

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 8 April 2024, at Crest Community Clubhouse, 113 N. Park Drive, El Cajon, CA 92021.

A. ROLL CALL. Chair Darin Wessel called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Planning Group members Rich, Ulm, Nehring, Wessel, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 8. Members Becker and Geiger were absent, but excused. Seat 4, Seat 7, Seat 11, Seat 13 and Seat 14 are vacant.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Planning Group member Pat Ulm moved that the Group approves the minutes of the 11 March 2024 meeting, as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Planning Group member Mary Manning spoke about her efforts to secure Fire Safe Council coverage for all of the Subregional communities, and she reported that the new FSC map excludes Dehesa; that a portion of Dehesa is included as part of the Crest Fire Safe Council; that the San Diego County Fire Authority considers Dehesa as part of the Sycuan Fire Protection District; that the Subregional communities appear to be regarded as parts of three different Fire Districts; and that an Inland Rural Fire Safe Council is still a work in progress. Mary also reported on operational details for the Harbison Canyon Fire Station No. 24 involving CalFire and Paramedic services, and that the Fire Department and Sheriff's Department are working together to develop new evacuation routes for our area.

Member Ron Nehring spoke about the proposal for a County-imposed Mileage Tax; and he provided a handout of a draft resolution for the Group to consider at the May meeting, by which the Planning Group would urge the County and SANDAG to join with the Group to reject any locally imposed mileage tax, as well as all other proposed tax increases which do not take into account the unique needs and challenges faced by East County residents.

Member Michael Rich reported that 16 April 2024 is the deadline for submitting applications for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resources potentially available for helping with private road repairs needed on non-County dirt roads, as a result of recent winter stormwater flood damages. He provided a contact telephone number (1-800-621-3362), and the relevant program identification number (Disaster # 4758).

A Crest resident reported that upcoming Crest Community Council meetings on 18 April, 16 May, and 2 June will be providing information about wildfire preparedness issues including Department of Insurance policies, Fire Wise Community organization, and available defensible space and weed abatement programs.

E. ACTION ITEMS.

E1. Action on PDS2024-STP-24-005 – San Miguel Fire Station No.18 in Crest.

Representative from San Miguel Fire Station No.18 in Crest described the plans proposed in PDS2024-STP-24-005, for the demolition the existing station, and construction of new one on the site. They explained that managing hazardous materials' issues have been underway, and that 16 April the project bidding process will be opened. A plot map of the project was displayed, as well as architectural and artist renditions, showing that the new equipment bays for the fire trucks are designed to open out on, and access, Suncrest Boulevard; and a set back waiver is needed to allow an improved apparatus access route to the new station bays. Demolition of the station parts to be removed is expected to be completed in May, and a public picnic is being planned for the community to say goodbye to the 1948 station structure. The new station is based on a steel Butler Building, which is designed with ample space for expanded future needs in the area. Night lighting for the station and adjacent streets will comply with all the County Public Works current requirements.

Planning Group questions and comments included concerns about potential impacts to the community related to fire station equipment/apparatus accessing local streets and traffic, equipment noise, and facility night lighting; and about potential means to mitigate and limit the impacts of these issues.

Planning Group member Ron Nehring moved the Group recommends County approval of PDS2024-STP-24-005 as proposed and described in Action Item E1. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

E2. Presentation by Sheriff's Department on topics of interest to Planning Group and its communities. Representatives from the Sheriff's Department Alpine District discussed various aspects of its service to the Subregion's communities, including: 1) the Department's cooperation with Fire Agencies during events involving Unified Command, to assist with evacuations and road traffic control, and prevention of activities by non-residents and potential looters; 2) the Genesis Protect Application, designed in the aftermath of the Paradise Fire, to connect public persons with the emergency communications network utilized by the Fire Agencies and Sheriff's Department; 3) the Department's jurisdiction limitations determined by existing County Codes, and to issues concerning public roads, but not to private road issues; and 4) the Department's cooperative coordination with the Sycuan Police for issues involving public roads on Tribal lands.

Group discussion emphasized the importance of cooperative/joint connections between the County Sheriff's Department, Fire Agencies, and the Sycuan Police and Fire Departments.

E3. Ad Hoc Committee update regarding evacuation in case of wildfire.

(Nehring/Lucas). Ad Hoc Chair Nehring reported that an updated and improved draft of Community Plan sections regarding wildfire preparedness and emergency evacuation would be presented at the May 2024 meeting of the Group. He also offered to consult with those interested in learning about the currently available home safety technologies for use inside residences, such as gas leak and smoke detectors.

E4. Discussion and potential action regarding absence of County Zoning Ordinance covering short-term rentals. Group members discussed actions taken by other communities resulting from problems related to short-term rental properties, as well as accessory dwelling units.

Chairman Wessel moved that the Group recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopts a Short-term Rental Ordinance that addresses, and provides appropriate regulations/restrictions to control, potential obnoxious community impacts resulting from disruptive activities at short-term rental properties.

The motion passed (8yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

E5. Approval of rental fees for Planning Group use of Crest Community Association Clubhouse. Member Ron Nehring moved that the Planning Group approves the County's payment of the rental fees for the Group's use of the Crest Community Association Clubhouse for its regular monthly meetings of January through April 2024.

The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

F. GROUP BUSINESS.

F1. Announcements and Correspondence Received. Chair Wessel announced that the update and discussion of the County's proposed Socially Equitable Cannabis program will be tabled and not considered by the Group until County hearings on this issue have been concluded.

F2. Discussion Items/Action Items.

F2a. Consideration of applicant(s) to fill vacancies for Seats 4, 7, 11, 13 and 14.

Chair Wessel reported that the County has not yet responded to the application submitted by Crest resident Diana Griffin, for vacant Seat 4; that her on-line application has not yet been certified as eligible by the Registrar of voters and forwarded to the Group for its action; that the Group could proceed to take its action; and that if it votes to recommend her appointment to Seat 4, this recommendation of the Group's approval could be submitted to the County, with an accompanying letter sent to Supervisor Anderson explaining this action caused by the County's delay in processing her on-line application.

Chair Wessel moved that the Group recommends that Diana Griffin be appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fill the vacant Seat 4 of the Planning Group.

The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

F2b. Status/reports – Association of Planning Groups – SANDAG report.

F2c. Community Plan update – Progress report. Chair Wessel reported there will be an update and progress report of the Community Plan at the May 2024 meeting.

F3. Meeting updates.

F3a. Reports on and upcoming BOS, PC and other Hearings/Meetings. Chair Wessel reminded the Group that the required annual Planning Group training is due for all Members, that on-line Zoom meetings for this have ended, but that individual on-line training sessions are still available.

F3b. Next meeting date, 13 May 2024, at Olde Ironsides Park, 326 Harbison Canyon Road, El Cajon, CA 92021.

G. ADJOURNMENT. Member Robert Lutz-Partain moved adjournment at 8:15 PM. The motion passed unanimously (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)