

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 12 August 2024, at Olde Ironsides Park, 326 Harbison Canyon Road, El Cajon, CA 92021.

A. ROLL CALL. Chair Darin Wessel called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Only seven Planning Group members (Wessel, Becker, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Geiger and Lucas) were present, so a quorum of eight present members required for holding an official meeting and conducting business was not attained. Members Rich, Ulm and Nehring were absent, but excused. Seat 4, Seat 7, Seat 11, Seat 13 and Seat 14 are vacant.

Chair Darin Wessel explained that without a quorum of eight, no Planning Group actions could be taken, but that the Group members and the members of the public present could carry out informal discussions about matters of interest to the community included on the Final Agenda publically posted for the 12 August 2024 meeting.

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Chair Wessel stated that approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10 June 2024 would be tabled, to be considered at the September meeting of the Group.

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Crest resident Kandy Franklin commented that the community and the Planning Group need to have discussions concerning the Crest Community Evacuation Plans for the ongoing updating efforts from the Crest Community Plan; and that a locked gate for access from Mt. View Road to adjacent Open Space needs attention to assure appropriate entry for wildfire preparedness and response activities.

Dehesa resident Bill Bretz reported that on 17 July 2024 a fire occurred on a property at the east end of Sloane Canyon, beginning at the same residential site where a fire occurred a month before; and that a rapid, effective fire fighting response limited this fire to only about 15 acres, thanks to multiple repeated airborne water drops provided from nearby Loveland Reservoir.

E. ACTION ITEMS.

E1. Presentation by legislative aid to Supervisor Anderson. Chair Wessel introduced Supervisor Anderson's legislative aid, Mr. Forest Hafner, and invited him to give a presentation to the Group on behalf of the Supervisor. Mr. Hafner provided everyone a handout, "2023 Legislative Actions & Accomplishments, Joel Anderson, Supervisor, District 2," and then discussed with the Group the Supervisor's actions regarding issues including Wildfire Preparedness and Responses, the Cool Zones Program, and the Supervisors' Intern Program. He mentioned that District 2 has more than 100 active interns assisting Supervisor Anderson, with about 20 usually present in the office.

Member Tim Ryan mentioned that the Board of Supervisors needs to streamline and improve the process for Board approval of nominated replacement members for Planning Group boards, as the approval of our Group's nominee for vacant Seat 4 has been delayed

for months by the County's ineffective approval procedures. Chair Wessel added that the Clerk of Board of Supervisors held up this nominee's electronic application erroneously, even though the Registrar of Voters had properly certified it.

E2. Leadership transition upon resignation of Chair after the 12 August 2024

Planning Group meeting. Chair Wessel announced that, due to his resignation, the Group will need to vote for and elect a new Group Chair at the September meeting; that Vice-chair Ron Nehring will act as Chair at the September meeting, and is willing to be elected as the new Chair at that time.

Member Tim Lucas stated that County Policy I-1 and the Planning Group Bylaws do not provide a specific operating procedure for establishing a replacement Chair under the current circumstances; that at the September meeting the Group will need to vote its approval for selecting replacement officers, followed by votes on nominations from the floor for the replacements. Chair Wessel stated that he will draft an agenda for the September meeting to guide Group actions to use existing rules for properly dealing with these issues; and that he thanks all of the Group's dedicated members for their service for the community.

E3. CalFire Defensible Space Inspections for sale of residences in high severity fire zones. Chair Wessel reported on the CalFire Defensible Space Inspection that he had done on his property, which he was selling, in order to comply with County ordinances (68.401 – 68.407) requiring such inspection for the buyer's lender and prior to closing escrow for the sale. The discussion about these inspections included mention that CalFire can now do aerial inspections of private properties, for purposes of observing the conditions of defensible space in critical areas.

F. GROUP BUSINESS.

F1. Announcements and Correspondence Received. Chair Wessel reported that a number of County projects have been deferred to later dates.

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 Planning Group Chairs have recommended that the County considers revisions to its Policies regarding the governance of the Planning Group quorum required for holding official public meetings, as well as the required number of members/size of a Planning Group board.

F2b. Status/reports – Association of Planning Groups

i. Traffic Safety Dashboard <https://www.sandag.org/trafficsafety>. Chair Wessel reported that the Association of Planning Groups received a SANDAG report that included information about, and the link to access, the Traffic Safety Dashboard; and that this provides information about the numbers and types of traffic accidents that have occurred on specific County roads.

F2c. Community Plan update – Progress report. None

F3. Meeting updates.

F3a. Reports on and upcoming BOS, PC and other Hearings/Meetings. None

F3b. Next meeting date, 9 September 2024, at Dehesa Elementary School Cafeteria, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, CA 92021.

G. ADJOURNMENT. Member Robert Lutz-Partain suggested adjournment of the informal meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)