

County of San Diego Sweetwater Community Planning Group

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY

June 4, 2019 7:00PM

Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Station 4900 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902

Administrative Items

Co-Chair Steve Stonehouse brought the meeting to order at 7:00

Item #1: Roll call: Secretary Liz Stonehouse called the roll by name. Steve Stonehouse co-chair, Harriet Taylor co-chair, Daryl Hern, Uwe Werner, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Daniel Diaz, Shane Parmaly, John Taylor, Sheri Todus, Michael Garrod, Michael Clowers, Diane Carter.

Excused: Mark Kukuchek

Item #2: Approval of minutes. March minute corrections: There were many residents from the Jonel Way area in attendance. The signs were the stop signs at San Miguel Road. The motion; to approve with corrections, was made by Judy and seconded by Sheri. By roll: fourteen ayes, no noes, and one excused, Mark Kukuchek.

Item #3 Opportunity of members of the public to speak to Planning Group on items not on the agenda. Three minutes please: Uwe as a citizen spoke about some poplars that had been cut down at the Christmas Tree Farm. Marshall Anderson, our current liaison from Supervisor Cox's office said that he would look into it. Sheri wanted to know how to get help concerning some people adjacent to her property. She was advised to contact Eric Lardy.

Action Item

Item #4: Tree Removal Corner of Mesa Vista Way and Bonita Mesa Road. Auggie Rodriguez, Vegetation Manager, San Diego County Public Works presenting. Mr. Rodriguez did not come to the meeting. So Co-chair Steve Stonehouse, took over the Q and A.

The tree had been there since 1954. Recently someone had planted a hedge around their property which interfered with the driving line of sight. Members of the public in a response to complaints trimmed the area in and around the tree. That helped the line of sight, but did not stop drivers from cutting the corner.

The options for this situation are 1.remove the tree or vegetation.

2. Review corner and wider street removing all trees and/or shrubs and putting in sidewalks. 3. A three way stop. 4. Do nothing.

There followed a great deal of discussion on the subjects of kids, safety and cars. Shane defended the tree. She made the motion: To table this discussion until County Representatives can attend our meeting to address the situation. In the meantime nothing is to be done about the Olive tree on the corner of Mesa Vista Way and Bonita Mesa Road. Judy seconded. Vote by roll, 13 aye, one noe Tony Tieber, and one excused, Mark Kukuchek.

Sheri then motioned: That this corner be examined concerning thinning the hedge and that Safe Ways to School, and County Traffic be requested to put in

signage, stop signs and maintain the tree. Vote: 14 aye, one excused, Mark Kukuchek

Non-Action Items

Item #5: Draft Zoning Ordinance for small cell wireless facilities. Tara Liberman and Eric Lardy presenting. Quickly put, the FCC has ruled that small cell towers can exist within usage areas and that the County cannot impede. The County has filed a court case against this action, but does need to put certain procedures into place. The County will decide what usage areas are within the Sweetwater Area but does not know them at this time. Most of the questions asked, such as "are the microwaves going to be harmful?" or "are you going to allow more than one carrier on a pole?" were deflected.

What was gleaned from this discussion are the following: That cell tower owners must follow our design guidelines concerning the poles; towers are allowed within the public right-of-way as long as they do not block it; that they must notify Planning Group but not get our approval; that design period is sixty days; that homeowners can argue that 500 feet is too close for these towers.

Item #6: Community update: Marshall Anderson presenting. Marshall is our temporary Liaison from Supervisor Greg Cox's office: The dedication of the Community Garden is to be June 29th at 10AM at the Garden property. 619-818-8401 for information.

The State of Bonita is slated for August 7 at 6:30 at the Community Room of the Library. The county is looking for a new member of the CSA Advisory Board 135. Ace Self Storage is not coming before the Planning Commission until this winter.

Item #7: Diane Carter with Trails report. Diane read the following letter aloud:

June 9, 2019

San Diego County Supervisor, Greg Cox
San Diego County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego CA 92101

Dear Supervisor Cox:

As you are aware, members of the Sweetwater Community Planning Group (SCPG) met with General Manager Land Use and Environmental Group, Sarah Agassi relative to several issues, including the Community Garden. Basically, all the issues stemmed from the impression of exclusion of the SCPG in both Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Department of Planning Service (DPS) projects.

