County of San Diego
Ramona Community Planning Group
MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2026
7:00 PM @ the Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Lauren Elyse Welty,RCPG Chair

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3: ROLL CALL (Welty, RCPG Chair)

In Attendance:	Basil Aruin (Arr. 7:10 PM)	Mauren Dant	Jonas Dyer
	Holly Hamilton-Bleakley	Kristi Mansolf	Robin Joy Maxson
	Terry Maxson	Dawn Perfect	Andrew Simmons
	Lauren Elyse Welty		

Members absent: Janelle Clark, Debbie Foster, Andrea Gibson, Paul Stykel, Dustin Turley

Lauren Elyse Welty, RCPG Chair, acted as Chair of the meeting, Robin Joy Maxson, RCPG Vice-Chair, acted as Vice-Chair of the meeting, and Kristi Mansolf, RCPG Secretary, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF RCPG MINUTES 9-3-26 (Action)

Ms. Mansolf said the September 3, 2026, RCPG minutes were not ready yet.

The Chair said she will table the approval of the September 3, 2026, RCPG minutes until the November 5, 2026, RCPG meeting.

.ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:
Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Group on any subject matter within the Group's jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda. Speakers will submit a speaker slip to the Vice Chair, each speaker is limited to 3 minutes, and the elected body of the RCPG cannot respond.

ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF ORDER OF THE AGENDA (Action)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Upon motion made by Dawn Perfect and seconded by Terry Maxson, the motion **passed 9-0-0-0-0-6,** with Basil Aruin, Janelle Clark, Debbie Foster, Andrea Gibson, Paul Stykel and Dustin Turley absent.

(*Basil Aruin arrived at 7:10 pm)*

ITEM 7: ACTION ITEMS:

7-A: ***INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY*** : Update from San Diego County Sheriff's Department - Ramona Substation for the community of Ramona.

Lieutenant Roller gave the report for SR 67 for September. There were 54 stops and 22 citations issued. The top speed recorded was 90 mph in a 50 mph zone. For the patrol, there were 28 arrests, 133 traffic stops, 36 pedestrian stops and 44 citations issued.

Ms. Perfect asked what the biggest problems were during this time frame?

Lieutenant Roller said the biggest problems were narcotics and violence among family members.

Ms. Maxson asked about the homeless population that was sent here from Escondido?

Lieutenant Roller said that some are from Oceanside. Ramona has a HHSA facility. Homeless people think we have facilities for them when they come here. They come to the Sheriff's office and ask for hotel vouchers.

Ms. Maxson said Ramona has the PATH Program.

Lieutenant Roller said Ramona also has the Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART) program, which provides services for the homeless.

Speaker: Steve Kiesel, Ramona Resident

Mr. Kiesel received a notice from the County on a proposed development in his neighborhood. The notice said to come to the RCPG meeting on the first of the month at the Library – but then he found out the meeting was at the Community Center.

Ms. Mansolf asked to see the project notification. The project is proposed at 967 Hanson Lane, and the RCPG just received the paperwork for the project, so it hasn't been added to the agenda yet. She will send him the subcommittee agenda, if a subcommittee will be reviewing the project, and the RCPG agenda for when the project is on the RCPG agenda. The project should be on the November 5, 2026, RCPG agenda.

7-B: TRANSPORTATION/TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

Perfect (Chair)

1. ***INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY***: Warmington 9th Street; 88 single family homes. Trail Waiver Request

Ms. Perfect said a motion was made and voted on to approve the new trail connection item at the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee meeting; however, since the County has asked recently that we not vote on the item, she would not be bringing the motion/action that was taken at the subcommittee meeting forward.

2. ***INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY:*** Sidewalk connectivity in town center. Basil Aruin will share information for possible action & future project requests.

Ms. Perfect said many areas of sidewalk are either incomplete or in poor condition, particularly D Street in walking distance of Ramona Elementary. Mr. Aruin will provide a map indicating deficiencies in the Town Center. Members are encouraged to contribute items in need of improvement as opportunities arise with development or grants. This will be an ongoing topic.

3. ***INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY:*** Public Transportation: SANDAG & RMWD exploring routes. County "Last Mile" initiative.

Ms. Perfect said Transportation/Trails Subcommittee members were updated on the status of public transportation options and were encouraged to submit comments, particularly to RMWD for their grant funded project.

