Valley Center Community Planning Group

Minutes for a regular meeting held on February 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Valley Center Community Hall, 28246 Lilac Road, Valley Center, California 92082.

CHAIR: Oliver Smith
VICE-CHAIR: Jeana Boulos
SECRETARY: Kathy MacKenzie

A=Absent; Ab=Abstention; BOS=Board of Supervisors; PDS=Department of Planning & Development Services; DPW=Department of Public Works; DRB=Valley Center Design Review Board; GP= County General Plan; N=Nay; P=Present; PC=County Planning Commission; PSR=Property Specific Requests; R=Recused; SC=Subcommittee; TBD=To Be Determined; VCCPG=Valley Center Community Planning Group; VC= Valley Center; VCPRD=Valley Center Parks & Recreation District; Y=Yea

A. Roll Call
   • Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. and a Quorum was established with 12 members present and 3 seat vacancies.

   Jeana Boulos - P       Steve Hutchison - P       Oliver Smith - P
   William Del Pilar - P   Susan Janisch - P       Jon Vick - P
   Susan Fajardo - P      Jennifer Lindley - P      Vacant
   James Garritson - P    Kathy MacKenzie - P      Vacant
   Delores Chavez Harmes-P LaVonne Norwood - P      Vacant

   • Chairman Smith informs the four candidates (3 to Valley Center Planning Group and 1 to Lilac Design Review Board) have been delayed in being seated due to County unable to read applications. Applications have been re-submitted and received by the County, and these people should be seated at next meeting on March 11, 2019.

B. Pledge of Allegiance - Ms. Janisch

C. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of January 14, 2018
   • Motion: To approve the January 14, 2018 Minutes.
   • Maker/Second: Boulos/Norwood
   • Motion Carries 12-0-0 (Y-N-Ab).

D. Public Communication/Open Forum Members of the public may address the Planning Group on any topic not on the agenda.
   • No Comments from public.
   • Ms. Norwood asks for clarification of timeline for the work being done on Valley
Center Road. Chairman Smith explains it is work being done by the Municipal Water District to lay piping from the Woods Treatment plant so water can be provided to both the North and South Villages. He also advised there is another project with the Aqueduct that will be blocked, drained and inspected. This is part of the regular maintenance and will be done from February 23 through March 5, 2019. The Chairman further explained that the county new road surface rule calls that no cuts are made for three years except for emergencies, and that is why all this work is being done now. Ms. Norwood repeated her question, asking when the work will be complete on Valley Center Road. Mr. David Ross, Editor of the Valley Center Roadrunner newspaper, answered her question, informing the work should be done by the end of April 2019.

E. Action items

1. **Summary and discussion of Cole Grade Road improvement project Recirculated EIR (Vick).**

   * Mr. Vick passed out a three-page summary of the EIR explaining new information came after the EIR was circulated (see attachment A). The new information is archeologists discovered Native American artifacts close to the right of way. However upon further investigation, the project will proceed with grading as planned, the project will void boulders and the new information does not affect the trail. The public has until March 1, 2019 to make comments. The EIR can be found at the library or online at [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/.../cole-grade-rd.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/.../cole-grade-rd.html)

   * Chairman Smith inquired if anyone wanted to motion this item be put on the future agenda.

   * Ms. Chavez-Harmes inquired if handouts can be received earlier (Mr. Vick’s handouts). Chairman Smith and Ms. Norwood both advised doing so would violate the Brown act. Mr. Hutchison mentioned the information is generated by the county at the above-referenced website link. Ms. Boulos suggests supporting documents come with agenda, if at all possible. Mr. Vick comments he could have gotten the documents to us earlier with the exception of the timeline. Ms. Norwood suggests Secretary (Ms. MacKenzie) add the links in the meeting minutes). Mr. Hutchison advises information distributed to the Planning Group must to be made public at the same time, i.e., 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting. Ms. Boulos urges group to move forward.

   * Ms. Janisch asks how long the trail will be. Mr. Vick informs her 2.8 miles.

   * Ms. Janisch inquired as to the deadline date for public input/comments. Mr. Vick responded March 1, 2019.

