

Valley Center Community Planning Group

Approved Minutes for a regular meeting held on **March 14, 2022** at 7:00 p.m. in the Valley Center Community Hall, 28246 Lilac Road, Valley Center, California 92082.

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. Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order at **7:00 p.m.** and a Quorum was established with **15 members present**. Mr. Garritson* arrived at 7:06 p.m. and Dr. Matthews* arrived at 7:10 p.m.

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ● Lisa Adams - P | ● James Garritson - P* | ● James Radden - P |
| ● Michelle Bothof - P | ● Steve Hutchison - P | ● Dori Rattray - P |
| ● Delores ChavezHarmes- P | ● Matt Matthews - P* | ● Roya Sabeti - P |
| ● Susan Fajardo - P | ● Kathleen McCabe - P | ● Larry Schmidt - P |
| ● Julia Feliciano - P | ● LaVonne Norwood - P | ● Kevin Smith - P |

B. Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Harmes

C. Approval of February 14, 2022 Minutes

- **Motion: To approve the February 14, 2022 Minutes.**
- **Maker/Second:** Smith/Rattray
- **Motion Carries 13-0-2 (Y-N-Ab). Chair Harmes and Ms. McCabe abstained.**

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

1) Vehicle Miles Traveled Tax

- Carl DeMaio made a presentation about the VMT. This 4-6 cent tax is an additional vehicle tax on top of gasoline taxes and car registration fees. The County might have users download a possible SANDAG app or fill out an annual form that could be audited. The average driver is driving 15,000 miles a year. This tax could cost an individual between \$600-900 additional vehicle taxes each year. San Diego County is also trying to pass an additional .5% sales tax. This money is not allocated for general purpose roads. It goes towards managed lanes, electric buses and public transportation.
- Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) is an additional proposal. Not a penny of this sales tax will be used to pay for the construction of an additional lane. Part of the I-15 was widened, but it did not continue to Riverside County.
- The federal government and the state of California are both in favor of a mileage tax. If the VMT is passed, San Diego County could become an experiment on implementing this type of tax statewide and nationwide.
- Nearly 98% of San Diegans drive private vehicles. SANDAG has based most of its proposals on 2012 data. Telecommuting has increased since Covid-19.

- Chair Harmes asked about how viable it is for the proposal to suspend the gas tax for a year. Supervisor Desmond and Carl DeMaio support suspending these taxes.
- Mr. Smith asked a question about climate change. Carl explained that climate change is present, but working families cannot afford the cost of paying for these policies and programs.
- Mr. Schmidt shared information about the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

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

1) VCFPD Monument Sign: (Chair) Update.

- Chair Harmes asked Ms. Adams about the special DRB meeting that was held on February 22. The DRB voted 4-0 in favor of the proposed design for the VCFPD Monument Sign.

2) Illegal Dumping/Graffiti/Loitering: (Chair) Info.

- Chair Harmes shared information about the increase of graffiti in the community. Loitering has increased in some of the more rural areas. The community needs to be proactive in keeping Valley Center safe and clean. There was discussion about this issue among members.

G. Subcommittee Reports

1) Emergency Evacuation (Harmes):

- Chair Harmes is working on a wildfire training on March 26 at the Valley Center Community Library.

2) Cannabis Subcommittee (Mathews):

- The County is continuing to crackdown on illegal cannabis farms and dispensaries.

3) Parks & Rec/Trails (Norwood):

- Butterfield Trails Ranch Park will be discussed at the April 6 BOS meeting. Chair Harmes recommended that the community get involved in trying to ask County officials to purchase this property. The County has allocated \$1.2 million for an intergenerational center.
- Ms. Feliciano shared that she believes Star Valley Park is a better location for an intergenerational center. There was discussion between members about the best location for an intergenerational center.
- Ms. Feliciano shared that VCCPG members had voted to support the acquisition of Butterfield Trails Ranch as a public Valley Center park based upon community support for a nature park. Members did not vote on the location of a future intergenerational center. Chair Harmes explained that the Board of Supervisors will need options as to which property to locate an intergenerational center if the County does purchase Butterfield Ranch.

4) Mobility (Adams):

- The San Diego County Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) had a Zoom meeting on March 11. There was a discussion about the 55 MPH speed limit and the number of traffic accidents

that have occurred on Lilac Road. Fentanyl is the leading cause of death in San Diego County for people in the age bracket between 18-45 years old.

5) Tribal Liaison (Smith, Chair)

- No report.

6) Design Review Board (Smith/Adams)

- No report.

7) Community Plan (Hutchinson)

- Mr. Hutchinson shared that this subcommittee has had a number of delays due to Covid-19. Possible zoning overlay proposals may cause changes to the General Plan and affect the communities of Valley Center and Alpine.

8) Revitalization Subcommittee (Rattray):

- Ms. Rattray shared information about a Revitalization Zoom Meeting that will take place at 2 p.m. on March 29. Mobility, parks, infrastructure, and graffiti are some of the issues that will be discussed at this meeting.

9) Board (Harmes/Fajardo):

- Ms. Harmes shared information about the Community Action Network (CAN) meeting she attended. There is a Rodeo morning meeting on Thursday, March 17.
- Terms expiring 1/2/2023: even numbered seat holders must file to run for your position.

I. Adjournment

- Next regular meeting of VCCPG: **April 11, 2022 at 7 p.m.**
- **The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.**
- **Minutes were approved on May 9, 2022**

James Garritson, Secretary