4. **ACTION:** Stop sign at end of Raymond where it intersects with Etcheverry.

Ms. Perfect said the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee discussed the stop sign at the end of Raymond Avenue, where it intersects with Etcheverry Street, as requested by the County. She brought forward the following motion that was made and approved at the subcommittee meeting:

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE COUNTY INSTALLING A STOP SIGN AT THE END OF RAYMOND WHERE IT INTERSECTS WITH ETCHEVERRY.

Upon motion made by Dawn Perfect and seconded by Jonas Dyer, the motion **passed 10-0-0-0-5,** with Janelle Clark, Debbie Foster, Andrea Gibson, Paul Stykel, Dustin Turley absent.

Ms. Perfect said the following items will be on a future Transportation/Trails Subcommittee Agenda for discussion:

- Consideration of a sign at 13th Street to stop traffic approaching D Street.
- RICC: a walkable path is needed between the Library and County Resource Center. May be an item for Parks Subcommittee as well, since it should be integrated into the campus landscaping.

7-C: ***INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY***: Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) is collecting feedback on possible park grant applications for a $8.5 million grant that is due in December 2026. Current ideas include but are not limited to: 1) relocating the senior center into a new facility and turning the existing community center into a teen center with a skatepark to be built in a future phase, and 2) expanding the soccer fields. New park facilities, expansion of park facilities and renovation of existing facilities are eligible for this grant opportunity.

Erica Wolski, RMWD General Manager, made the presentation. The RMWD is gathering feedback on how to spend grant funds. A grant application is in progress currently and due October 13, 2027. For this grant, their goals are to clean up the 7th Street entrance. They will be working with the Ramona Trails Association on this. Shade, picnic tables, benches and a nature play area are planned. Vegetation will be reduced. They will look at other areas in the park to see where they can do similar improvements.

A Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) grant is being offered through the State Department of Parks and Recreation. The applications are due December 17, 2027. They are expected to be awarded in summer of 2027 and completed by summer of 2031. The grant request range is $200,000 to $8.5 million. Options for that grant includes new parks, renovation of parks and expansion of parks. Pocket parks are also an option for this grant. The grant pays for capital costs only and recreational features must be added. Only one application can be submitted per park. Eligibility requirements include park acreage within a 0.5 mile radius. Points are given for median household income and proximity to climate vulnerabilities. Public comments received in 2024 showed a preference for youth focused activities, such as a skate park, teen center, junior fair concerns and a BMX park. Other activites favored including a walking path, exercise area, dog park, mural, an event hall/picnic area and pickleball area.

Potential projects – Idea 1: Create a new senior center with outdoor amenities. For this they would acquire a site to build an 8,000 square foot building. Outdoor amenities for the future would include pickleball, bocce ball, community gardens, and more. This would allow use by a wider range of seniors. The cost for land and a new building is approximately $10 million. This would allow the use of the existing site for teen and child focused amenities, such as a teen center, skate park, BMX park, a splash pad and more. There is a vacant 2.5 acre parcel that is not in the floodplain that could be used. The ultimate project depends on available funding and what fits in a 2.5 acre area. The Ramona Trails staging area will be moving to Elm Street. Idea 2 could be to expand soccer fields.

There is a Measure P backup plan where renovations eligible for up to $8.5 million would be considered. This would include the Thomsen building rebuild with a new commercial kitchen, estimated at $2 million. New items, of $3.3 million or less could fund a dog park

The Chair suggested created a Google Doc form for people to use to submit ideas. She thought it would be worth doing as there will be so many opinions that will be shared.

Ms. Maxson said she likes the idea of a teen center and more soccer fields. If we have more soccer fields in Ramona, possibly we could have a State Cup here.

Ms. Perfect said she would like to see a splash pad. There are some community gardens in Ramona now, but they are underutilized. People want pickleball in Ramona.

The Chair said the shift in the Senior Center would be an all encompassing shift.

Ms. Wolski said they will need more than $8.5 million to move the seniors. They would need

$10 million. A new Senior Center could be built in phases.

The Chair said it would be easier to remodel than to completely replace the Senior Center.

Ms. Perfect asked who would be using the existing Senior Center if a new one is built? If there is a teen center, who would operate and maintain it?

Ms. Wolski said the Senior Center in Ramona will continue. There are no other Meals on Wheels locations in Ramona. The Senior Center could be at risk of going out of business in the future due to cuts in County funding.

