

# Spring Valley Community Planning Group

## \*\*\* MEETING MINUTES\*\*\*

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

### A. ROLL CALL – QUORUM

Call to order at 6:04pm. Roll call is 9 present (Lowes, Robles, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Gibbons, Pearson, Custeau, Woodruff) 4 absent (Gonzalez, Shaffer, Morgan, Snyder), 2 vacant

### B. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – Opportunity for the public to speak to the Planning Group on any subject matter within our jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda.

Eugenio noted that from the Caltrans presentation on the 125/94 exchange at the Casa De Oro Library that there is a shortage of funds right now. Pierce said that another meeting was scheduled for today, 8.13.24, in Casa De Oro.

Congresswoman Jacobs introduced herself and announced updates. The National Defense Authorization Act which she seats on that committee. Got in provisions for housing and childcare. The Appropriations Bill is being worked on, this being an elections year, but there is flood relief for Spring Valley, a new fire engine for San Miguel in that bill. Custeau brought up the 125/94 interchange as needing attention and help from the federal side. Gettman brought up the initial purpose of the 125-toll road as leading to the border and the 125/94 interchange has now become a chokepoint. Woodruff stated the main concern that the exchange project keeps getting put on the back burner. Pearson suggested getting the congresswoman's staff briefed on this by the Director of Caltrans. Jacobs said the funding and grant streams can be reviewed with the local authorities to see what can be done. Lowes described the difficulty of traversing the 125/94 and feels that the area has been forgotten. Jacobs stressed that ultimately this is a local and state issue. Gettman brought up the local homeless issue that needs a one sponsor coordinated approach. Jacobs said that on the Rails and Trails federal money support, the county would have to initiate any requests. She said a holistic approach must be taken and the different groups of homeless is necessary. The most visible group, mentally ill and substance abuse, is the minority, but defines the whole. Families with children is the fastest growing segment in San Diego. Jacobs is working with U.S. Senators on this issue and getting school districts to support with hotel stays as an example. Homeless veterans is an issue that federal government can take a role in, one approach is to untangle the VA voucher system. Housing costs are a big issue in San Diego, and she is working with the military to house more families. Gettman suggested the direct payment method is more successful. Jacobs also stressed to continuing work through the issues with FEMA on the flooding. Legislation has been introduced to streamline this process.

### C. ACTION ITEMS with designation as to whether there will be vote or not on the item:

#### 1. Fill Vacancy of Seat #12: Vote on this item.

Malcolm Gettman is the only candidate who has completed all the application requirements. He was on the group from 1989 to 1995, worked on the layout for the 125 and now is interested in rejoining due to the Quarry Road Bridge project. Wallace asked about an anticipated attendance issue and Malcolm said only one in October. There was general discussion about election procedure. Motion by Custeau to nominate Gettman, second by Eugenio. Motion passes 9 yes (Lowes, Robles, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Gibbons, Pearson, Custeau, Woodruff), 0 no, 4 absent, 2 vacant.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes: 7/23/2024. Vote on this item.

Motion to approve by Pearson, second by Eugenio. Vote is 9 yes (Lowes, Robles, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Gibbons, Pearson, Custeau, Woodruff), 0 no, 4 absent, 2 vacant. Motion passes.

#### 3. Informational Item: San Miguel Fire Protection District Update. Presenter: Chief Andrew Lawler. No Vote on the item.

Chief introduced Tobin Riley, division chief for health & safety and Brian Liebermann, newly promoted. The chief believes that they need to be more politically active and was pleased to see Congresswoman Jacobs and that her office helped to get \$250,000, after a grass roots effort, toward a new fire apparatus and \$1 million toward a fire station in Crest with the help of Congressman Issa. The district is 50 square miles and has 140,000 residents. They are meeting with District 1 in September and a discussion point is the issue of service demands vs funding, which comes primarily from property taxes. Can't keep going back to the public for bond issues or assessments. An example of service demands would be snake

removal that animal services doesn't do. They are working on triaging calls to get better results using the proper services and reduce use of expensive apparatus. Custeau asked about alternative apparatus for responses that do not need the large expensive vehicles. Robles spoke about 911 calls and educating the community on the proper use.

