryan's application for nomination for appointment to Seat 14 would likely be an action item included on the agenda of the Group's meeting on 10 June. Bryan moved to Granite Hills at age 5, is now 31 years old and married, and is a resident and registered voter in the Granite Hills area of the Subregion. He related to the Group that he works in Real Estate, he saw an announcement about the Seat 14 vacancy on the County website, and he would like to join the Planning Group and help inspire greater community involvement in community planning.

b. Discussion of payment for continuation of Planning Group Website. Tim Hertel reported that the cost of continuing the Group's website is \$166 for two years. Chairman Riggs proposed the Group requests reimbursement from the County for this expense, and if the reimbursement is denied, the Group will voluntarily share the cost among all the members. The Group gave its consensus to Riggs' proposal.

4. Subcommittee reports - PLDO. Nothing new to report.

5. Meeting updates. Mary Manning announced that the Rural Fire Protection District is holding a Board meeting on June 4, 2013, 7 PM, at the Jamul Fire Station on Melody Lane in Jamul, to discuss the issue of possible consolidation with the County Fire Authority.

H. ADJOURNMENT. Phil Hertel moved adjournment at 8:41 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)