Ms. Perfect said it was probably good to not lean so much on the Senior Center as to focus on the Community Center.

Ms. Maxson said the County Library offers programs, but it is different.

Ms. Wolski said the Senior Center operates from 8 am to 4 pm, and then the Community Center becomes available. There are not a lot of other cool buildings in the summer for seniors in Ramona.

Ms. Dant said there has been a desire to have a skate park here for a very long time.

Ms. Wolski said if the seniors move, the Community Center can be more family focused. If at the RICC, the skate park will be needed to be operated by a non profit. A skate park at the Senior Center may not be liked by the seniors. Ms. Wolski said that most seniors use the shuttle or drive to the Senior Center now.

Mr. Aruin said a Senior Center is needed here. A lot of children have needs that could be put ahead of building a brand new senior center. There are a lot of younger families coming to Ramona who like it here and want to buy a home. The skate park has been on our list for 30 years.

Mr. Dyer said the Senior Center/Community Center property is good for children's activities since it is located near many sports fields.

Ms. Perfect said a splash pad and pickleball courts cover recreational needs of toddlers through seniors.

Ms. Dant said a splash pad would be good for families. Some people want a swimming pool.

Ms. Wolski said they are looking for a place to put a splash pad.

Ms. Maxson said Santee Parks has everything. It is a nicely done, feel safe park. It's been there for years. It is a soccer filled park with a splash pad.

Ms. Wolski said the RMWD wants to see what to apply for. No decisions have been made on

which projects to pursue. They will consider a new Senior Center, creating a family focused space, and adding more soccer fields at the park. They will look into seeing what types of projects will be the most competitive for this grant program.

7-D: ***INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY****:* Association of Planning Groups (APG) Report on updates in the unincorporated area
Maxson

Ms. Maxson gave the APG Report. Some SANDAG highway facilities have high occupancy managed lanes where single drivers pay a fee if they drive in them. SANDAG is working to get more of these facilities in San Diego County. SANDAG doesn't know how much money is coming in from these facilities. They would like to expand this system to other freeways.

The APG is working on getting a voting seat on SANDAG. They are working to move this forward. There are 58 counties in California. They would like to ask all counties questions about land use and road use. The local Associations of Government don't need to reinvent the wheel. The change relating to getting the voting seat needs to be made in Sacramento. Our State representatives need to know we are being left out of being able to vote and we are losing the benefit of tax dollars. The process has been started. How do we get our share of tax dollars?

ITEM 8: GROUP BUSINESS (Possible Action)

8-A: Announcements and Correspondence Received

Ms. Mansolf said County Vegetation Management sent out a notice of a pine tree removal at 717 9th Street, in the County Right of Way due to damage to the road, walkway and private driveway. The tree removal will happen after October 18, 2026.

Ms. Maxson said she reported a safety concern to Caltrans, on SR 78 Indian Oaks Drive and Horizon View Drive. She read Caltrans response from after they investigated the safety concern. 'Caltrans Traffic & Safety Operations-East Branch investigated your concern and advised delineators will be installed along the eastbound left-hand curve to help road users navigate the roadway alignment. The order will be forwarded to our maintenance division. Please allow 6-12 months for delivery, scheduling and installation. Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.'

8-B: Action: Acceptance of Resignation of Current Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Chair *And* Appointment of Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Chair for Remainder of 2026

Mr. Aruin said he will be moving out of Ramona. An exact date has not been determined yet, but it could happen in the near future, so he wanted to resign as the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Chair

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR, BASIL ARUIN, AND TO CONFIRM MAUREEN DANT AS THE PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR UNTI THE FEBURARY, 2027, RCPG MEETING.

Upon motion made by Chair Lauren Elyse Welty and seconded by Basil Aruin, the motion **passed 10-0-0-0-0-5,** with Janelle Clark, Debbie Foster, Andrea Gibson, Paul Stykel and Dustin Turley absent.

8-C: Discussion Items:

1. Concerns from Members

The Chair invited the 2 speakers for Non Agenda Items to speak under Concerns from Members.

Speaker: Jim Hagey, Ramona Resident

Mr. Hagey said he is speaking regarding the land behind Stater Brothers, where a new, large development is being proposed. He asked that the RCPG ask for big front porches to help avoid sprawl. He asked that the RCPG let it be known that Ramona likes big front porches. For the development, there will be front porches for about 130 homes. He asked that the RCPG ask for a front porch that is at least 8 feet deep. He also asked that they be elevated at least 30 inches. The front porches should span at least 60 percent of the front of the house, or it would be preferred if they span the full front of the house. Alleys would help with this, too. Developers don't like having front porches and alleys because they won't be able to build as many homes.

