

FALLBROOK COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

&

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, June 7, 2021

7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 816 4886 6166 – Passcode: AVOCADO – Dial in by Phone: 669-900-9128 (Phone Passcode: 4665015)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81648866166?pwd=eWdVTUdBNTMzlkSFFJQm4yUG9aQT09>

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Adopted June 21, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to by Chair Jack Wood at 7:01 PM.

2. Roll Call

Chair Jack Wood directed Secretary Ross L. Pike to call the roll. Attendance is as follows:

PRESENT: Tom Harrington, Jeniene Domercq, Vice Chair Roy Moosa, Vice Chair Eileen Delaney, Stephani Baxter, Steve Brown, Secretary Ross L. Pike, Mark Mervich, Chair Jack Wood, Victoria Stover, Lee DeMeo, Kim Murphy, Jacqueline Kaiser, Michele McCaffery, Anna Strahan.

EXCUSED: None.

ABSENT: None.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kaiser.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM.** Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Fallbrook Planning Group on any subject matter within the Group's jurisdiction but not on today's agenda. *Three-minute limitation. Non-discussion and non-voting item.*

- Delaney spoke to the purple lights on the Jack in the Box and that it was an error and will not be permitted.
- Strahan requested that the Fallbrook Planning Group agendize the authorization of a Facebook page that is used by the Fallbrook Planning Group before a page is active.
- Strahan requests a copy of minutes from a recent Fallbrook Planning Group leadership meeting. Wood states those concerns will be addressed during the next agenda item.
- Jessica Myers, community member, addressed comments made by the Fallbrook Planning Group members during the May 17 meeting regarding the name of the new park.
- Kit Bacon-Gressitt, community member, spoke to implicit bias. Chair Wood states this item is not within the Group's purview. Bacon-Gressitt states it is under the Group's purview if they make it part of their purview and recommends an implicit bias training for the Group members.
- Sergio Almada raises hand, withdraws request to speak.

Public forum was closed with no other community members wishing to speak.

5. Revisions to the Bylaws. Discuss and formulate social media guidelines for the Fallbrook Community Planning Group members. Establish an ad-hoc committee to report back to the Planning Group at the regular meeting on June 21, 2021. **Community input. Voting item.**

- Chair Jack Wood read a prepared statement.

Motion by Wood to appoint Roy Moosa as ad-hoc committee chairman and it will be his discretion to select the committee and they will come back and report to the full Planning Group with their recommendations at our next monthly meeting which will be the 21st of June. Motion passes. 15-0.

- Pike asks Wood about community input stating community input is typically given prior to motions being made.
- Chair Wood states this is not a community input item as it relates to the Bylaws of the Planning Group.
- Pike states this item is listed with community input on the agenda.

