

has been discussed over the past three months.

- Ms. Feliciano asked Steve why he did not respond to the email communication that went out to the board last week. Mr. Hutchison responded that he did not need to and he had no opinion.
- Mr. Hutchison stated that at the subcommittee meeting of the CPU last year, the date was set to meet quorum.
- Chair Harmes shared that Mr. Hutchison's date was not properly noticed for the community to participate in this very important matter. She personally spoke with the subcommittee members of CPU and they had no problem meeting on an alternate date that would allow for proper notification of the community, meet quorum and allow for more public participation.
- Ms. Norwood shared that Mr. Hutchison has been doing this role for 12 years.
- Mr. Schmidt shared that it is not a good idea for one person to hold a seat for 12 years. The Planning Group needs all of the information provided at any meeting a board member attends to move forward productively.
- Mr. Garritson shared that the Planning Group was not asking Mr. Hutchison to step away from the CPU subcommittee. The current discussion will not change the votes of any members. Mr. Ciupitu can continue to work with Mr. Hutchison.
- Ms. Fajardo asked about the qualifications of Mr. Ciupitu.
- Ms. Adams asked if Mr. Ciupitu wanted to lead the CPU and if he knew how to lead it to which he answered yes to both questions.
- Mr. Ciupitu shared his desire to chair the CPU subcommittee. He also commented that there is no requirement to submit a resume to assume this role.
- Ms. Rattray shared her concerns about the lack of communication between Mr. Hutchison and the Planning Group members. She attended the Revitalization meeting in March with Jim Desmond's Office and the County shared that they met with Mr. Hutchison regularly. However, the Planning Group never receives any updates.

Valley Center Fire District 2% Tax Apportionment by Chief Joe Napier Discussion

- **Motion: To propose a resolution to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors that fully supports the 2% Tax Apportionment Recommendation made by the Valley Center Fire District.**
- **Maker/Second:** Rattray/Schmidt
- **Motion Carries 14-0-0 (Y-N-Ab)**
- Chief Napier shared that his goal is to be a voice in the community about the tax apportionment. The community agrees that the Fire Department needs more funding.
- The Fire District receives only 2% of the 1% tax base for Valley Center. Valley Center was a small town with only 8 thousand people when this percentage was determined. Valley Center now has approximately 25 thousand people that live and work in Valley Center.
- Information was shared about Prop 45 and Assembly Bill 8.
- The formula for the tax apportionment provides Valley Center with a budget of \$582,000.
- The County currently receives 29 billion in revenue from Valley Center.

- The Fire District is requesting an additional 4% from the General Fund, not an additional property tax fee.
- The Valley Center Fire District has retention and recruitment issues due to an underfunded budget.
- An Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating of 2 will help lower fire insurance premiums.
- Additional money would only come out of the General Fund. More for fire, less for potholes elsewhere or cell phones for jails.
- Chief Joe Napier shared that the department is very unique, as you must have a servant heart to currently work for it.
- Valley Center Fire District is currently working on providing power and septic for a third station. The district does not have enough money to build a permanent third station. It will instead build a temporary station.
- We need a resolution to the Board of Supervisors to add this to their agenda.

1. Environmental Health: Heather Buonomo

- **Motion: To NOT SUPPORT increases to the rates proposed by the Environmental Health Department.**
- **Maker/Second:** Garritson/Cuipitu
- **Motion Carries 11-3-0 (Y-N-Ab)**
- Heather Buonomo shared information about the Environmental Health Department. Two years ago, they were in training grounds and now they have completed an equity study for labor to bring the County staff to the current level. The rates support 40 regulation programs, which include food, vector control, land use, and many others.
- The Environmental Health Department is funded by fees and is completing an annual analysis by the BOS. There are 230 fees and 214 that need readjustments.
- Information was shared about the hourly rate for recycled water reviews.
- The EHD receives 6% from the general-purpose revenue, but is requesting increases from the BOS.
- Proposition 26 placed money in a reserve and the EHD has been using this money to fund these offsets. be using that for offsets.
- Land use has been at a loss due to retirements or people leaving. It takes years to develop staff. We are now at a 4-month turnaround.
- Water well permits are increasing by 32%, but the review period now takes two weeks.
- Mr. Garritson shared that he will always oppose increases. These rates continue to grow, even with numerous new homes that provide new revenue. The Environmental Health Department needs to focus on saving money using more technology-based programs. The younger generation cannot afford to purchase a home because of the amount of bureaucracy..
- Heather Buonomo shared that the EHD is now accepting more digital plans and allowing people to submit online rather than going to the planning desk.
- Dr. Matthews commented that the EHD mentioned equity in this presentation, but questioned how this proposal was equitable.

