

# Spring Valley Community Planning Group

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

### A. ROLL CALL – QUORUM

11 Present (Gonzalez, Robles, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Shaffer, Peason, Custeau, Gettmann, Woodruff, Snyder), 2 Absent (Lowe, Gibbons), 2 Vacant. Lowe arrived a few minutes later, making 12 Present.

### 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.

Karen Henry, a Bonita resident and retired engineer, also known as the Sweetwater Authority watchdog. She discovered the proposed floating solar project on the reservoir. There is a public meeting on 12/14 @ 9:00am specifically on this solar project. There will be a Zoom remote meeting option. The project previously presented to SVCPG was less than 10 acres of panels, but her public records search shows a much larger project, producing up to 80 megawatts and in partnership with San Diego Community Power. This new proposal would cover ¾ of the reservoir. Authority management says there is no land available to locate the solar project, but per Karen, there is no documentation available to support this analysis. The Authority is also looking into battery storage systems (BESS) for their power system. Finally, the agreement for an exclusivity period with the vendor that the Authority was using, ends at the end of this month.

Lora Lowe, an SVCPG member, stating that, when disparaging a group member, they should not send out the text message to that member. The discussion centered around the signage at a shopping center. Lora would rather that negative comments about her be made to her personally.

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

#### 1. Approval of Minutes: 11/12/2024. Vote on this item.

Motion to approve by Gettmann, second by Pearson. Vote is 11 Yes (Gonzalez, Lowe, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau, Gettmann, Woodruff, Snyder), 0 No, 1 Abstain (Robles), 1 Absent (Gibbons), 2 Vacant. The motion passes.

#### 2. Discussion: CSA 128's PLDO Priority List for submission to the County. Vote on this item.

Carl Kasimatis and Steve Babbitt are at this meeting representing CSA 128. A draft of their priority list was sent to chair Pierce. Eugenio asked how their list compares to the SVCPG list. For example, the wildlife crossing (on SVCPG list as well) and privacy fencing at Goodland Acres Park are on their list. Rubberized play surfaces and community gardens have been removed from both lists. Dog park shade, public pools, splash parks and pickle ball courts have also been removed. Pierce mentioned that PLDO funds were used to pay for Calavo Park and that we may need to address this as a separate issue. Also that Del Parque, Estrella and Calavo Parks should be included in CSA 128's jurisdiction. Discussion continued on what Spring Valley parks are public or private and whether developed or not. Pierce suggested that the county present to us on the CSA's oversight, PLDO, what the community wants in their parks and that the wildlife trail is wanted, but that PLDO shouldn't pay for it. Pearson suggested we create an exhaustive list and go to all levels of government to find funding, as well as reimbursing the PLDO funds used to pay for Calavo Park. Custeau brought up Sweetwater Authority's potential mitigation being paying for trails and park space for the reservoir solar project. Gettmann said such mitigation happens and used the example of SR125 routing and the subsequent park and recreational space at the reservoir. The CSA reps defined the difference between trails and pathways programs. Pierce went through other list items desired and to invite a Parks rep to present regarding the CSA, the boundaries, and the fees collected and the CSA would also want to attend. Discussion also focused on having a multi-use event space and that there is such a space at Sweetwater Place County Park. Next would be to prioritize the list items. Custeau said that funding drives which items are chosen to be completed, rather than priority on a list, even though the form says to list by priority. The CSA reps said their number one item is accessible play equipment. Also that Parks would be more responsive to a unified list between the CSA and the planning group rather than a long and diluted list. So, anyone looking at the two lists sees that the CPG and CSA are on the same page. The CSA also is trying to get a resolution on why PLDO funds were used to fund a park. Our list must back to the county by January 20. The intent is that both groups submit the same list. Pierce began listing our group's priorities. Gettmann

spoke on moving educational trail signage up the list close to the loop trail request. There are supposed to be 52 miles of trails in Spring Valley, but we are no where close to that. Jake Christie asked what kinds of animals would use the access path. A letter has been written to the county supervisors to promote the path. Wallace asked that a waterfront park listed right behind the wildlife crossing. Pearson made a motion to approve the list with the proviso that our chair can sync our list with the list from CSA 128. Seconded by Robles. Vote is 12 Yes (Gonzalez, Lowes, Robles, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau, Gettmann, Woodruff, Snyder) 0 No, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent (Gibbons) 2 Vacant. Motion passes.

