

BONSALL COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP

Dedicated to enhancing and preserving a rural lifestyle



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TOWN HALL MEETING BONSALL COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00PM
In Person at The Havens Country Club**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Members Present - Steve Norris, Larissa Anderson, Dawn Apsley, Jennifer Haider, Ray Botta, Jared Rowley

B. PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE - None

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION - None

D. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

1. Presentation for San Diego County Supervisor, Jim Desmond

This special Bonsall Community County of San Diego Town Hall Meeting was run virtually by San Diego County Supervisor, Jim Desmond. His agenda included: Opening Remarks, Introductions of D5, CHP, DPW, PDS, DPR, Community Presentation, Staff Response / Q&A, Next Steps, and Closing Remarks.

Supervisor Desmond welcomed everyone and introduced those attending online from San Diego County, Planning and Development Services (PDS), Parks and Recreation Department (PRD), and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Steve Norris, Chair of the Bonsall Community Sponsor Group (BCSG), thanked Supervisor Desmond for arranging the meeting and presented a slideshow regarding three issues impacting the quality of life in the Bonsall community.

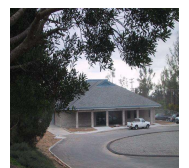
General objectives included opening up a dialogue, exploring opportunities, and setting a course forward regarding the issues. Three issues/concerns included:

- **Community Level Traffic**

There is a significant amount of out-of-county traffic flow through Bonsall from the I-15 freeway, and there are deficiencies in northern San Diego County where commuters are looking for a way to escape the impacted roads to get to their destinations. One of the roads is Gopher Canyon Road, where there have been a lot of accidents due to unsafe conditions including excessive speed, sight distance and turning concerns, increased volume of traffic, bicyclists, and aggressive driving. More development means more traffic, and more traffic increases the impact on our roads.

Requests include reducing the speed limit on Gopher Canyon Road, traffic calming measures, more monitoring and enforcement (ticketing), stop signs,

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and a measurable long-term plan. Feedback is requested, including a San Diego County liaison for the BCSG.

- **North County inland traffic impacts and city/county representation in SANDAG**
There's a focus on the center of the county, and less attention on the communities away from the center, and there's a perception that monies are not making it to north San Diego County. Traffic from the north are from large areas outside of San Diego County, and from a population perspective, it is a significant daily impact to the community, including goods and services. It appears the weighted vote of SANDAG fails to account for Temecula, Murrieta, and Menifee. Expenditures and improvements seem to be focused on the city core. They are getting the benefit of the workers from the north, but they are not funding improvements where they travel, and it is resulting in negative impacts in the northern communities.

Requests include establishing a liaison, looking at how the transportation monies are being spent and what kind of focus can be given to North County.

- **Proposed Community Parks (Bonsall Community Park/Rio Prado Park)**
Given the traffic problems mentioned above, the general concern is traffic. Having an activity intensive park, specifically talking about Bonsall Community Park, will further degrade the traffic in the community around Bonsall Elementary School. Rio Prado Park has recently acquired more land and can be accessed from Hwy 76, and it can handle higher traffic flows. The development of Bonsall Community Park will decrease the opportunities for riding within the Bonsall Community. Other parks, such as Walnut Grove Park in San Marcos and Harmony Grove Village Equestrian Park in Escondido, have opportunities for equestrian.

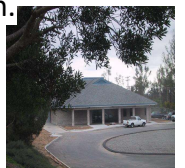
Requests include increased opportunities and amenities in the Rio Prado Park by "tweaking" some of the considerations at Bonsall Community Park.

Supervisor Desmond thanked Norris for his presentation, agrees with the heavily weighted SANDAG and decreased benefits in areas, and asked about a liaison for the BCSG. Mark Slovic, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), stated that Kenneth Melton is the "go to person" regarding general questions.

Slovic also mentioned that if a concern is about traffic improvements or safety issues related to traffic, then Public Works and PDS can be contacted. If a concern is about a project, then PDS can be contacted.

Supervisor Desmond stated that SD County people can attend BCSG meetings.

Norris stated that the out of community impacts to our community is a concern.



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Murali Pasumarthi, Traffic Engineering Manager at the Department of Public Works, stated that they assess current operating condition of traffic flows and speeds, they partner and work with the CHP regarding enforcement issues, and they would like to evaluate the speed on Gopher Canyon Road. Currently, Gopher Canyon Road has speed limits of 45mph near East Vista Way and 50mph near Hwy 395. They also investigated accidents on Gopher Canyon Road.

Norris asked if there is recognition of the increased and uncontrolled traffic flow that is degrading and disrupting the community, if there is a new or “outside the box” way to consider these impacts, and implement strategies to help solve some of the issues.

Pasumarthi stated he would be happy to attend a BCSG meeting.

Officer Wade Bartholomew, California Highway Patrol (CHP), stated that he and his partner have 106 surveyed roads they are responsible for, and since the communities know their roads best, he requested information from the community regarding the traffic.

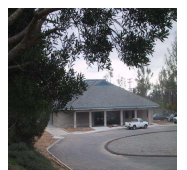
Supervisor Desmond mentioned that there is a long-term plan is to connect Bonsall Community Park and Rio Prado Park with the trail system.

The representative for Parks and Recreation stated that the area purchased for BCP has easy access to community facilities, and it provides three acres of land per 1,000 residents. There will be three access points to the park and a left-turn lane will be added to enter the park from Camino Del Rey. Regarding “tweaking” the BCP design, if changes occur, it will have a domino effect.

Norris stated that Bonsall is a small community, and having a large number of soccer fields and baseball fields will draw in more people from other communities. Instead, don’t change everything, but based on funding, we should consider and discuss some of the lower priority issues for the park. A valid concern is the traffic for this community park.

Supervisor Desmond stated that \$24 million was budgeted for BCP, and the design was based on community input. However, there may be an opportunity to accommodate horse trailers.

Norris mentioned that the \$24 million in the budget for the park is not enough to build the entire BCP, and the BCSG would like to have a say in how the monies are used for the future elements of the park.



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Several questions were asked:

Safety on Gopher Canyon Road? - Pasumarthi stated that they want to provide safer turning on Gopher Canyon Road, and delineators will be replaced to help with traffic calming by the end of March. They would also like to check for possible S-curve and intersection improvements.

What about equestrian use limiting the traffic speed on Gopher Canyon Road? Pasumarthi mentioned that state law establishes speed limits, and he would be happy to attend a future BCSG meeting to provide further information about speed limits.

Traffic on West Lilac Rd. – Pasumarthi stated the 4.3 miles on W. Lilac Rd. from Camio Del Rey to Hwy. 395 is 45mph. There were 24 collisions in the three years they reviewed, and that number of collisions is higher than the state average. There are pedestrians and bicyclists on the road, there are driveways, and there's not much room on the sides of the road. They would like to focus on providing additional safety treatments.

Cameras on Gopher Canyon Road? The County will review and determine what kind of tools will work.

Jennifer Haider, BCSG, stated that they want everyone to be safe, and she saw officers pulling drivers over. How many tickets have been issued on Gopher Canyon Road? Wade responded that they were monitored the road twice in January and issued about 35 citations.

A guest stated concern that equestrians have been riding the trails in the area for over 100 years, and it is disconcerting that no staging areas for equestrians are planned in Bonsall Community Park. Supervisor Desmond mentioned that future development may have an area where equestrian staging.

2. Due to the Presidential Primary Election on March 5, the next BCSG Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12 at 7pm.

E. ADJOURNED at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Apsley, Secretary

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