

County of San Diego
Jacumba Hot Springs Community Sponsor Group
Minutes for the JCSG Meeting held at 6 pm on July 11, 2022
Highland Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934

A. The July 11th, JCSG meeting was called to order at 6:02pm with Cousins, Curran, Diefenbach, and Westley present. Jeff Osborne was excused due to illness. Public: 17.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meeting held on June 13, 2022. *M/S to approve the draft minutes: Cousins/Westley. Passed: 4-0-0-1 (Osborne)*

D. Public Communication: The public may comment on any subject within the JCSG's jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda. (Speakers are limited to 2 minutes and no action can be taken on non-agenda items.)

Leah commented on the excessive number of palm trees (64) that were recently planted near Jacumba Lake.

Katrina congratulated Greg Curran on his exceptional community service that was recently recognized in four separate awards. She also thanked him for being a wonderful and caring member of the community.

The Chair announced that due to the recent complaints by a resident, the Jacumba post office will no longer allow the JCSG to post our meeting agendas. We will continue to physically post them at the library and senior center. It is a real shame that community members cannot seem to get along.

E. Action items: (Agenda items may be taken out of order upon request.)

1. Clarification of JCSG minutes procedures.

At our June meeting, the JCSG received negative feedback from two members of the public regarding the completeness of our meeting minutes.

Community sponsor groups are governed by BOS Policy I-1 and the Ralph M Brown Act. The Chair explained that meeting minutes represent a summary of discussions, not a transcript. She stated that unlike some of the JCSG's minutes from several years ago, the current Sponsor Group is documenting the group's business in detailed minutes which are posted the County's website: www.sandiegocounty.org. She also provided an example of the Jacumba Community Services District (JCSD) meeting minutes of February 2022 which by comparison, are not very comprehensive nor are they posted on the JCSD website for public review.

2. Update on memorial bridge naming.

The memorial bridge packages for the Bert Vaughn and the Patricia Fauble bridge have been received by Supervisor Anderson's staff. His staff expects to have the board letters on the memorial bridge naming ready for a September 2022 BOS meeting agenda.

Linda C. provided an update on the signature collection efforts for the proposed Dennis Ruth Memorial Bridge over Carrizo Creek. She is still working on getting the required 100 signatures of local Jacumba residents. When the sponsor group has the required signatures, it will vote to send a Dennis Ruth memorial bridge naming package to Supervisor Anderson's office.

3. Discuss feasibility of landscaping outside the JCSD water treatment plant on Old Highway 80.

The Chair provided photos of the chain link security fence with razor wire fence that surrounds the JCSD water treatment facility. (This fence is similar in nature to the JVR Solar facility's perimeter fencing and the developer is required to provide landscaping to minimize the facility's visual impact.) Prior to this meeting, the Chair contacted

the JCSD manager, who indicated that landscaping may be possible.

Several members of the public agreed that some sort of drought-tolerant honeysuckle or fruitless grapevines/Mexican Bird of Paradise/Palo Verde trees in front of the facility's fence could soften the industrial appearance of the facility.

Jacari suggested that JBRA might have a funding resource for obtaining plants.

The Chair will contact DPW to determine the width of the County Right-of-Way along that section of Old Highway 80 to determine if there is sufficient room to plant some vegetation and an update will be provided at the next sponsor group meeting.

4. Update on JVR Solar project and community benefits.

The outcome of the lawsuit against the JVR project is awaiting a decision by a San Diego judge. A determination of merit is expected soon.

The Chair provided information from Mark Slovick at County PDS regarding how the community will be able to access the \$3.55 in undesignated JVR community benefit funds from an escrow account, etc. Based on the Slovick email of July 8, 2022, any proposal to expend benefit funds must have the overall support of the community and the County review and approve all projects. Before any benefit funds are transferred to a local non-profit group or foundation, the County will require an agreement between the County, JVR Solar, and the non-profit that not only describes the specific purpose for which the funds will be used, it must show that the project has the support from community members.

Given that the County will require a community consensus for any proposal to spend or invest community benefit money, Jacumba needs to speak with a united voice on the projects we support. The question is how do we get community consensus---further prioritization via another community survey, public meetings or both?

