

CREST-DEHES-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 14 October 2013, at Old Ironside Park, 326 Harbison Canyon Road, El Cajon (Harbison Canyon), California.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Ulm, Walls, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Vandover, Myrick, Hertel and Underwood were present, forming a quorum of 9. Members Bowen, Slagill, Krickhahn and Harris were absent, but excused. Seat 4 and Seat 15 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Chairman Riggs moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes of the meeting of 12 August 2013 as submitted. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Ulm).

Chairman Riggs moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes of the meeting of 9 September 2013, as submitted. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Ulm).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. No one from the public or the Planning Group requested to speak.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

1. Signalization at Dehesa Road and Sycuan Road. Chairman Riggs opened discussion on signalization at Dehesa Road and Sycuan Road, reporting that he had requested the Traffic Advisory Committee to postpone this issue to its 4 November meeting so the recommendation of the Planning Group could be included in its consideration; he also stated that the prevailing community preference (3:1 opposed to signalization) based on informal polling reported to him, is to maintain the rural atmosphere and dark night sky without installation of a traffic signal at this intersection. He then introduced Mr. Pasmantchi, Department of Public Works, to provide the Group with background information and answer specific questions about the signalization project.

Mr. Pasmantchi explained to the Planning Group the various state and local policies concerning traffic control options for intersections, and the nine specific criteria defined by State standards which are used to determine whether yield signs, stop signs, or traffic signals are warranted for a specific intersection. He reported that the Sycuan Tribe hired a consultant to evaluate the Dehesa Road/Sycuan Road intersection with respect to the State's criteria, and this study found that four of the seven relevant criteria warranted signalization for meeting safety standards; and that California Highway Patrol records show that in the past five years there were seven accidents at this intersection that likely would have been avoided if the intersection had been signalized. Based on the signalization criteria study and record of past accidents, DPW will advise the Traffic Advisory Committee to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approves the signalization project for safety reasons.

Planning Group members discussed with Mr. Pasmanthi the relative safety of stop signs with flashing lights versus traffic signals, the requirement for intersection safety streetlights, and possible methods to mitigate and minimize the nighttime light impacts of signalization in order to conserve the rural community character and dark night sky in the valley. Mr. Pasmanthi informed the group that the currently available best technology includes dimming LED safety streetlights that dim out if there are no vehicles approaching or at the intersection, and focused LED traffic signals that are visible only to the approaching traffic without widely broadcasting their light. Mr. Pasmanthi told the Group that he would like the Planning Group to recommend approval of signalization at the Dehesa Road/Sycuan Road intersection, conditional on utilization of the best available technology for minimizing safety and traffic light impacts to the rural community character; and that he would advocate on behalf of the Planning Group for engineering design of this signalization that would minimize and mitigate potential nighttime light impacts as much as possible using best available technology.

Bill Bretz moved that the Planning Group, recognizing the imperative to provide the safest possible conditions at the Dehesa Road/Sycuan Road intersection, recommends approval of the signalization project, while requesting 1) that it is designed to implement the best available technology for minimizing nighttime light impacts, and 2) that the Planning Group has the opportunity to review the design and engineering plans concerning reduction of impacts prior to implementation of the project. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

1. Announcements and correspondence. Mary Manning, Harbison Canyon, invited all to attend a Shop and Swap event at Old Ironside Park, on 19 October, Saturday, from 8:00 am to 12 noon.

Lory Walls, Dehesa, invited all to attend the Dehesa Valley Community Council's dedication of the improved, safer school bus stop on Dehesa Road near the Tavern Road intersection, on 1 November at 3:30 pm.

Wally Riggs, Dehesa, announced that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has not yet completed the fee-to-trust transfer to the Sycuan Tribe of title to the 17 acres of private property accessed from Dehesa Road, due to appeals made concerning the legal disposition of private easements utilizing, and dependent on, the access road to the Tribe's property.

2. Expense reimbursement request. Mary Manning requested reimbursement for her expense of \$22.35 for the postage and documentation she purchased for mailing the remaining Planning Group appeal letters and the final proof of service letter related to the

Bill Bretz moved that the Planning Group approves a reimbursement of \$22.45 to Mary Manning, for her purchase of postage and certification for mailing Planning Group business letters. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

3. Discussion and Group action items.

a. Discussion of payment for continuation of Planning Group Website. Tabled by Chairman Riggs, to be considered at future meeting.

b. Discussion of vacant Seat 4 (Crest) and Seat 15 (Granite Hills). Chairman Riggs reported that a woman from Crest has requested information for making an application for Seat 4. Phil Hertel reported that he provided application information to a woman from Granite Hills interested in Seat 15.

4. Subcommittee reports – PLDO. Chairman Riggs reported that Judy had informed him there was no new input from the community concerning the priority list of park projects to be considered for PLDO funding for 2014. Lory Walls moved that the Planning Group resubmits the priority list sent for 2013. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

5. Meeting updates. The next Planning Group meeting will be on 18 November 2013, as the regular second Monday meeting date is a holiday.

San Diego Gas and Electric is holding scoping meetings on Tuesday, 22 October, and Wednesday, 23 October, concerning a project to replace wood poles supporting its transmission lines with steel poles to reduce wildfire risk.

H. ADJOURNMENT. Phil Hertel moved adjournment at 8:25 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)