

Valley Center Community Planning Group

Approved Minutes for a Virtual Zoom meeting held on **August 10, 2020** at 7:00 p.m.

Delores Chavez Harmes, **Chair**; Kevin Smith, **Vice-Chair**; James Garritson, **Secretary**

A=Absent; **Ab**=Abstention; **DRB**=Valley Center Design Review Board; **N**=Nay; **P**=Present; **R**=Recused; **VCCPG**=Valley Center Community Planning Group; **VCPRD**=Valley Center Parks & Recreation District; **Y**=Yea

A. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82461996548?>

B. Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order at **7:05 p.m.** and a Quorum was established with **15 members present**. Mr. Del Pilar arrived at 7:10 p.m
- Lisa Adams - **P**
- James Garritson - **P**
- Kathleen McCabe - **P**
- Jeana Boulos - **P**
- Delores ChavezHarmes-**P**
- LaVonne Norwood - **P**
- William Del Pilar - **P**
- Steve Hutchison - **P**
- James Radden - **P**
- Susan Fajardo - **P**
- Joey Martinez - **P**
- Kevin Smith - **P**
- Julia Feliciano - **P**
- Matt Matthews - **P**
- Renee Wolf - **P**

Guests

- David Ross - Valley RoadRunner

C. Pledge of Allegiance - Garritson

D. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of July 13, 2020

- **Motion: To approve the Minutes.**
- **Maker/Second:** Feliciano/McCabe
- **Motion Carries 13-0-1 (Y-N-Ab).** Ms. Fajardo abstained from the vote. Mr. Del Pilar arrived at the meeting after the vote.

E. Public Comments Members of the public may address the Planning Group on any topic not on the agenda.

- No public comments were made.

F. Action items (VCCPG advisory vote may be taken on the following items)

1) Arco (Harmes): Informational – PDS2015-STP-15-012 – County and VCDRB confirm the new signage iterations continue to implement interior lit signage which is not in compliance with VCDRB guidelines. Original plans submitted 5 years ago showed exterior gooseneck lighting. Project assignment:

- Chair Harmes provided details about lighting requirements in Valley Center. Chair Harmes has discussed VC Design Guidelines with Sean Oberbauer, planning manager with the County's Planning & Development Services and Keith Robertson, chairman of the VC Design Review Board. Original plans for the project called for exterior-lit gooseneck signage lighting, but recent plans were replaced with interior lit signage, which violates the VC Design Guidelines. Arco must fix these designs to move the project forward.

2) Valley Center Battery Storage (initially presented as Terra Gen Battery Storage) (Harmes): Discussion – PDS2020-STP-20-011 - Public comment period expired prior to August VCCPG meeting, letter in support of VCCPG vote sent to county. Emails received from the community supportive of the VCCPG position.

- Mr. Smith and Chair Harmes discussed a letter that was sent by Chair Harmes on behalf of the Valley Center Community Planning Group to the County.
- Chair Harmes sent the letter because a majority of the board voted against the project and the project deadline was the meeting day.

G. Subcommittee Reports

1) Community Plan Update (Steve Hutchinson, Chair)

- Mr. Hutchinson shared a brief update about the Community Plan.

2) Emergency Evacuation (Delores Chavez Harmes, Chair): Red Cross coordination with Fire, GVCFSC received Cal Fire grant.

- Chair Harmes shared an update about fuel reduction amendments. Paradise Mountain only has one road into the community. Valley Center Fire is setting up specific evacuation areas.
- Ms. Fajardo requested to rejoin this committee. She is a past member of the committee, but was unable to attend some meetings because of her work schedule. Ms. Fajardo now can attend these meetings.

3) Mobility (Lisa Adams, Chair)

4) Villages (William Del Pilar, Chair) Village Station, VC Prof Bldg

- Dr. Matthews and Chair Harmes attended a Village Station Center meeting. The project is near the intersection of Valley Center Road and Miller Road. Plans call for a number of retail buildings.
- Will Rogers wanted to advance the Village Station project to a subcommittee vote, but Mr. Del Pilar did not approve of voting on this development until a scoping letter is provided by the County. Mr. Del Pilar asked Will Rogers to resubmit the plan. He shared that developers represent themselves and not the community. The Planning Group represents the community and therefore he will not bring the project to a vote until the County provides all necessary information. Ms. Boulos has previously contacted the County, but a scoping letter is still unavailable.
- Mr. Smith shared that the DRB voted in favor of the project in a 4-1 vote.

5) Parks & Rec (LaVonne Norwood, Chair)

- Ms. Norwood shared a report that Parks and Recs have voted in favor of dissolving local control and transforming it into a County Service Area administered **LAFCO**. Ms. Norwood encouraged the Planning Group to support this plan as the County would assume responsibility and use its resources to update Valley Center parks to conform to County standards.
- Mr. Hutchison and Ms. Norwood discussed whether future board members of the parks district would be appointed instead of elected in a general election. Mr. Hutchinson shared

concerns about having Supervisor Jim Desmond appoint the advisory parks board. She and the board hope to keep a five member advisory board and add Star Valley Park to the County Master plan. They have also asked the County to consider building a senior center and retain existing park employees. Public review on this proposal will close on August 19.

- Chair Harmes shared information about a major soccer field project that was assigned to Ms. Wolf.

6) Tribal Liaison (Jeana Boulos, Chair)

7) Nominations (Susan Fajardo, Chair)

8) Member Updates (Delores Chavez Harmes, Chair): Meeting date change.

- There was discussion about changing the Planning Group meeting date. Chair Harmes would like the Planning Group to consider a date change because some members have meetings that conflict with the current second Monday every month.
- Chair Harmes asked the Planning Group to review whether or not there is a broad community calendar to review if a date change is made.

9) Website (Renee Wolf, Chair)

I. Adjournment

- Next regular meeting of VCCPG: **September 14, 2020 at 7 p.m.**
- **The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**
- **Minutes were approved on September 14, 2020.**

James Garritson, Secretary