

MINUTES - JULIAN COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Monday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Julian Town Hall, Washington and Main Streets, Julian, CA 92036

A. Roll Call

Present: Pat Brown, Chair; William Everett, Vice Chair; Kiki Skagen Munshi, Secretary; Eric Jones (A), Rebecca Morales, Katherine Moretti, Kenny Mushet (A), Barbara Nigro (A), Rudy Rikansrud, Buddy Seifert, Romulus Smith: (A) = Absent

B. Approval of Minutes: February 12, 2024

Moved: Seifert

Seconded: Morales

Passed: Unanimous with Moretti abstaining

C. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Moretti with the proviso that Item E be moved to Updates and Reports

Seconded: Seifert

Passed: Unanimous as amended

D. Public Comments: Members of the public may address the Planning Group on any topic not on the agenda and those items posted on the agenda. A three (3) minute time limit is allowed per speaker unless otherwise negotiated with the Chair. Planning Group cannot discuss or vote on a topic but may place the item on a future agenda. Speakers are required to complete a Request to Speak form prior to the start of the meeting.

David Finley raised an issue about the highway in front of Spencer Valley School. Caltrans hasn't designated it as a school zone, drivers show no regard for speed limits and go by too fast. Now that there is a larger school, there is more traffic going into it, and sometimes cars are lined up and a big tractor trailer or other vehicles will pass them on the curve. The school has started writing letters but would also like the Planning Group to ask the County to enhance the school zone. Everett said we'll deal with it.

E. Action items (JCPG advisory vote may be taken on the following items)

No action items.

F. Updates and Reports

1) Hwy 78 improvement plans

(CALTRANS) Steve Waltworth (?) the Public Affairs Manager for Caltrans and a colleague made a lengthy presentation. They have fairly major project coming to Julian soon, which will include culverts and similar work, but there are some pedestrian enhancements, which are controversial. Their stated mission at this meeting was to present thinking and possible plans. The two made the presentation, a copy of which was given to the Planning Group. A long discussion about the intersection of Main and Washington ensued. Brown noted that the Planning Group had proposed a bypass years ago but it was turned down. There were similar problems with turnouts.

The initial plans presented had the effect of narrowing the road both on Washington south of the intersection and on Main west of the intersection. The Planning Group pointed out that this would materially slow traffic and result in longer backups and waits for cars wishing to traverse the intersection which, especially on weekends, could result in major traffic congestion.

Everett subsequently asked if they could address the problem of a school zone. The Caltrans team said they can't to it now but will take it under advisement. Moretti pointed out that Julian is a historic district and any/any changes need to take ARB into consideration. Caltrans said they would do that. Another audience member suggested brick patterns for crosswalks so they would be visible, as in Ramona.

2) Second Street trailer park (Vice Chairman Everett)

Next to the original Julian school is a trailer park that has been there for many years. Since about 2020 new trailers have been added but that is apparently legal.

3) Income-based Utility Rate Structure (Vice Chairman Everett/Secretary Munshi)

The California Public Utilities Commission has proposed (pursuant to recent legislation) basing utility rates primarily on income levels rather than usage. This would hurt solar users and discourage the use of solar power. It would also lessen the amount that would be defrayed by generator usage during outages. The best course of action would be for individuals to talk to their state representatives.

4) Paving of C Street north of 2nd Street (Morales)

Jim Brinson made a presentation. He lives on C street where splits off to the mine. There is heavy use of the road by tourists going to the mine tours. Residents have tried to get County to help pave it but the County basically says residents should pay for it as it presently is a County owned but not maintained road. The residents want the road to be put into the

County maintained road system as the majority of people who use aren't residents. Brown said that the road is an easement that County has accepted, but they don't maintain it because the site distance on top of the curve doesn't meet county standards. Moretti said they would if property owners brought their road to County standards, then they'll maintain it. Another problem is that the road isn't wide enough. Everett said we would look into it and see what we can do to help.

5) Appointment of Planning Group representative to the ARB (Chairman Brown)

Pat Brown, who is on the ARB, will be the representative.

6) Potential Microbrewery on Slumbering Oaks Trail (Loomis)

Brandon Fender (property owner) made a presentation, arguing that the potential microbrewery would not disrupt life for neighbors. He said that so far there has been no application for a permit for a brewery, so there isn't anything really to be done at this point. He and his wife (Robyn Spevacek) are building a single family home but wanted that property because it is zoned A70 which means agricultural uses are permitted. They have been in communication with the County about opening a small brewery similar to a small winery but at this point it's just an idea. At the moment only the house is being built, no other improvements. They are planning on building a business that's small that they can financially survive on and believe they have the right to do so. One audience member was worried about traffic; another worried about water. There were a number of questions afterwards. No vote was taken by the JCPG.

G. Group Business – Information and Correspondences

1) Community Planning Groups Required Training, Form 700

Form 700 was required to be submitted by April 3rd.

NEXT MEETING: April 8, 2024

H. Adjournment

Moved: Morales

Seconded: Seifert

Approved: Unanimous

The Julian Planning Group (JCPG) is not empowered by ordinance or policy to render a decision of any kind on behalf of the County of San Diego or its elected or appointed officials. The function of the JCPG is to advise and assist the County of San Diego officials on matters of planning and land use affecting the group's area.

Members: Pat Brown, Chair; William Everett, Vice Chair; Kiki Skagen Munshi, Secretary; Eric Jones, Rebecca Morales, Katherine Moretti, Kenny Mushet, Barbara Nigro, Rudy Rikansrud, Buddy Seifert, Romulus Smith