**4. Informational Item: Law Enforcement Update & License Plate Reader Program from San Diego County Sheriff's Office. Presenter: Lt Michael Pepin.** No Vote on the item.

Other agencies that use this system are La Mesa, Chula Vista and several other local cities. He had comment cards available for feedback. Communities are concerned about this being surveillance, it is not that. The cameras compare plates with database records on stolen cars, warrants, etc. This system is a force multiplier. Recordings are kept for a year, unless by state mandate. Will be located at larger intersections with heavier traffic. Robles asked if the policies are already written. No, feedback plays into that along with state law. There are safeguards on access as well. Pearson asked if there has been any public opposition. Not really. Lowes is concerned with this being surveillance. It is not and Pepin gave examples of how it works with human intervention. Wallace asked about future potential uses that could be invasive. Pepin doesn't see this technology being used for red light type infractions. Detectives would use the cameras to get matches on license plates of suspects and that leads to certain areas to search. Pierce asked if the CHP uses or will use. Pepin does not know; the state agencies and the locals have a firewall of sorts between the technologies they use. Eugenio asked about issues from inaccurate data. In the field, the data is checked by staff before they act on a lead from a camera match. Wallace asked about locations, but that will depend on how many cameras are allocated. The Safe Streets initiative would use volunteer residential security camera owners to be notified of a crime that might have been surveilled on the cameras. Law enforcement can only track a plate if it is already in the system. A partial plate can be useful as the system could build on data to fill out the number.

**5. O'Reilly Auto Parts, APN 584-511-16-00, 933 Sweetwater Road, commercial signage minor deviation request.** Proponent is Peter Lapsiwala. Vote on this item.

Asking for approval of 2 wall signs. Lowes and Gibbons input on the current state of signage approval for this project, which was one sign. The county has stamped plans approving 2 signs. Lapsiwala was not sure why the county stamped the plans as approved. The group emphasized that there can be only one frontage used for calculations. Wallace asked if O'Reilly would also be on the center's monument sign. Custeau spoke on the exceptions we have allowed for signage at that center and the reasoning that distance to the streets was behind these exceptions. Custeau made a motion to accept the current plan with illumination during the shopping center's major building's business hours, Pearson seconded. Wallace asked about the details of the current, approved by the group, plan. Pearson emphasized that it just makes sense to have the signs as proposed and to consider our guidelines as just that, guidelines. Wallace asked when we are going to stop seeing this request as we have just recently approved a version. Robles states that the Chik-fil-A sign is obvious in his neighborhood, but the O'Reilly sign only serves the shopping center. Lowes states that when our group makes selective enforcement of our guidelines, we may become liable. Discussion turned to lighting, white background and lettering. Gibbons asked if the sign can be illuminated and, on a timer, and it can be. Pierce asked for measurement specifics on the previously approved signage vs the current request. Wallace and Custeau asked about what was approved by our group this past January. Proponents summarized the current request and the history of approval/denial. Lowes covered how we measure a sign per our guidelines. Gettman asked for clarification of the illumination time if the new Olive Garden is included. Vote is 7 yes (Robles, Pierce, Eugenio, Gibbons, Pearson, Custeau, Woodruff), 2 no (Lowes, Wallace), 4 absent, 2 vacant. Robles asked for a recap on why the motion failed. Lowes said it was the size of the signs and Wallace said it was we had previously voted on this package and turned it down. The landlord said he would investigate if Chik-fil-A illuminates their sign toward the residences and have that illumination turned off.

**AT&T, APN 584-520-32-00, 8626 Jamacha Blvd, Suite 104, commercial signage minor deviation request.** Proponent is Jennifer Galvin. Vote on this item.