Honorary Mayor – Lavonne Norwood

- Ms. Norwood shared that she is running for Honorary Mayor of Valley Center, representing the VCBA. She is selling raffle tickets tonight for the basket of beverages if anyone is interested.

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

1. Vacate Park Circle Easement – County Tract Map No’s. 5603-1, 5603-2 and 5603-4: (Bothof) Vacate the excavation, embankment slopes and drainage structures easement along Valley Center Road that were granted as part of County Highway Easement. Road improvements have been constructed and DPW has determined these additional rights are no longer necessary. The owner/developer wants to clear title to these rights.

Topic:

- **Motion: To vacate the Park Circle Easement.**
- **Maker/Second: Bothof/Ciupitu**
- **Motion Carries: 13-0-1 (Y-N-A)**

2. 4 Way Stop Lilac Road & Castle Road: (Adams) County is reviewing the intersection of Lilac Road and Old Castle Road in Valley Center for a potential all-way stop control installation. The data collected backs up the all-way stop control installation.

- **Motion: To approve the all-way stop at Lilac Road and Castle with flashing warning light.**
- **Maker/Second: Adams/Norwood**
- **Motion Fails: 4-9-0 (Y-N-Ab)**
- Ms. Adams explained that the all-way stop is close to a school and the location generates high pedestrian traffic. There have been 6 accidents from 2019 to 2022.
- Mr. Ciupitu asked if it was possible to reduce the speed to 25 mph and possibly approve flashing warning lights during school hours.
- Dr. Matthews does not recommend a stop sign in that location. Heading towards Valley Center on Lilac Road, there is a blind curve that would cause accidents, rather than prevent them.
- **Motion: To approve a flashing light with a caution sign, with a stop sign and lower speed at Lilac Road and Old Castle Road.**
- **Maker/Second: Adams/Norwood**
- **Motion Fails: 10-2-0 (Y-N-Ab)**
- Ms. Rattray asked about how a traffic study for that area was obtained.
- Ms. Adams explained that it starts with complaints, which leads to warrants, at least 2. They then look at the vehicle code and the manual. They usually set the speed at the 85th percentile of the speeds tracked during the speed study.

3. Standing Rule Section IV – Vacancies: Adoption & vote.

- **Motion:** To adopt the meeting three after the candidates have been introduced and interviewed as described in paragraph Meeting 2. Currently our standing rule states (2 nd pg, 2 nd paragraph) Meeting 3—The VCCPG Chairperson shall conduct elections after the candidates have been introduced and interviewed as described in paragraph Meeting 2 above. at the third Regular Meeting after the subject vacancy(s) is announced (Meeting 3). For the past several years we have suspended this rule to move forward in a timely manner to interview, vote and appoint new members. It was suggested at last month's meeting that we officially change this standing rule. Proposed amendment change and vote.
- **Maker/Second:** Delores Chavez Harmes/Michelle Bothof
- **Motion Carries:** 14-0-0 (Y-N-Ab)
- Mr. Hutchison asked how long the position was posted. Chair Harmes shared that it was 28-31 days.