- Chair Wood asks the Planning Group to vote on his motion. *Planning Group members begin to vote. Voting stops.*
- Delaney states that discussion be given from the community members regarding approval or disapproval of the motion.
- DeMeo states that community input should be given to the committee and not to the full Planning Group.
- Mervich expresses concern that there may not be enough time for the committee to make a full report and asks if this will be a progress report or a full report.
- Chair Wood states that ad-hoc committees are meant to be temporary; matter is time-sensitive that have caused people to make improper impressions that have to be addressed; the ad-hoc committee will make recommendations that will be voted on at the next meeting.
- Delaney shares information regarding the Bylaw amendment process.
- Strahan asks if the ad-hoc committee will discuss approval of a Facebook page for the Fallbrook Planning Group or only Bylaw amendments.
- Chair Wood says the committee will discuss aspects relating to social media.
- Strahan states that County Counsel informed her that the Group should first authorize a Facebook page that speaks for the entire Planning Group and requests that because a page has already been created by a member of the Fallbrook Planning Group all operations stop until it has been authorized.
- Delaney asks what the problem is.
- Strahan clarifies that speaking with County staff and County Counsel, the recommend that a Facebook representing the Planning Group should be authorized by the entire Planning Group.
- Delaney states she has not spoken with County Counsel.
- Strahan requests a conference call with County staff and the Planning Group to ensure all members are on the same page.
- DeMeo asks Strahan to clarify and states that the Group doesn't have a Facebook page.
- Strahan informs DeMeo that a page exists that represents the Fallbrook Planning Group and is making posts on the Group's behalf.
- Delaney states that at a prior meeting, members begged for a Facebook page and that she created the page.
- Strahan said she didn't beg for a page.
- Delaney states that she created the page at the Chair's direction through the powers as Chair of the Group.
- Chair Wood states that Strahan is going around the leadership of the Group by contacting the County; Group members should not be going to the County.
- Strahan states that after contacting the County, Group members are able to contact the County with questions; Bylaws cannot be more restrictive than the Brown Act; asks how will changes to the Bylaws be made without being more restrictive; recommends that the Group follow guidance to create a list of guidelines for social media so as to not infringe on AB 992 directions.
- Chair Wood states there is a difference of opinion.
- Strahan requests that the difference be worked out.
- Chair Wood states that the guidance will not be more restrictive than I-1 or any other regulations; as it stands right now, members are sharing information without authorization to do so; a committee will create recommendations and then Group members are able to speak to those recommendations at the next meeting.
- Strahan requests that Wood follow up with the County regarding the recommendation that she was given relating to the Facebook page being agendized and authorized by the full Planning Group.
- Chair Wood says no; action must be taken to address social media; he has not given approval to any Group member to speak on behalf of the Group on social media.
- Linda Wilson, community member, requests that community members be a part of this committee.
- Chair Wood says this is a matter of the Bylaws and is not open to interpretation of the public and public input is not a part of the policy-making procedure.
- Delaney clarifies that if the public is permitted to participate in the ad-hoc meeting.
- Chair Wood states that meeting will be open to the public.

- Pike asks Chair Wood recognize the community members with their hands raised that would like to speak.
- Marc Sigmon, community member, applauds this action being taken.
- April Schimke, community member, asks who will be posting until this ad-hoc committee forms its recommendations; is she, a member of the public, able to post information; who will be on the ad-hoc committee meeting to ensure there is balance; applauds new members asking and learning about the policies; states concern that Chair Wood laughed at a member who asked a question.
- Sergio Almada, community member, asks who will be posting information from the Group's Facebook page; concerned that Chair Wood and Vice Chair Delaney laughed at another member's questions; questioned why there is not more community input; this is a public body not a private corporation.
- Jeff Egkan, community member, spoke to a need for more access to information and promotion of Group operations, similar to the North County Fire Protection District; urges public input for the committee. Chair Wood responds that community members may be able to speak at the next Planning Group meeting; public will not be on the committee.
- Pedro Cardenas, community member, asked that the Group conduct their recommendations at this meeting since all members are present. Delaney responds that the agenda only states to create an ad-hoc committee. DeMeo agrees with Delaney.
- Jessica Myers, community member, is concerned that only one member was told to stop posting but others are posting; asked Chair Wood to clarify who can speak on the Planning Group since he stated he has not authorized any member to speak for the Group; asked Chair Wood why Pike was silenced; asked why Group members are not allowed to speak to the County. Chair Wood states that no member is being singled out; the goal is to limit the type of information going out to the public; has not told any member to not post information. Myers asks why there are other comments from Board members when Ross was told not to post; asks why the Group hasn't authorized a Facebook page or website if a board member is already sharing it. Delaney states that I-1 does not address social media and that the Group is taking it one step further to create an online presence; reminds audience that the Group is comprised of volunteers; she created a Facebook page and website for the Planning Group at the direction of Chair Wood; states nobody was told not to share on social media; states there has been over 600 responses to park names for the new park; states Pike shared a survey that was not sanctioned and only got 135 responses; states she has posted to Friends of Fallbrook and created the page under Chair Wood's guidance; advises the community to call the Chamber of Commerce or a Planning Group member for information. Myers states there shouldn't be a requirement to get information to the public as efficiently as possible; questions what the priority level of creating a digital presence when Delaney was able to complete this within a week when she stated it's been in the works for a year and a half; reminds the Group members that though they may be volunteers, Group members chose to run for these positions. Delaney states she ran for land use matters; she personally paid for the website because the County won't reimburse her; if Myers would like to help pay for the website or help with the website, contact Delaney; Group members are volunteers. Myers reminds Delaney that she was elected by the public. Chair Wood states there is no mandate to create a Facebook page or website and requests patience.
- Ben Talley, community member, asked if a simple disclaimer would suffice on posts.
- Robyn Dahlson, community member, spoke to the hostility within the Group and urges teamwork; asks why Pike was thwarted after volunteering to share information on social media; expresses disappointment in the Group; advises the Group to listen to the community. Chair Wood states that he has never advised somebody to not post information on social media; any accusations to the contrary are not true.
- April Schimke, community member, states that Group members are bothered by community input; reminded the Planning Group members that they signed up for this and some even campaigned for the position, and chose to sign up for the positions.
- Kit Bacon-Gressitt, community member, states Bylaws do not preclude public members to serve on an ad-hoc committee; the community appreciates the work done by the Group for the committee; recommends that the public serve on the ad-hoc committee.