   * Mr. Vick mentioned that the County has applied for a $475,000 grant to pay for trail amenities (fencing, picnic tables, benches, historical markers, etc.) The question was raised by Mr. Garritson as to the cost of the Heritage Trail. Mr. Vick says he does not have that information available. Mr. Garritson asks why these new roads are so expensive - $18 million dollars.

   * Mr. Vick pointed out this project includes rest areas, picnic areas along the trails and
2. **Summary and discussion of CP Update Kickoff Meeting Thursday, January 31 at the Maxine Theatre (Hutchison).**

- Despite driving rain, approximately 400 Valley Center residents came to the kick-off meeting – nearly a full house.
- This meeting was an introduction to the general plan update. Mr. Hutchison explained some people came there thinking about personal projects and needs, yet this was a high-level overview.
- The County had lots of people in attendance to help with questions.
- The next stage will be architectural charrette review and input. This next meeting takes place in possibly December 2019. Mr. Hutchison advised people to find updated information published in the Roadrunner newspaper when it becomes available.
- Chairman Smith wanted every Valley Center resident to hear all that was said and all questions and all the answers at the same time. Because that was accomplished, he thinks the meeting was an overall success compared to the aborted meeting that was called off after 15 minutes at the Water District offices due to overcrowding.
- For more information and update on this project visit: [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/CommunityGroups/vccpu/](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/CommunityGroups/vccpu/)

3. **Discussion of VC History Museum request to have Rite Aid property uncover and activate the time and temperature signage as was historically at the location at the southeast corner of VC Rd. and Cole Grade Rd. (Del Pilar)**

- Del Pilar wants to meet with the Valley Center Historical Society (VCHS) regarding this sign.
- Mr. Garritson said he was not impressed with what the Historical Society has been doing. (The Valley Center Historical Society's mission is to seek, accumulate, preserve, and display facts and knowledge relating to the history of Valley Center and the surrounding area.)
- Chairman Oliver Smith suggested the North Village Subcommittee should review this.
- Mr. Kevin Smith, from the audience, mentioned that Rite Aid has not be willing to work
with the Valley Center Planning Group in the past, so why would they be willing to work with them now? In his opinion the project is a waste of time and money.

- Ms. Boulos agrees with Mr. Smith.
- Ms. Norwood makes the suggestion to write a letter.
- Mr. Vick supports the VCHS and encourages the VCCPG to support their efforts at retaining things of historical significance in Valley Center.
- Mr. Del Pilar wants to hear citizen input before making a recommendation.
- Mr. Smith asks if someone would like to propose this be an agenda item.
- Mr. Del Pilar suggests it be made an agenda item after the North Village reviews it and determination is made of where we stand.
- Mr. Vick suggests it goes to the Valley Center Design Review Board (VCDRB) and Ms. Chavez-Harmes agrees with Mr. Vick.
- **Motion: No motion was made or vote taken.**

4. **Discussion of planned change of gas station sign from United Oil to Chevron (Vick).**

- Mr. Vick did not attend the February 4, 2019 VCDRB meeting and has not receive a report or minutes yet.
- Mr. Kevin Smith of the audience shares that the sign will be a change of logos. Originally the sign was to be backlit, but that is against the lighting rules in this area, so the VCDRB advised to use approved lighting.
- Mr. Vick states in the past, in his experience on the South Village subcommittee, they have gone along with the recommendations of the VCDRB.
- Chairman Smith says there is no need to put this item on the agenda.
- **Motion: No motion was made or vote taken.**

5. **Discussion and possible recommendation vote on parcels outside of village areas requesting sewer connections (Smith).**

