

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 10 November 2014, at Old Ironside Park, 326 Harbison Canyon Road, Harbison Canyon, El Cajon.

**A. CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**B. ROLL CALL.** Planning Group members Bowen, Ulm, Carroll, Walls, Krickhahn Riggs, Bretz, Manning and Underwood were present, forming a quorum of 9. Member Hertel was absent, but excused. Members Slagill and Harris were absent, but not excused. Seat 10, Seat 12 and Seat 15 are vacant.

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

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Chairman Wally Riggs stated that the minutes of the meeting on 20 October needed correction on page 2, Item 3a, first sentence of the final paragraph, by inserting the words “a printout of” before the words “a Power Point presentation.” Mary Manning moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes as corrected by Riggs. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Ulm).

**E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION.** No one from the public requested to speak. Planning Group member Bill Bretz reported that there was the remains of a fire that had been set in the middle of Sloane Canyon road, apparently to burn insulation from copper telephone wire, and that this illegal burning had been done during the height of red flag dangerous weather conditions. The location of this activity was about three and a half miles from Dehesa Road near the west boundary of the Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve.

**F. ACTION ITEMS.**

**F1. AD-14-054, Proposed open space encroachment for the purpose of 100 foot clearing for fire fuel buffer zone, at 1903 Saxton Lane and Old bend Road in Crest.** Chairman Riggs introduced the applicant, Mr. Baji, and his consulting civil engineer, Mr. Eliot May, who explained to the Group the reason for the proposed encroachment request. Mr. Baji was unable to obtain fire insurance while attempting compliance with local fire department standards for creating a fire fuel buffer zone next to his residence on his property (APN 508-180-25 & 26). The insurance companies he approached demanded complete clearing for a 200-foot distance, which would require 170 feet of clearing into dedicated Open Space containing San Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub habitat. Mr. May conferred with County Department of Planning and Development Services staff and designed a plan for a 100 foot buffer zone that features selective, partial clearing of a 70 foot encroachment into the Open Space, plus an automated water sprinkler system. This plan would be acceptable for obtaining fire insurance, and would likely meet with County approval, and would minimize encroachment into the Open Space to a 70 foot zone of selective fire fuel removal. Pat Ulm moved the Planning Group recommends approval AD-14-054 as proposed. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

After the Planning Group action, Karla Carroll suggested that when the County creates designated Open Space it could write in agreement about possible appropriate wild fire defense activities.

## **G. GROUP BUSINESS.**

**G1. Announcements and correspondence.** Mary Manning announced that everyone is invited to a community Christmas Party on December 6, 11 am to 1 pm, at Old Ironside Park, Harbison Canyon. A children's singing contest will be part of the event.

**G1a. Consideration of applicants for vacant seats.** Chairman Riggs announced that Seat 6, currently filled by Herb Krickhahn, will be open in January 2015; and that the Group has the opportunity to select one of two applicants present at tonight's meeting, for recommendation for appointment to the seat by the Board of Supervisors. He reviewed the relevant Policy I-1 training requirements for new Group members, and introduced Darin Wessel and Anthony Garcia, who are registered voters residing in the Dehesa area.

Wessel and Garcia were given the opportunity to describe their interests in serving as a member of the Planning Group, and to provide information about their backgrounds. Riggs reminded everyone that the term for the open Dehesa seat is 4 years, and that an applicant must receive eight affirmative votes for the Group's nomination.

Riggs moved that the Planning Group recommends and nominates applicant Anthony Garcia for appointment to Seat 6. The motion did not pass (3 yes: Riggs, Carroll and Underwood).

Bretz moved that the Planning Group recommends and nominates applicant Darin Wessel for appointment to Seat 6. The motion did not pass (6 yes: Bowen, Ulm, Walls, Krickhahn, Bretz and Manning).

Applicant Anthony Garcia volunteered to withdraw his application for consideration, in order to enable the Group to select a nominee to forward to the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Riggs moved that the Planning Group recommends and nominates applicant Darin Wessel for appointment to Seat 6. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Krickhahn).

**G2. Expense reimbursement requests.** There were no expense reimbursement requests.

## **G3. Subcommittee reports.**

**G3a. PLDO project priority list.** Judy Bowen distributed a draft 2014/2015 PLDO Projects Priority List for the Group to review. She informed the Group that the list does not include any updated information from the CCA; she reminded the Group that PLDO funds can not be used for maintenance of facilities at the parks; that maintenance for facilities at Old Ironside Park can be paid from the County General Fund; and that any new facilities at South Lane Park can only be created with PLDO funds if the County has an established contract with an approved Maintenance Entity (which will be responsible for ongoing future maintenance of the new facility). She also reported that as of August 31, 2014, the PLDO fund balance available for the Subregion's parks is \$160,513.