- Secretary Pike reports to Chair Wood that there are no other community members with their hands up to speak.
- Harrington recommends that the community be included in the process even if it causes a severe delay; advises social media issues be covered in policies and not Bylaws; if the public isn't able to get involved in the committee, the Group listens to the public at the next meeting.
- Strahan states AB 992 already addressed social media; asks for guidance how the Facebook page will be operated; asks for minutes from the leadership meeting; requests Group approval of a Facebook page; expresses that she felt disrespected by being laughed at by leadership; encourages all members to read AB 992 amendment to the Brown Act regarding social media.
- McCaffery shared that Fallbrook does have a page on the San Diego County website with information relating to the Fallbrook Planning Group.
- Baxter read select comments from Pike's Facebook page that criticized Chair Wood; states there is only a select audience being reached through pages managed by Pike and Strahan; expressed support for Chair Wood; states the Group has been compliant to I-1.
- DeMeo commends the work of the Board; expresses support for Chair Wood and Delaney
- Brown expressed a need for clarification; the previous leadership meeting decided that there was a need to modernize the Group; the Group would not be a Facebook page, only a static website that connects to the County website.
- Moosa states there needs to be guidelines and the need for social media to reach more of the community; community input is needed.
- Murphy calls for the question to end debate. Chair Wood states he will hear from the rest of the Group before voting begins.
- Pike read a prepared statement. Chair Wood disputes the claim that Pike says he was directed to stop posting on social media.
- Moosa expresses concern about why this process is taking so long when it appears all members are wanting social media to be involved in the Group's operations.
- Harrington states the meeting has taken so long because the public wants input; requests the public be involved in the committee.
- *Following all members being able to speak, voting commences.*

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

NOTE: The Fallbrook Planning Group occasionally has openings on its Land Use Committee (Chair Eileen Delaney: eileendelaneymail@gmail.com), Circulation Committee (Chair Roy Moosa: 760-723-1181), Parks & Recreation Committee (Chair Stefani Baxter: sbaxter.fcpg@gmail.com), Public Facilities Committee (Chair Roy Moosa: 760-723-1181), and Design Review Committee (Chair Eileen Delaney: eileendelaneymail@gmail.com) for non-elected citizens. *There are currently vacancies on the Circulation Committee, Parks & Recreation Committee, and Public Facilities Committee.* Interested persons are directed to please contact the respective committee chair. **This is a preliminary agenda. If any changes are made, a final agenda will be posted at the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce (111 S Main Avenue) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting as well as in the digital Dropbox (bit.ly/FallbrookPlanningGroup).** *To sign up for notifications for the digital Dropbox, please contact Ross L. Pike (rosslpike.fallbrook@gmail.com) or visit bit.ly/FallbrookPlanningGroup.*

PREPARED STATEMENT BY CHAIR JACK WOOD

Before we get into creating an ad hoc committee on tonight's agenda, I want to give you some background information.