- When Valley Center Road was widened between 2007 and 2009, from the hill to Cole Grade road, the County bought or took by eminent domain land to build the road. During this process one or two buildings just north of Lilac Road on the east side were razed. Since then a PSR (Property Service Request) has been received to apply for a sewer line by Dr. Matt Matthews.
- Mr. Hutchison said at the time VCCPG originally reviewed the PSR, there was a desire to maintain two distinct villages. Approving the PSR would have caused the community to blur and the two villages become indistinct.
- Dr. Matt Matthews, property owner, spoke with the Water District and was told the Water District will take directions from the County. He explained that when the road was built, it covered up the suitable septic field. The only alternative, because there is not enough soil depth, is to install an above-ground tank alongside Valley Center Road. The best solution is to get connected to the sewer line.
• At the time Dr. Matthews purchased the property of two parcels three years ago, he knew it was not part of the sewer district and that no units were available at that time to connect to sewer. However, it was explained to him that he could request a special hardship when a unit became available. Units are now available and therefore he’s asking the VCCPG to approve.
• Dr. Matthews shared the parcel is zoned mixed use: Residential/Commercial.
• Ms. Boulos explained that means half the land has to be residential.
• Ms. Norwood asks how large the property is. Dr. Matthews said there are two lots, one is 2.2 acres and another 1 acre with a house.
• Mr. Hutchison asks if the county has confirmed the property. Dr. Matthews confirmed they did. It’s located on the east side of Valley Center at Lilac Road.
• Ms. Garritson makes motion to recommend approval to connect access to sewer, Ms. Boulos seconds.
• Ms. Boulos says there is no reason not to approve. There are other properties out there, why not give to property that needs the connection to the sewer? She doesn’t see any adverse in the future. It makes sense to give it to the property owner.
• Mr. Del Pilar has no issues if the “i’s” are dotted and t’s are crossed.
• Ms. Boulos says this is not a zoning issue.
• Mr. Hutchison’s says his objections back in 2015-2016 was allowing commercial zoning outside the 2 villages. If the property is rezoned to residential, he’s in favor of the sewer line.
• Mr. Vick mentions the vote is for sewer connection, not rezoning. Ms. Bolous concurs.
• Mr. Del Pilar wants to mindful of not making decisions affecting property rights and zoning, unless requested to do so.
• Mr. Kevin Smith of audience suggests this situation is not as straight forward as stated. There were restrictions in place when the property was purchased with the understanding the sewer line could be connected.
• Ms. Kennedy of the audience says Dr. Matthews has the right.
• Ms. Boulos says there were no restrictions. Dr. Matthews purchased the property with the understanding he’d be eligible for EDU to get connected to sewer when an EDU became available. The EDU is now available, as this is the process. Not fair to ask to rezone. He just needs approval recommendation from the VCCPG.
• Mr. Hutchison explains there are a hundred acres of surplus commercial property throughout Valley Center. The concern is more landowners will do the same thing, further blurring the line between the two distinct villages.
• Ms. Fajardo asks for the definition of EDU. An EDU stands for “Equivalent Dwelling Unit” that is used for measurement. Chairman Smith explains the water department determines what’s available. 1 EDU is the water and wastewater requirement for a single family residence (house, condo, apartment, townhome). For an acre of commercial property, with four units on it, it’ll need 4 EDUs, no more, no less. The cost of an EDU is $25,000 - $30,000. It’s tied to the cost of delivering water. When there are
not enough buyers, then EDU’s become available.

- Dr. Matthews explained he went to the water department, then to the county and then got the engineering report / letter that said the soil depth was not suitable for septic and then was instructed to come to the VCCPG for recommendation for approval.
- Chairman Smith said no formal notification was received by the VCCPG, however, he asks for a roll vote.
- **Motion:** *Motion to recommend approval for Water Department to proceed with the process of connecting property to sewer line to Dr. Matthews property.*
- **Maker/Second:** Garritson/Boulos
  - Jeana Boulos - Y
  - William Del Pilar - Y
  - Susan Fajardo - Y
  - James Garritson - Y
  - Delores Chavez Harmes - Y
  - Steve Hutchison - N
  - Susan Janisch - N
  - Jennifer Lindley - Y
  - Kathy MacKenzie - Y
  - LaVonne Norwood - Y
  - Oliver Smith - N
  - Jon Vick - Y
- **Motion Carries 9-3-0 (Y-N-Ab).**

F. Group Business

1. **Meeting Updates:**

2. **Annual reconstitution of VCCPG Subcommittee members (Smith)**
   - Chairman Smith explains the importance to have subcommittee members that attend meetings. If a member misses three meetings in a row, they are immediately off the subcommittee. Members must be there and contribute.
   - Ms. Norwood reminded everyone that a disclaimer must be on the back of all agendas for all subcommittees.