Sam's comments: In order to get a reasonable community response, this group should authorize some volunteers to go door-to-door to ask residents about where they think some of the money should be spent.

Leah's comments: I will volunteer my time to go door-to-door to collect residents' priorities.

Maureen's comments: Based our past survey experience, a door-to-door survey would reach more people because some residents just do not come to meetings like this one.

Jacari's comments: Surveys should be anonymous, we just want to collect people's opinions, we don't need signatures.

Chair's comments: Given that our initial survey was quite broad, a postcard-sized survey with maybe just three to four questions would help to narrow the focus of the town's wants.

Sam's comments: During the original benefits survey, I spoke to over 80 people. For the vast majority of them, trash dumpsters were their number one priority followed by a local medical clinic. I don't believe many of the folks that I previously talked to, will come to a community meeting to provide their feedback on how to use the benefits money.

Linda R.'s comments: In the past, Jacumba had a medical clinic which operated at several different locations in town. However, it didn't see enough patients to stay open. We used to have a dump outside of Jacumba by the CALTRANS station. I think we should spend some money on the park because it would provide a place that could support outdoor activities that could bring this community together.

Jacari's comments: I agree with Linda--park improvements would improve park usage and help to bring the families in the community together.

Greg's comments: We could do a postcard survey (an EDDM) that is placed in every post office box and provide a place where completed surveys can be dropped off.

Kip's comments: I don't see how we are going to be able to get a consensus when we have groups within the community that are fighting with each other. We will need community reconciliation and unbiased citizens in order to get a consensus otherwise the benefit money will sit unused at the County.

Ben's comments: The Sponsor Group should provide some oversight in the determination of where benefit money should be spent. It is the right venue to build determine community consensus.

Chair's comments: While the Sponsor Group does not have any financial capacity, our meetings can provide the public with a transparent forum for determining community support for spending some of the money. I believe that any request to spend benefits money should come via the Sponsor Group before it goes to the County for approval.

Greg's comments: The Sponsor Group previously approved the formation of a special non-profit foundation that would determine how benefit money would be invested or spent.

Bill's comments: The JCSD has staff, a bank account, and 20 acres of park land where improvements can be made expeditiously. The JCSD will be able to execute a signed contract within 90 days of getting \$250K in designated funds from the JVR developer.

Chair's comments: The town still needs to determine whether to spend the \$3.55 million in undesignated funds on the park, use some money to fund other programs or facilities like the Highland Senior Center, or to invest some of the funds for future town needs.

Greg's comments: We should do a focused anonymous survey. When we get the survey results, the JCSG will hold a meeting to share the results with the community.

Kip's comments: If you want to put a survey in each Jacumba Post Office box, an Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) Retail mailer, will cost \$80. (Ben generously offered to pay that postal charge.)

At our next Sponsor Group meeting, we will determine the questions for a short-focused survey and decide whether to mail the survey or have volunteers take it door-to-door. (The Chair will pay for printing costs for the survey.) The Chair will also request further guidance from PDS on what they will require to demonstrate community "consensus" on spending JVR benefit money.

F. Group business/project updates, to include correspondence-discussion only:

1. Bridge petitions package mailed to Supervisor Anderson on June 14, 2022.

2. Radar speed signs. Waiting for a response from DPW.

3. Community interface reports.

a. **Real East Fire Safe Council.** A chipping event will be held on July 16 from 8am noon at the Backcountry Resource Center in Boulevard. Next FSC meeting is scheduled for July 18, at 6:30 pm in the Community Rm. at the Resource Center. It will be followed by a JBRA meeting.

b. **JBRA (Revitalization).** The JBRA group continues to seek funding sources to renovate/maintain the Resource Center.

c. **Highland Senior Center.**

Greg provided an update on the ongoing litigation initiated by the JCSD Board against the Highland Senior Center Board. He also provided information on upcoming events at the center.

G. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7pm. Next JCSG meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 8, 2022 at 6 pm.

Approved: Oct. 10, 2022