Speaker: Cheryl Wegner, Ramona Resident

Ms. Wegner spoke as a representative for the Ramona Trails Association (RTA) on the County/Ramona Community Trails Master Plan. Since 2008, hardly any pathways or trails have come up as part of new projects. These projects are coming from PDS. For projects that are already in the process, trails that are on the Trails Master Plan are being changed or not considered by new projects. RTA has tried to suggest alternatives, but often things have already been decided without trail/pathway considerations. Trail configurations that are already planned for need to be kept as part of the project plans and recognized as such early in the project. There are also places where there is no trail/pathway/sidewalk connection, and it seems as though there should be, such as by the new Community Resource Center and the Ramona Library, where connecting those two community resources with a sidewalk and bridge over the drainage swale would be helpful and logical.

The Chair said to add this item as a future agenda item.

Ms. Maxson said she has concerns about the Ramona Master Trail Plan. Projects are supposed to adhere to the Plan if their development crosses a proposed trail or pathway and the trail/pathway is already on the plan. It seems that Planning and Development Services (PDS) stopped including our trail plan when they have new projects and now we have gaps in our trail system. She would like PDS to come and explain to us how our Ramona Master Trail Plan is developing and if it is still referenced during project development/approval.

2. Future Agenda Item Requests

Ms. Maxson asked to have on a future agenda working on the return of the PLDO money ($750,000) that was supposed to be used by our community and that was redirected without the RCPG input. These funds came from our community.

The Chair said there have been unanswered emails and questions on this topic and she thinks it has been dropped.

Ms. Maxson asked for this to be a future agenda item. The money was for a skate park and this is not okay.

3. Addition and Confirmation of New/Continuing Subcommittee Members *(None brought forward)*

4. Reimbursement Request to PDS for the Secretary for copies made for the 9-3-26 and 10-1-26 meetings

Mr. Mansolf said she spent $15.75 for copies for the September 3, 2026, RCPG meeting, and $9.00 for copies for the October 1, 2026, RCPG meeting.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST, SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY, FOR THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 RCPG MEETING, IN THE AMOUNT OF $15.75, AND $9.00 FOR THE OCTOBER 1, 2026, RCPG MEETING.

Upon motion made by Andrew Simmons and seconded by Robin Joy Maxson, the motion **passed 10-0-0-0-5,** with Janelle Clark, Debbie Foster, Andrea Gibson, Paul Stykel and Dustin Turley absent.

8-D: Ramona Design Review Board Report – Update on Projects Reviewed

The Chair gave the Ramona Design Review Board report in Ms. Gibson's absence.
The Ramona Boutique Hotel item was tabled. The Ramona Town Hall issue to move the electrical main switch board was approved, as was the Manzanita Roasting Company signage, Officers were elected for 2026-2027. For Code Enforcement – 4 locations were removed from the top 10 list and the following 3 new locations were added as follows with a vote of the DRB:

- 2330 Main Street, "Utopia for Lease" sign
- New Greek food shop signage at 1662 Main Street
- Signage at the intersection of Dye Road and SR 67

8-E. Meeting Updates

1. Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and TAC Meetings

The Chair said the Board of Supervisors will be meeting on October 6, the Planning Commission on October 16 and the TAC on October 2.

2. Future Group Meeting Dates – Next RCPG Meeting to be 11-5-26 at the Ramona Community Library, 1275 Main St. (if available)

Ms. Mansolf said she checked before the meeting, and the Community Room at the Ramona Library is not available on November 5, 2026, probably due to the elections, as was the case in 2024, around the same time.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Mansolf

The RCPG is advisory only to the County of San Diego. Community issues not related to planning and land use are not within the purview of this group. Item #5: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the RCPG on any subject within the group's jurisdiction that does not appear as an item on this agenda. The RCPG cannot discuss these matters except to place them on a future agenda, refer them to a subcommittee, or to County staff. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes. Please fill out a speaker request form located at the rear of the room and present to Vice Chairperson. Public Disclosure: We strive to protect personally identifiable information by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information that may be collected becomes public record that may be subject to inspection and copying by the public,
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