

Valley Center Community Planning Group

Approved Minutes for a Virtual Zoom meeting held on **January 10, 2022** 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

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89862182922?pwd=TzNnK04rR3lXaENiTHlUa0VwOHdlQT09;>

Meeting ID: **898 6218 2922**; Passcode: **VCCPGJan22**

A. Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order at **7:00 p.m.** and a Quorum was established with **14 members present**. Renee Wolf* resigned from the Planning Group in December 2021.
- Lisa Adams - P
- Michelle Bothof - P
- Delores ChavezHarmes-P
- Susan Fajardo - P
- Julia Feliciano - P
- James Garritson - P
- Steve Hutchison - P
- Matt Matthews - P
- Kathleen McCabe - P
- LaVonne Norwood - P
- James Radden - P
- Dori Rattray - P
- Larry Schmidt - P
- Kevin Smith - P
- ~~Renee Wolf~~ - R*

Guests:

- Becky Rapp
- Justin Salter
- Vlad Ciupitu
- Acisner2
- Corrine Coury
- Kelly McCormick
- Kathleen Lippitt
- Carol Green
- David Ross
- Roya Sabeti
- JStrang, PTA

B. Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Harmes

C. Approval of December 13, 2021 Minutes

- **Motion: To approve the December 13, 2021 Minutes.**
- **Maker/Second:** Kevin Smith/Kathleen McCabe
- **Motion Carries 12-0-2 (Y-N-Ab). Ms. Adams and Mr. Radden abstained.**

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

- Mr. Smith shared information about the Vehicle Mile Tax (VMT). He recommended that the Planning Group continues to further study the numerous issues related to the VMT.
- Becky Rapp (audience) shared concerns about Nathan Fletcher, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, getting reelected to a second term as chair of the supervisors. Nathan Fletcher is a strong supporter of the expansion of cannabis dispensaries in San Diego County. She is encouraging speaking at the BOS meeting against cannabis.

- Kelly McCormick (audience) shared concerns about cannabis usage among youth in the County. Kathleen Lippitt (audience) shared concerns she has about the growth of cannabis usage in the County. Carol Green (audience) shared concerns about cannabis dispensaries in San Diego County and the mental health and impact on young people. Chair Harmes shared that the Planning Group has voiced their concerns about this issue with County officials.

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

1) Lighting Complaints: (Smith): Fat Ivor's new internally lit signage.

- Mr. Smith has reviewed the new signage at Fat Ivor's. Mr. Hutchison shared that the Planning Group should also address the signage at Lilac Foods, as it also has internally lit signage.

2) Signage Request (Rattray): Non-profit organization requesting approval for sign.

- Dori Rattray presented two community organizations requesting signage on Valley Center roads. The first was Promote Valley Center, a public benefit non-profit organization.
- Chair Harmes provided background about how this organization developed and its purpose as a 501(c)(3). It was created for Christmas in the Valley to allow for donations and that Western Days uses it.
- Ms. Norwood asked about the location of the sign. Chair Harmes shared that the County will determine where the sign would go.
- The sign would say "Promote Valley Center" and a picture was shown of the logo.
- Mr. Garritson asked about several signs that just appeared near his home at the intersection of Valley Center Rd and Lake Wohlford Rd, the top of the grade and on Castle Creek Rd from the Valley Center Democrats. Permission by the Planning Group was never requested nor was permission granted for these signs.
- Ms. McCabe asked about who would pay for the sign. Chair Harmes said that the Promote Valley Center committee will pay for the sign.
- **Motion: To approve a Promote Valley Center sign.**
- **Maker/Second: Rattray/Garritson**
- **Motion Carries 9-3-2 (Y-N-Ab) Ms. Fajardo, Mr. Smith and Mr. Hutchison voted nay. Chair Harmes and Ms. Norwood abstained, as they are on the Promote Valley Center Board.**
- Corinne Coury (audience) also requested approval for signage for the Valley Center Republicans.
- Mr. Hutchison requested that the Planning Group wait until designs for signs are submitted for approval from the Planning Group. Discussion followed on how the signs that are currently up on county roads not only did not follow the request process but did not provide designs for approval in advance.
- The Valley Center Republican sign would have an elephant and text of Valley Center Republicans and be the required size.