Group review and discussion of the draft list resulted in the request to change “weight training station” to “circuit training stations” in the project proposed for Old Ironside Park. The Group acknowledged that the tennis court renovation project proposed for Nancy Jane Park would probably be considered an ineligible maintenance project; and that since there is no approved Maintenance Entity for South Lane Park, the proposed walking/jogging path with circuit training stops would likely not be approved for that park.

Judy Bowen moved that the Planning Group approves the 2014/2015 PLDO Projects Priority List, with suggested changes, for submission. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

#### **G4. Chairman’s report on meeting of Community and Sponsor Group Chairs.**

Chairman Riggs attended the 25 October meeting of Community and Sponsor Group Chairs convened by the County Department of Planning and Development Services, and reported to the Group the following information from that meeting.

There are a total of 294 seats on the County’s Community and Sponsor Group; there are 272 sitting Group members, 22 vacant seats, 3 of which are in the Crest-Dehesa-Granite Hills-Harbison Canyon Subregional Planning Group. Only 3 of the Groups were not represented at the meeting of Group Chairs.

Training sessions for Group members are tentatively planned for: 1) December 6, Escondido; 2) January 10, County Operations Center; 3) January 3, Lakeside.

There is a Park Master Plan for the County; it is currently unfunded, but the Board of Supervisors is considering funding it. The County calculates that there should be 3 acres of parkland per planning area for each 1,000 person of the area population; a parkland fee of \$4,061 is collected for each new residence approved for construction in an area. The County is considering selling naming rights to parks and park facilities, but since money raised in this way would go into the General Fund rather than to the specific named park/project, everyone does not favor selling naming rights. Brian Albright is the new Director, Department of Parks and Recreation. His telephone number is 858-966-1391; his email address is [brianalbright@sd.gov](mailto:brianalbright@sd.gov).

A Planning Group can request a reduction in the number of seats on the Group. The Crest-Dehesa-Granite Hills-Harbison Canyon Subregional Planning Group has 15 seats, and a meeting minimum quorum is 8, regardless of the number of vacant seats. The Department of Planning and Development Services is considering changing the requirements for eligibility for Group members, to allow non-resident property owners to qualify. (This is not a popular idea among current Group chairs and members).

County codes are generally not enforced unless there is a complaint about lack of code compliance. County enforcement is reactionary, not proactive, and it attempts to avoid neighbor-to-neighbor conflicts; if health and safety issues are involved, the County can be proactive. There are 10 code compliance field inspectors for covering 3,572 square miles of unincorporated County land (8 for general code enforcement, 1 for noise code enforcement, and 1 for grading code enforcement).

A comprehensive Contact Information list for the Department of Planning and Development Services, and for other County departments, was distributed at the meeting of Group Chairs, and Riggs will send this list by email to all Planning Group members. The County website has a link to the Crest-Dehesa-Granite Hills-Harbison Canyon

Subregional Planning Group website. Department of Planning and Development Services will have two meetings of Group Chairs per year from now on. The next one will be in spring, 2015.

**G5. Meeting updates.** December 10, Supervisor Diane Jacob will convene a meeting of representatives from relevant community groups, agencies and fire departments to consider the issues related to emergency “evacuation”, or egress, from Crest.

(The above meeting update prompted Pat Ulm to report on the Crest Emergency Egress Summit organized by Kandy Franklin, Crest Fire Safe Council Coordinator, held on October 17, in Crest. Cal Fire representatives stated that Suncrest and Rios Canyon Road would be used for moving fire fighting equipment, so that these routes would not be available for community egress during a wildfire emergency. The Crest community challenged the Cal Fire plans, and the agency seemed to change its position. Rios Canyon Road is recognized as an unsuitable emergency egress route for Crest in its current condition. There are no other options for a second emergency egress route for Crest until the Crestlake subdivision is developed.)

December 12 is the next Subregional Planning Group meeting, at Old Ironside Park, 326 Harbison Canyon Road, El Cajon. Chairman Riggs reported that there are no planning issues yet scheduled for the agenda, and if the only business is nomination of Group officers for 2015, he might include review of the Group’s Standing Rules of Order as an agenda item.

**H. ADJOURNMENT.** Mary Manning moved adjournment at 8:45 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)