

County of San Diego
Jacumba Hot Springs Community Sponsor Group
FINAL Minutes for the JCSG Meeting held at 6 pm on June 13, 2022
Highland Senior Center, 44681 Old Hwy 80, Jacumba Hot Springs, CA 91934

A. The June 13 JCSG meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. All JCSG members were present: Seat 1. Jacari Cousins; Seat 2. Greg Curran (Vice-Chair); Seat 3. Cherry Diefenbach (Chair); Seat 4. Jeffery Osborne; Seat 5. Katrina Westley (Secretary). Public: 24.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of the draft minutes for the JCSG meeting held on May 9, 2022. *M/S: to approve the draft minutes: Curran/Westley. Passed: 5-0-0-0.*

D. Public Communication: The public may comment on any subject within the JCSG’s jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda. (Speakers are limited to 2 minutes and no action can be taken on non-agenda items.)

Greg asked for a moment of reflection for the many victims of the tragic 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting.

Linda suggested the 1932 Carrizo Creek Bridge located on Old Hwy 80 be named the “Dennis Ruth Memorial Bridge.” There was a general consensus of support from those present to name a bridge after Dennis. The Chair will work with Linda Churchill to develop a biographical sketch on Dennis and a petition to collect signatures.

Gina raised a concern of embezzlement regarding the on-going dispute over the ownership of the Highlands Senior Center. She then accused the sponsor group of fraud for failing to record every comment that was made during previous meetings. The Chair explained that minutes are a summary and not a transcript of the comments made. She also stated that sometimes when listening to the meeting recordings, actual comments were unclear. Bea suggested that a microphone would be helpful. Maureen stated that if someone believes that an important comment was left out of the minutes, there is an opportunity to amend the minutes before they are approved. Preston asked whether the recording of the meetings should be posted online.

The Chair raised the issue of unattractiveness of the solar-powered water treatment plant located on the north side of Old Hwy 80. She suggested that some drought tolerant landscaping could soften the current prison-like appearance of the perimeter fencing around the facility. Bill Pape suggested planting Mexican Bird of Paradise. The Chair will put this item on a subsequent meeting agenda for further discussion.

E. Action items:

1. **Memorial Bridge petitions.** The Chair provided an update on the status of petitions to name the two 1931 county bridges located on Old Hwy 80 at the western approach to Jacumba for Bert Vaughn and Patricia “Pat” Fauble in accordance with the County’s memorial bridge naming program (BOS Policy F-53). She indicated that she has received at least 100 petition signatures for the Bert Vaughn Memorial Bridge and 100 for the Patricia Fauble Bridge. She thanked Paula W., Lonna, Greg, and Maureen for their help collecting signatures.

M/S: Motion for the Chair to submit bridge naming packages for the Bert Vaughn Memorial Bridge and the Patricia Fauble Memorial Bridge to Supervisor Anderson: Curran/Cousins. Passed 5-0-0-0.

2. **Solar powered radar signs.** Jeff identified the need for solar-powered speed radar signs on Old Hwy 80 at both ends of town to slow down speeders. Lorrie stated that she has noticed more folks speeding through town including some locals. Gina stated she had contacted DPW about several road issues in town: speeders, the need for grading on Heber Street which is currently very bumpy, etc. She will be meeting with Chris from DPW next week. The Chair asked Gina to provide the group with an update after that meeting.

The Chair had previously contacted DPW on June 9th regarding radar speed signs. DPW’s service request group will review our request for radar speed signs. She reminded everyone that, in September 2021, the JCSG previously

submitted a request for the installation of sidewalks along Old Hwy 80 and a crosswalk on Old Hwy 80 at Carriso St. She will follow up on that 2021 request. She also stated the need to avoid a duplication of requests by different entities or individuals within the community. (Road improvement requests are a function of the JCSG.)

3. The Socially Equitable Cannabis Program. The County will be implementing a framework that supports legal cannabis sales. Part of that framework includes a Cannabis Permitting Program EIR. Supervisor Anderson has put forth a number of enhancement measures that would help to mitigate any potential negative impacts from the County's Socially Equitable Cannabis Program. (These measures will be considered by the BOS at their Land Use meeting on June 15th.)

Some of the things that Supervisor Anderson is requesting include:

- Funding for youth prevention cannabis education programs
- keeping tax revenue from cannabis sales in unincorporated communities in those communities
- modifying cannabis retail shop operating setbacks and advertisement signage restrictions near sensitive lands uses like schools, parks, day care centers, libraries, and churches, etc. from 600 feet to 1000 feet.

Does the group think we should support Supervisor Anderson's proposed cannabis program enhancement measures?

M/S for the Chair to submit an email to Supervisor Anderson that indicates our support before the BOS meeting: Osborne/ Diefenbach. Passed: 5-0-0-0.

4. Update on JVR solar project and community benefits foundation by Mike Appelman.

Mike Appelman was not present to discuss the JVR solar project and community benefits foundation.

The Chair has postponed a request for a PDS representative to attend one of our JCSG meetings pending the outcome of the lawsuit filed against the JVR project. That litigation is expected to be heard by a San Diego judge shortly. Once the judge has made a ruling, the Chair will invite PDS to attend a JCSG meeting to provide guidance how community benefit money can be accessed by the community.

Jeff stated that tariffs imposed on China's solar panels may slow down the construction of new solar power facilities like the JVR project.

Greg stated that President Biden has recently issued an executive order waiving those tariffs.

5. Update on the County's Broadband Strategy.

The County is developing a comprehensive plan to increase internet connectivity through robust infrastructure, digital equity and affordability for residents in the unincorporated areas. The Chair encouraged everyone to provide the County with ideas on how to improve internet service in our area by taking the County's short survey at: <https://engage.sandiegocounty.gov/broadband>. The Board of Supervisors will be discussing some broadband issues at their meeting on June 15, 2022.

Bonnie stated that during the 11 days that she recently spent at the Backcountry Resource Center in Boulevard as a poll worker, the internet access normally provided by the library kiosk at the center was not working.

F. Group business/project updates, to include correspondence-discussion only:

1. An email request was sent to County Counsel for mediation assistance between JCSD and the Highland Senior Center Board on June 2, 2022. County Counsel's response acknowledged that meditation was a viable way to resolve conflicts but that both parties to the conflict, would need to agree to mediation. (County Counsel does not provide mediation services.)

2. Comments on Attachment A to the Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF) were sent by email on May 31, 2022 to Zerocarbon.Lueg@sdcounty.ca.gov.

3. Community interface reports.

a. **Real East Fire Safe Council.** The next chipping day is Sat., June 18, from 8am to noon at the Backcountry Resource Center in Boulevard. If you have time please volunteer to help out with this event.

The FSC was recently approved to receive two grants which will allow them to pay their liability insurance and fund future chipping events.

b. **JBRA (Revitalization).** The Backcountry Resource Center was used as a voting place for 11 days. Martial Arts classes are held there every Sat. Mark Ostrander is currently working with SDG&E to bring the facility up to ADA standards so that it could be used during Public Safety Power Shut Down days. The County Parks and Rec. Department recently surveyed the back area of the property for a possible future “pocket park.”

The Chair thanked Mark and Lorrie Ostrander for their many hours of community service on the fire safe council and at the Backcountry Resource Center.

c. **Highland Senior Center.** Greg Curran provided a brief update. The center is going through bankruptcy and unlawful detainer—a future hearing is anticipated. The center is currently being used for a series of free musical events and senior exercise classes.

G. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm. The next JCSG meeting is Monday, July 11, 2022 at 6 pm.

Approved: July 11, 2022