- **Motion: To approve a Valley Center Republicans sign.**
- **Maker/Second: Garritson/Schmidt**
- **Motion Carries 10-4-0 (Y-N-Ab) Ms. Adams, Mr. Smith, Ms. Fajardo, and Mr. Hutchison voted nay.** The nays are based on not enough information at this time.

G. Subcommittee Reports

1) Emergency Evacuation (Harmes):

- No report.

2) Cannabis Subcommittee (Matthews):

- Dr. Matthews will attend a County meeting tomorrow about County cannabis dispensaries. He will address some of the medical and federal issues related to cannabis.
- Board of Supervisors meetings are Tuesday and Wednesday at 9am; use these links to register to speak:
- <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/bos/telecomments-tues.html>;
- <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/bos/telecomments-wed.html>

3) Parks & Rec/Trails (Norwood):

- Chair Harmes spoke with Supervisor Desmond about purchasing the Butterfield Trails Ranch. The County has already approved \$4.1 million for Valley Center parks. This money is already allocated to Valley Center Community Park, Addams Community Park and Star Valley Park.
- Chair Harmes would like the County to consider purchasing Butterfield Trails Ranch and keep it in its present natural state. Ms. Norwood does not believe that Butterfield Trails Ranch has any amenities at the moment. Ms. Feliciano would like the County to provide only basic amenities such as trash cans, dog waste bags, and porta potties.
- Mr. Smith shared that the community of Valley Center is already very underserved by a lack of parks.

4) Mobility (Adams):

- The County will add radar to Rancho Bernardo Road.

5) Tribal Liaison (Smith, Chair):

- No report.

6) Design Review Board (Smith/Adams):

- No meeting this last month.

7) Community Plan (Hutchinson):

- No report.

8) Redistricting Subcommittee (Rattray):

- No report.

9) Board & Nominations (Harmes/Fajardo):

- 2022 training for all VCCPG members required. Training occurs on **Saturday, January 29, 2022 – 8:30 am to 1:00 pm on Microsoft Teams** and also on **Saturday, February 12, 2022 – 8:30 am to 1:00 pm** at the County Operations Center, 5500 Overland Ave, Room

120, San Diego, CA 92123. Mr. Garritson, Mr. Smith and Ms. Fajardo also discussed the online training presentations that Planning Group members have completed in past years.

- All Planning Group members must mail a completed and signed Form 700 to the County.
- Chair Harmes introduced Vlad Ciupitu and Roya Sabeti. Both candidates have submitted applications to the Planning Group.
- Vlad Ciupitu introduced himself to the Planning Group. He worked in Silicon Valley for over a decade and moved to Valley Center to establish a farm called Shepherd Valley Farms <https://shepherdvalleyfarms.com>. Mr. Hutchison asked Vald if he had read the Community Plan. Vlad has scanned the document, but plans to read it thoroughly this month. Vlad would like Valley Center to remain a peaceful community.
- Roya Sabeti introduced herself and shared that she moved to Valley Center over a year ago. Roya envisions a community that has the ability to maintain its rustic and country feel as it continues to grow. She has a background in technology and has lived in the Bay Area. She has read the General Plan and liked that it was well-thought-out. Dr. Matthews asked if Roya has any connection with cannabis startups. She does not have any connection.
- The Planning Group had a discussion about the vision of both candidates, whether candidates had read the General Plan, how long they each had lived in the community, and their professional experience. Ms. Adams recommended that the Planning Group consider the candidate that best serves the “community.”
- **Motion: To approve Roya Sabeti to serve out the remainder of the term for Seat 6. This term expires on December 31, 2022.**
- **Maker/Second:** Schmidt/Norwood
- **Motion Carries 13-1-0 (Y-N-Ab). Mr. Hutchison voted nay.**

I. Adjournment

- Next regular meeting of VCCPG: **February 14, 2022 at 7 p.m.**
- **The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.**
- **Minutes were approved on February 14, 2022.**

James Garritson, Secretary