   a. **Community Plan Update - (Steve Hutchison, Chair)**
      - The members of the Community Plan Update Subcommittee include Steve Hutchison (Chair), Hans Britsch, Jeana Boulos, Michael Karp, Rich Rudolf, Dennis Sullivan, and Andy Washburn.
      - Mr. Hutchison may consider expanding to nine members if deemed necessary.

   b. **Emergency Evacuation Subcommittee – (Delores Chavez-Harmes, Chair)**
      - The first meeting was held February 7 at 6:30. Only Dorothy Kennedy showed up.
      - The committee will consist of 9 members representing the community and planning board.
      - The 9 people to be on the subcommittee include Ms. Chavez-Harmes (Chair),
Fire Chief Joe Napier, Sgt. George Crystal, Officer Webb, LaVonne Norwood, Sue Fajardo, Dorothy Kennedy, Lisa Adams, and Jennifer Lindley.

- Mr. Vick advised Mike O’Connor, a retired firefighter and strong advocate of improved evacuation routes, has requested to be on the subcommittee.
- Steve Hutchison mentioned that Ms. Chavez-Harmes consider Mike Shore in place of Chief Joe Napier, as Chief Napier may not be able to attend meetings. Ms. Chavez-Harmes responded she has spoken with Chief Napier to this end and she plans on moving forward with Chief Napier on the subcommittee.

c. Lilac Plaza – (LaVonne Norwood, Chair)
   - Disbanded due to lack of work.

d. Lilac Hills Ranch – (Steve Hutchison, Chair)
   - Disbanded due to lack of work.

e. Member Training - (Oliver Smith, Chair)
   - No other members.

f. Mobility – (Jon Vick, Chair)
   - Mr. Vick wants the committee to be between 7 and 9 people. He believes 5 is too few and 11 people are too many. He prefers a majority of the subcommittee to be members from the public. There are a couple spaces available for Dina Gharmalkar when he comes back.
   - Chairman Smith shares concern that Dina is too busy to be the chair designee. Mr. Vick explains Mr. Gharmalkar is retiring and then he should have the time to fulfill this role.
   - The members of the Mobility Subcommittee include Jon Vick (Interim Chair), Dina Gharmalkar (Chair Designee), Jennifer Lindley, Claire Plotner, Margaret Baricevic, Pam Wiedenkeller, and Will Rogers.
   - See Attachment B for purpose, scope and guiding documents.

g. Nominations – (Susan Fajardo, Chair)
   - Members are Susan Fajardo and Susan Janisch.
   - Mr. Del Pilar suggested Kathy MacKenzie be on group, to which Ms. MacKenzie declined.
   - Chairman Smith suggested electronic copies be sent to County and to also ensure all blanks within the forms are completed before submitting.

h. North Village – (William Del Pilar, Chair)
   - Members have not been selected at this time. Mr. Del Pilar is looking to promote to public. He wants 7-9 people to be on the subcommittee.
   - Mr. Del Pilar will present the members at the March 11, 2019 meeting.
i. Parks & Rec. – (LaVonne Norwood, Chair)
   - Members include LaVonne Norwood, Sue Janisch, and Mimi Van Koughnett.
   - The purpose and scope is to be the liaison between the VCPR Board and the VCCPG.
   - Guiding documents are the San Diego County Parks Master Plan and the Valley Center General Plan.
   - The major item is to review the PLDO (Parks Land Dedication Ordinance) list (money to spend on parks).
   - Chairman Smith gave reminder that if money is not spent in 5 years, it returns to the County.

j. South Village – (Jon Vick, Chair)
   - Mr. Vick apologized to Ms. Janisch, who had expressed her interest in being on the subcommittee, but he had inadvertently left her off the list.
   - As a result, the members will include Jon Vick (Chair), Jennifer Lindley (Vice Chair), Susan Fajardo (Secretary), Jeana Boulos, Claire Collins, Eric Jockinsen, Gary Wynn, Will Rogers, and Henk Bothof.
   - See Attachment C for purpose, scope and guiding documents.