I along with 2nd vice chair, Eileen Delaney, had a conference call with our County liaison, Jessica Turner and County Council Randall regarding Planning Group's use of Social Media. In view of the County not having a specific policy regarding Planning Group member's use of Social media, it was recommended that we form an ad-hoc committee to amend our bylaws to address this issue.

In no uncertain terms I want to assure the Planning Group members and the public that I, nor any one on the Planning Group would restrict an individual's right to the first amendment right of free speech.

What we do not want to happen is for misinformation to be published or to have projects or applications discussed other than in our public meetings. To do so would violate the Brown Act and put our Planning Group in a liable position.

Social media can be used for good or bad. We want only good information that is authorized to go out to the public. Also, it should be clearly stated here and in our bylaws that we are non-political and that we work for the best interest of all the residents of Fallbrook regardless of their ideology or political affiliation.

Prior to conferring with County Council I had a management meeting consisting of the first vice chair, 2nd vice chair and Secretary. We discussed what should or should not go out on social media or Facebook account. Apparently it was not fully understood what was expected and therefore we are at the place we are tonight to make it part of our written bylaws under which we operate as a Planning Group.

Having said that, I am appointing Roy Moose to chair the ad hoc committee to suggest an amendment to our bylaws to address the use of social media for Planning Group business.

PREPARED STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ROSS L. PIKE

On May 18, I attended a leadership meeting with Jack Wood, Eileen Delaney, Roy Moosa, and Stephani Baxter. As a result of the meeting and within the first 6 minutes of the meeting, I was directed by Chair Jack Wood that I am no longer able to share information relating to the Fallbrook Planning Group on social media because only he is the spokesperson. I shared the direction from Jack on social media and the subsequent post was seen by over 5,817 people, which truly speaks to the power of social media. It also had 2,229 engagements including being shared 24 times and it also had 245 comments from community members. Social media is here to stay. We need to embrace the ability to reach more of the community, not run away from it.

When I was campaigning for the Planning Group last year, I was repeatedly told that people had no idea what the Planning Group is. As members of the Planning Group, it is our duty to educate the public. It is also the expectation of those who voted us in to do our jobs of representing the community. As I also campaigned for this position, I advocated for transparency. When community members came to the Planning Group requesting that information be shared on social media, I instantly saw this was something I can accomplish given my experience with social media. I used the Facebook page that I used to campaign with as it already had a following of community members. I created graphics with the Group information and included links to the Zoom, THE agenda, and access to our Dropbox. I viewed making that information more well known as the least that I could do to educate the public. Our community called on us to do something and I answered that call.

After speaking with County Counsel and Planning & Development Services (something else I was also told not to do), it is clear the direction that I was given by Jack was in conflict with the Brown Act and its 2020 AB 992 amendment. In the leadership meeting, my motives were questioned as to why I was sharing information and I was accused of not sharing it fairly with one officer claiming I have a specific following. I was chosen by the people of Fallbrook to sit on this board with you all and I will continue to serve our community because they are the reason I am sitting here. The community has called on us to make ourselves and our operations more accessible and transparent. I will continue to answer their call. My question to the rest of you, is will you fight against the benefits of technology or will you also give the people what they want?

To the leadership, if you don't remember what was said at the leadership meeting, please let me know because the meeting was recorded.

Respectfully submitted,



Ross L. Pike
Secretary
Fallbrook Planning Group