4. Standing Rule Article V – Subcommittees Section III: Adoption & vote.

Topic:

- **Motion:** The Chair of the subcommittee shall make a verbal or written report monthly to the board. Minor change to this standing rule (pg 3 paragraph 8) The Chair of the Subcommittee shall make a verbal or written report/presentation to the VCCPG monthly quarterly, or more frequently as necessary. Proposed amendment change and vote.
- **Maker/Second:** Harmes/Bothof
- **Motion Carries:** 13-1-0 (Y-N-Ab)

5. Standing Rule Change – Subcommittees Section IV: Adoption & vote.

- **Motion:** The Nomination Subcommittee shall distribute copies of completed applications for every qualified candidate at least 5 days prior to a VCCPG meeting and introduce the candidate.
- **Maker/Second:** Adams/Ciupitu
- **Motion Carries:** 14-0-0 (Y-N-Ab)

F. Subcommittee Reports:

1) Emergency Evacuation (Harmes): VCFPD 6% apportionment initiative.

- No updates.

2) Cannabis Subcommittee (Mathews):

- Mathews – The County Cannabis Committee is hosting Zoom Meetings for public comments. We should subscribe for updates. It's social equity based.

3) Parks & Rec/Trails (Norwood):

- An update was made about Butterfield Trails. There is no funding now, but there still is hope in the future. The focus is on the Intergenerational Center at Star Valley Park. There is a new swim schedule posted. There will be new acoustic tiles in the Community Hall.

- Adams Park is receiving new water tanks. There will be a public meeting regarding the Rancho Lilac Property, which is 600 acres.

4) Mobility (Adams): Traffic study update.

- Ms. Adams has reached out to the traffic engineers, but has not received a response yet.
- No report on a traffic study at Ridge Ranch at Lake Wohlford. The County would need to complete a traffic study for Valley Center Road in order to create a "Business District. It would also need a speed study to enforce the speed.
- She is waiting for a status from Ryan Lau about Cole Grade Road.
- Ms. Norwood asked about a Form Based Code. .

5) Tribal Liaison (Chair)

- SoCal Tribal Association meets quarterly. Chair Harmes is waiting to be added to their agenda.

6) Design Review Board (Smith/Adams)

- No update.

7) Community Plan Update: (Pending*)

- No update.

8) Revitalization Subcommittee (Rattray):

- Ms. Rattray attended the Fallbrook March meeting in which SANDAG presented. They shared that they will not be adding additional lanes to any of the freeways now and that they will only be updated with "Managed Lanes." They said they would like to get everyone out of their vehicles and to move towards public transportation. They said that their desire is to change the behavior or the driving community. When one member asked if they would add a train from Riverside County to San Diego County, due to all of the commuters, they said no. They said they have a \$350 million grant for the train activity to get off the bluff in San Diego, but that amount is for the study, not the change.
- There was a concern about creating a seat at the table at SANDAG for the Unincorporated Communities. There was a concern that Nora Vargus does not represent the majority of the unincorporated regions in the County.
- Ms. Rattray shared that the graffiti program has been implemented and she will forward the email shared by the County with more detailed information.

9) CAN/411 (Fajardo)

- There is a GMVC coming up that Ms. Fajardo plans to attend.

10) Website (Sabeti):

- Desmond's Office provided a list of county numbers that we have added to our website.

10) Board (Harmes/Fajardo):

- Chair Harmes addressed the concern shared by Mr. Hutchison at the meeting last month, when Mr. Hutchison felt that the chair could not participate in the nomination committee for candidates. **VCCPG standing rules state:** Should a vacancy be known in advance or when there is a scheduled vacancy, *the Nominations Subcommittee Chairperson shall, with the concurrence and coordination of the VCCPG Chairperson, initiate the vacancy filling process in advance so as to reduce or eliminate the time a seat will be vacant.*