One of the PDR projects we were concerned about was the Community Garden, specifically that the planner listened to all the suggestions brought forth by the SCPG and then did not incorporate any of those suggestions nor explain why

they were not incorporated. Ms. Agassi and Mr. Albright both recognized the issue was one of lack of communication between the planners and the SCPG. As a result, they committed that future projects would be brought before the SCPG at all phases of the design process prior to the final design (which according to County Legal Counsel cannot be shared with the SCPG). In addition, Ms. Agassi and Mr. Albright requested that members of the SCPG meet with the Regional Conservation District (RCD) who are the operators of the Community Garden to assure that the bylaws of the garden and the lease was formed with conditions to assure uniformity and neatness of appearance. On May 28th, 2019, Mark Kukuchek, Diane Carter, and Daryl Hern met with Sheryl Landrum, Executive Director, RCD and Ann Baldrige, Program Manager RCD. Brian Albright, and Matt Bohan, DPR Operations Chief (South). The SCPG members were encouraged by this meeting as it was the first step toward better communication and the RCD shared our vision for the Garden. In fact, we hope to actively partner with RCD to create a beautiful and functional educational space. However, several issues were raised which we would like to ask for your assistance solving.

We agreed to make the Community Garden aesthetically pleasing, no sheds would be built, that large boxes would be allowed for storage of tools, and the type and dimensions would be specified by RCD. We agreed that pop-up tents would not be allowed for shade, at the same time we acknowledge that some type of Shade structure is necessary for the gardeners. Ann Baldrige stated she has a list of Bylaws currently being used by the Tijuana Valley River Community Garden, would make changes and forward that as a start to create bylaws for the Sweetwater Community Garden.

We explained the vision of the SCPG was that the Community Garden would have as its primary focus, education. We explained that we saw the Garden as more than just a mass of individual plots, but a place that the schools could use for educational field trips, the Bonita Garden Club could hold meetings there, that RCD or the University Extension program could hold workshops and classes to serve the Sweetwater area. RCD agreed that this was their vision as well. They stated that education was the primary focus of their group. We emphasized that was why the SCPG was concerned that there was no shade structure available that would serve as a classroom, meeting area in the garden. After discussion, County Parks stated they believed that a shade structure/classroom/picnic area could be constructed which would meet flood zone requirements for the area and this this was an important component of the garden that had not been included. A community shade structure would also alleviate the problem of gardeners erecting their own individual shade structures, which we agreed would not be aesthetically pleasing, and as a result prohibited in the garden bylaws.

We then went out and toured the Garden Space. During our tour we discovered other issues that still need to be addressed.

- The individual plots are divided into two separate plots with a spigot in between, however the plots are not separated at the opening. Another fence panel needs to be added from the spigot to the gate opening to truly separate the two plots. Each gardener needs a plot fully enclosed and designated as their own.
- There are no gates for the individual plots, just a large opening. Again, the Bonita Community Garden needs to look neat and uniform. Allowing the individual gardeners to build their own gates, will not be aesthetically pleasing. In addition, many of these gardeners will not be able to build and attach a gate to their plot making these plots unusable.
- Plot fencing does not go all the way to the ground, allowing rabbits and ground squirrels to destroy the crops being grown.
- Beautiful compost boxes have been built, which RCD wants to use for demonstrations and workshops on composting and vermiculture, however nearby plots will need to be removed or reconfigured to allow for access to workshop attendees.

We would like your assistance to make the Community Garden a valuable asset to the community. Both RCD and the SCPG agree that the focus of the garden should be on education and without a large shade structure which can be used as a classroom and meeting area for the gardeners it cannot serve this purpose.

DPR indicated that no funding remained for identified needs (Shade structure, fencing, gates) which are critical to make the garden meet its intended and desired function-ability. Can your office identify additional funding to accomplish the above goals? It may be better funded through a community grant to RCD as they are now on board as the garden's operator. Either way we believe that without this additional funding, the Garden will not reach its potential for the community or the operator.

We appreciate your continued efforts to maximize the usage of County lands in Bonita. We are excited to see long term goals come to fruition, including the Bike Skills Park and the Glen Abby Trail. We believe this additional funding will allow the new Community Garden and RCD (the operator) to maximize its usage as a valuable educational facility.

Sincerely,

Sweetwater Community Planning Group

Cc:
Sarah Agassi (DCAO), General Land Use and Environmental Group

Brian Albright, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Sheryl Landrum, Executive Director, resource Conservation District

Updates

Item #8: Announcements: Daryl mentioned that the Annual Museum Gala is June 29th at \$100.00 a ticket. The Nuestra Frontera, South Bay Families exhibition at Bonita Museum should be worth it. This exhibit shows some of what life was like for the earliest settlers to modern times.

There will be a Bonitafest. The Michael Atwood is doing it September 21. The Melodrama will be " Green Heroes and White Doves" September 25th through the 29th.

Adjourned: 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted

Liz Stonehouse, Secretary

Sweetwater Community Planning Group

Next meeting 7PM July 2, 2019

Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department

Community Room