Gibbons introduced Galvin. Signs will have individual illuminated channel letters, globe logo and also a sign on the shopping center monument. They are taking over the former T Mobile space with the square footage slightly reduced. Frontage calculation meets our requirements. Custeau stated that this material is prepared by the shopping center and is not clearly presented to our group. He also reiterated the square footage calculation method. The building faces the shopping center, and the back is to the street. The frontage is 25 - 30 feet, based on the leased space. Robles said no residences are affected by the rear sign; it is just for visibility from the street. Custeau felt the signage is not out of the scope and context of the other businesses and makes a motion that we accept this sign package as is. Second by Eugenio. Gibbons said that he felt he wastes his time having to explain why the business would need 2 signs. These buildings are designed to have two signs. A discussion ensued on what design guidelines are received by the proponent at the county. Custeau wanted to emphasize what is the specific signage guidelines we should be using and that this signage package does not meet those guidelines. Woodruff said that if we have guidelines, we should stick with them. Discussion continued regarding allowing exceptions and/or interpretations. Wallace felt we allow exceptions too often and that we need to stick to the guideline. Eugenio emphasized the 'case by case basis' statement regarding letter height. Custeau had submitted changes to signage guidelines to clear up the rules. But we can consider case-by-case situations. A public member stated how we have held most corporate businesses to the guidelines. Wallace asked about the size of the rear building signs in this presentation. They are the same size or a little larger. Vote is 8 yes (Lowe, Robles, Pierce, Eugenio, Gibbons, Pearson, Custeau, Woodruff), 0 no, 1 abstain (Wallace), 4 absent, 2 vacant. Motion passed.

**6. Discussion: Address SVCPG Vacant Seats and high number or member absences. Vote on this item**

Per group members, this item could have been more specific to state this is a vote acknowledging the abandonment of a group seat by a member with a high number of absences. Motion by Wallace to acknowledge the forfeit of seat 14 on our group, based on Article 6, Section 2 of the Spring Valley CPG Rules of Order. Lowe seconded. If passes, the chair will send a letter to our PDS liaison. Vote is 9 yes (Lowe, Robles, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Gibbons, Pearson, Custeau, Woodruff), 0 no, 4 absent, 2 vacant. Motion passed. Robles asked if we can now move our meeting time back to 7pm, this request was tabled until we fill more seats.

**D. GROUP BUSINESS**

1. **Announcements:** County of San Diego Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Tour event happening in Spring Valley on August 20th from 6-7 PM at the Spring Valley Library (836 Kempton Street, Spring Valley, CA 91977)

2. Reports:

- Chair No update.
- CSA 128 The county took \$1 million from the PLDO money from CSA 128 to put toward the Calavo Park budget. This would be brought up under an action item for a possible letter the use of that money.
- TAC Only item close to us was a recertification of Fuerte to 35 mph. AB 43 was passed which designates 400 miles of unincorporated roads as safety corridors for an additional 5 mph reduction in speed.
- Highway cleanup Next scheduled date is 8.24.24 8am at Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
- APG No update since the last report. The group was asked to keep our 125/94 in mind as a priority item.
- Other Regarding the election, Tim Snyder has chosen to not be reelected, but all the candidates on the ROV slate will be reelected due to the 8 or below candidate limit.

3. Next SVCPG meeting: August 27, 2024

**E. ADJOURNMENT at 8:32pm**

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

We strive to protect personally identifiable information, by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information collected becomes public record, subject to inspection and copying by the public, unless an exemption in law exists. In the event of conflict, governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other law will control. You can review any personal information collected about you. You may recommend changes to your personal information, which you believe is in error, by submitting a written request that shows, credibly, the error. If you believe your personal information is being used for purposes other than those intended, you may contact us. In all cases, we will take reasonable steps to verify your identity, before granting access or making corrections.

**Purpose of Planning and Sponsor Groups**

Advise the County on Discretionary projects as well as on planning and land use matters that are proposed within their respective community planning or sponsor group area.