- Chair Harmes asked if anyone felt offended, threatened or unsafe when the representative from the Equitable Housing made a presentation last month. The County reached out to Chair Harmes and said that their group felt threatened by the feedback of the Planning Group members. (No one reported feeling threatened or that there was a threatening manner to county staff.)
- Ms. Rattray shared that she was at the Fallbrook Planning Meeting in March when the Equitable Housing Group gave their presentation. The Fallbrook Planning Group gave similar feedback. She walked out with the Equitable Housing Group representatives and they were friendly and did not seem threatened at all.
- Mr. Barber shared concerns about graffiti that is nearby the Valley View Casino.
- Mr. Ciupitu shared that some local gas stations are noticing that a lot of foreign ids are being used to purchase items that require an ID.
- Chair Harmes shared that the Planning Group needs to keep an eye on loitering and maybe as the County for signs with ordinances. We have been seeing homeless people walk up the grade with shopping carts lately and more dumping around Valley Center.”

G. Adjournment

- Next regular meeting of VCCPG: **May 8, 2023 at 7 p.m.**
- **The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.**
- **Minutes were approved on June 12, 2023.**

Dori Rattray, Secretary

Appendix VCCPG April 10, 2023 Minutes

VCCPG Standing Rules [As Amended March 8, 2004; November 14, 2005; November 18, 2013; May 11, 2015; and September 9, 2019]

James Garritson,

As I was reviewing the minutes of the 10 April 2023 meeting of the VCCPG, I noticed some errors in recording:

- “Mr. Hutchison stated that at the subcommittee meetings of the CPU last year, the date was set to meet quorum.
- Chair Harmes shared that Mr. Hutchison’s date was not properly noticed for the community to participate in this very important matter. She personally spoke with the subcommittee members of CPU and they had no problem meeting on an alternate date that would still meet quorum and allow for more public participation.
- Ms. Rattray shared her concerns about the lack of communication between Mr. Hutchison and the Planning Group members. She attended the Revitalization meeting in March with Jim Desmond’s Office and the County shared that they met with Mr. Hutchison regularly. However, the Planning Group never receives any updates.”

The following is a rebuttal from Mr. Hutchison:

For the first item listed, I stated that the August 2022 joint meeting of the CPU and Mobility SCs was scheduled to assure a quorum for both SCs. And, polling of the members assured quorums for both SCs on the date I established with Lisa Adams.

For the second item listed, in fact, the meeting was properly noticed with postings at both the venue in Adams Park and the Community Hall. Members of both SCs had no problem meeting on the date previously set by Lisa Adams and me. There was no need to reschedule the meeting except to accommodate Ms Harmes' schedule. Ms Harmes failed to consult me, as chair, before rescheduling the meeting that I had already established with the SCs and the County. *Note: Ms. Harmes stated she made several attempts to contact Mr. Hutchison, but received no communication back*

For the third item listed, while I routinely called the County for updates on when the CPU process would resume [meetings were suspended in the fall of 2021], there was no "new" information to report except what I routinely reported [that the County was confronting the Sustainable Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled policies promulgated by the state which were at odds with aspects of the General Plan and, consequently, the CPU]. Those reports should have been included in the SC reports, but were sometimes omitted given that the SC reports at some meetings were very cursory and quickly followed by adjournment.

While I understand the need to condense what was said in the meeting for the purpose of the minutes, it is important to fairly record the sense of the dialogue. In this case, important nuances were not included that would change the character of what was said. I know the difficulty of taking meeting notes, but brevity shouldn't sacrifice accuracy.

Also, on the motion to appoint Vlad Ciupitu, Kevin Smith was absent and did not abstain. Further, you should include the entire public comments statement:

"Members of the public may address the Planning Group on any topic not on the agenda. A three (3) minute time limit is allowed per speaker unless otherwise negotiated with the Chair. Planning Group cannot discuss or vote on a topic but may place the item on a future agenda. Speakers are required to complete a Request to Speak form prior to the start of the meeting"

What you recorded for the minutes is inaccurate and would be a potential violation of the Brown Act if such items were discussed, since items raised in Public Comments are not part of the regular noticed agenda and may preclude members of the public from participating in a discussion of such items:

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

Items raised in Public Comments can be referred to a future agenda or forwarded to the appropriate agency for a response