k. Tribal Liaison – (Jeana Boulos, Chair)
   - The members include Jeana Boulos (Chair), Frank Shoemaker, and Claire Collins.
   - The scope and intent is for the VCCPG to be aware of tribal issues and vice versa.
   - Chairman Smith reminds everyone tribes are independent nations who don’t necessarily agree with us or even with other tribes.
   - Mr. Garritson stated he would like to join this subcommittee if Claire Collins did not want to remain a part of it.

l. Website – (Kathy MacKenzie, Chair)
   - The purpose and scope is to create and activate a website for the Planning Group that keeps the public aware of what is going on.
   - The website is almost complete
   - Current members include Kathy MacKenzie (chair), LaVonne Norwood and William Del Pilar. Renee Wolf has expressed interest as well.
   - Meeting being held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 7 pm at the library to select members, determine final touches to website and get URL to make website live.

   - Motion: Motion to recommend subcommittee members as outlined, with the exception
3. **All members need to complete annual county training, update Form 700s, complete bi-annual Ethics training. (Smith)**
   - The Chair requested that all members complete Form 700s and annual training. Members need to send the Chair notification once both are completed.

4. **Notice received from Susan Moore, the second VCCPG nominee to the Valley Center Design Review Board (VCDRB), that she is resigning. Another candidate needs to be nominated by the VCPG. (Smith)**
   - The Chair advised that the VCDRB does not select the candidate, it is up to the VCPG.
   - Chairman Smith said the nominees for the VCDRB must meet more qualifications than requirements for the VCCPG. The additional qualification is technical knowledge, such as architectural.
   - Mr. Del Pilar pointed out that technical knowledge is a request, not a requirement. The only requirement is the person be a resident of Valley Center.
   - Chairman Smith stated the term is 5 years in length and all positions are nominated, not elected.
   - Mr. Vick recommended Lisa Adams who has 35 years experience with the county and Will Rogers, a landscape architect.
   - Ms. Fajardo responded that Lisa Adams has been selected by the DRB and had asked the Chamber of Commerce to nominate her, however because she is not a Chamber member, they would not do so. The Chamber had already previously nominated and approved another person, which the VCDRB rejected.
   - Chairman Smith said the VCCPG has the right to nominate who they want. The DRB has no choice in the matter.
   - Ms. Fajardo suggested Will Rogers and Denise Visoki as nominees.
   - Ms. Fajardo will reach out via email to determine people's interest in this opportunity.
   - Chairman Smith suggested Ms. Fajardo include the application forms and information attached to the email.
   - Ms. Moore’s term ends on March 24, 2019, but she promised to stay until the new member is seated on the VCDRB.

5. **Announcement of new system for disseminating correspondence from County. (Smith)**
   - The Chair announced that the County is taking a huge step forward by going to a new process for disseminating information via a website. Sign up to receive updates at:
● This new process alleviates the county from liability for delivering notices to the planning group.
● It requires signing up for notifications and offers information for planning groups and projects.
● Mr. Vick is concerned about picking up the “snail mail.”
  ○ Ms. Boulos is responsible for picking it up twice a week, but what if she is not able to do so?
  ○ Chairman Smith has the other key, but not the time.
  ○ Ms. Chavez-Harmes offered to pick up the mail, but Chairman Smith thinks that would cause confusion or potential mishaps in assigning projects to the members as a result of what comes in the mail from the County.
  ○ As a result, there will be no changes to the process as it currently is.

G. Adjournment
● Motion: Motion to adjourn.
● Maker/Second: Vick / Garritson
● Motion Carries 12-0-0 (Y-N-Ab).
● The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.
● Minutes were approved on March 11, 2019

Kathy MacKenzie, Secretary

Attachment A, B, C, D
2019 VCCPG South Village S/C

VCCPG Members:
- Jon Vick – Chair
- Jennifer Lindley - Vice Chair
- Susan Fajardo – Secretary
- Jeana Boulos

Public members:
- Claire Collins
- Eric Jockinsen
- Gary Wynn
- Will Rogers
- Henk Bothof

Purpose and scope of activities of the SVSC:

VC Community Plan:
1. **Community Character Goals**: Preserve and enhance the rural character of Valley Center by maintaining a pattern of land use consistent with specified regional categories: Village, Semi-rural lands, Rural Lands.
2. **Land Use**: A. Two economically viable and socially vibrant villages where dense residential uses, as well as commercial and industrial uses, are contained. B. A pattern of development that accommodates people of diverse ages, lifestyles, occupations and interests with opportunities for village, semi-rural and rural living. C. Development that maintains VC’s rural character through appropriate location and suitable site design.

**Guiding documents:**
1. [Valley Center Community Plan](#) (August 3, 2011), Chapters 1 & 2: Community Character and Land Use
2. [Valley Center Design Guidelines](#)
3. [San Diego County General Plan](#), Goals and Policies for Land Use Element: Community Character
To: VCCPG  
From: Jon Vick, Mobility S/C Interim Chair  
Feb. 11, 2019

Update: Cole Grade Road Improvement Project: Schedule

Feb. 7th, 2019

Currently at the 90% level of design. We’re working with our Landscape Architect to “fine tune” where we expect the future Oak Trees to be planted.

Additional cultural resources and historic features were found so a section of the EIR was circulated for review in order to allow the public to comment on these new items. Public Review ends at the end of this month. Assuming no major issues are raised from the review period, the EIR is expected to be finalized in May 2019, and then we can go to the Board of Supervisors in June 2019 to both certify the EIR and approve the appraisal and acquisition of right-of-way.

The right-of-way phase will begin upon Board approval, and is expected to take 14 months. This will include appraisal and negotiation with property owners for right-of-way needs, as well as confirmation of what trees are to be removed and where new trees will be planted.

Assuming there are no issues during the right-of-way phase, we are still hoping to begin construction in early 2021.

TRAIL

No new updates on the trail. As you know we reduced the width of the trail to 8ft between Cool Valley Road and Hilldale Rd at the request of Cindy Wright Rd (except at the bridge where it is 13’ out of necessity for construction methods). Tom Duffy has been leading the efforts from the County to apply for $475K in grant funding for additional trail amenities requested. If grant funding is awarded, we will have to determine locations that work for the amenities.

BUDGET

As per the most recent COSD 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, there is currently $18,018,000 budgeted for construction. We revise the 5 year plan every year as necessary, and the 90% plans may dictate a necessary change to the construction budget. The next revision of the 5 year plan will come out in July.

Ryan T. Lau, P.E.
Project Manager
Capital Improvement Program
Department of Public Works, County of San Diego
2019 VCCPG Mobility S/C

VCCPG Members:
- Jon Vick – interim Chair
- Dina Gharmalkar – Chair designee
- Jennifer Lindley

Public members:
- Claire Plotner
- Margaret Baricevic
- Pam Wiedenkeller
- Will Rogers

Purpose and scope of activities of the Mobility S/C:

Community Plan Goal: A circulation system that achieves the combined objectives of connectivity and safety for all users (automobiles, bicyclists, equestrians and pedestrians) and also preserves the rural character of the Community.

Guiding documents:

1. Valley Center Community Plan (August 3, 2011), Chapter 4: Mobility
2. Valley Center Design Guidelines “Design Objectives”
3. San Diego County General Plan: Community Character, Land Use
To: VCCPG
- From: Jon Vick, Mobility S/C Interim Chair
  Feb. 11, 2019

Update: Cole Grade Road Improvement Project

Recirculated Draft EIR; DPW Notice dated 1/16/2019

The cultural resources section of the EIR was circulated because of new information that became available after the EIR was circulated. This new information will not affect the project or the trail.

After the EIR was circulated, SDGE was conducting some surveys along Cole Grade Road. Their archaeologist discovered some boulders on private property that had native American milling features.

Since the road project would potentially be grading near the area where these boulders were found, the County conducted an archaeological study of this area to see if this is a significant cultural site.

The testing involved digging test pits to see if any cultural material was below the surface. No significant material was discovered. The project will avoid the boulders. We determined that this is not a significant cultural site but that we would have an archaeological monitor and native American monitor present during grading in case anything is unearthed.

Thomas Duffy
Environmental Planning Manager
County of San Diego, Department of Public Works