**3. Group Appointment.** In accordance with County, Planning and Sponsor Group Policies and Procedures (I-1) and SVCPG By-laws, the group will vote to recommend to the Board of Supervisors candidate Jake Christie for appointment. Motion to recommend made by Robles, seconded by Gettmann. Jake spoke about working with Miriam Rafferty, East County News, as a part-time journalist. The demand for articles has slowed and he realized being on the group s a great way to source information. What drives him is the condition of our roads and road signage. He doesn't see any large development in our future. Eugenio said his street was repaved recently, so there is a plan regarding the streets. Wallace said we have group members who don't come to meetings and that Christie had not been here in a while. Christie said he was not getting much demand for his articles and he would rather spend his time on our group. He has been vetted though the county and has met the qualifications. Christie wants the information from the source regarding what is going on. Wallace stressed that member attendance has been an issue. Eugenio said we have policies regarding missing meetings and we will use these policies if he is absent a lot. Custeau wanted to know his background and special skills he can bring to our group. He has lived in our community his whole life and his skills and understanding of the group's functions come from his journalism work. Gonzalez asked what Christie hopes to accomplish on our group. Since he lives in the area, he feels he could be an asset for improving Spring Valley. Robles has known of Christie's work and that has questioned the group and documented what happened in meetings. Wallace said she is trying to be fair, but that he doesn't have to be on the board to do his journalism work. Wallace is concerned about his motivation for being on the board. Gettmann asked what the 3 projects Christie felt were the most needed to address in the latest years of this planning group. First would be the old shopping center to housing on Austin Drive, then the removal of trees and getting parks built. Finally the successful defense of planning groups in general when the county had considered ending the groups entirely. Gettmann asked if Christie would consider SR125, the undergrounding of Spring Valley Creek and the construction of the library and rec center important. Christie concurred. Custeau emphasized that the group needs members who can work on the projects, prepare for effective presentations. Christie is willing and available to meet with proponents, document the sites, photograph and/or video. He was also on the speech team at Cuyamaca College. Pierce asked if Christie would be interested in the secretary position. Snyder said that everyone had a personal reason for being on the group. Members become advocates for how things work. Vote is 11 Yes (Gonzalez, Lowes, Robles, Pierce, Eugenio, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau, Gettmann, Woodruff, Snyder), 0 No, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent (Gibbons), 2 Vacant. Motion passes.

**4. PDS2024-STP-21-036TE Request for time extension.** The project site plan was approved under PDS2021-STP-21-036 for a 2,400 square foot metal storage building at 9236-9240 Olive Drive (Miller Paving). No changes have been proposed. Vote on this item.

Motion to approve the time extension made by Custeau, second by Gettmann. Lowes asked about the reason for the extension. Stacy Miller, property owner, said the tenant living in the property slated for demolition has been out of the state with a health issue for a year and is better now and has returned. Custeau explained what we had previously approved and that the project can now proceed with the extension. Vote is 12 Yes (Gonzalez, Lowes, Robles, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Shaffer, Pierson, Custeau, Gettmann, Woodruff, Snyder), 0 No, 1 Absent (Gibbons), 2 Vacant. The motion passes.

**5. Request for Opinion Editorial (Op-Ed) statement from SAY San Diego for groups position on the benefits of the proposed Smoke-Free Outdoor Public Places policy in our Unincorporated Area.** Vote on this item.

The group had sent a letter to the supervisors in support. Group members felt that adding to an op-ed is something like political action and county counsel should be contacted. Custeau said that since we have already done the letter, SAY San Diego is free to refer to our letter in the op-ed. An individual could make the statement, but not as a group representative.

Snyder felt that the op-ed would be benign and adding a statement would be completely beneficial. Shaffer felt an individual can do that, but not the group as a whole. Gettmann brought up his time spent, as SVCPG chair, in responding about a crematorium proposal in Spring Valley where the group had taken a position. He felt that referring to the letter position would not be harmful in the op-ed. We can articulate a position we have already taken and documented. Gonzalez said we have made our position in the previous letter and that's all we should do. Custeau is opposed to the group adding to an op-ed because we don't know what else the op-ed contains. If there was any op-ed that we would do, it would be solely our own and refer to the letter. Shaffer agrees with Cousteau's comment and even that the letter crossed into political speech and outside the purview of our group. Gettmann felt that the letter was appropriate in that we were working to get control of the issue and within the scope of our mission. Snyder asked if our letter is in the public domain. It is. SAY San Diego has now asked if they take on excerpt from the letter and co-author the op-end. The group felt that the first new request is okay, but the second is not. Since there is no motion, there will be no action on this item and the chair will communicate that back to SAY San Diego.

#### **D. GROUP BUSINESS**

1. **Announcements:** Gonzalez brought up researching information about SVCPG or Spring Valley and getting channeled through the Spring Valley Community Alliance (SVCA) to reach that data. She questioned if that was appropriate given SVCA's relationship with the county, i.e. grants, etc. Pierce said that was just a convenience but agreed to have SVCPG be the source in the future. Wallace said that this coming Friday, The Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce mixer is at their office at 5pm. Pearson said the Dictionary Hill Open Space Advocates will have their annual Walk and Talk on January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am, meet at Buena Vista Avenue and Eucalyptus Street and walk the road to the summit.

#### 2. Reports:

- Chair: the quarterly chairs' meeting is this coming Saturday. The same day and time as the Sweetwater Authority meeting about the solar panels on the reservoir. Both meetings can be done through Zoom, Snyder will attend the chair meeting and, at least, Pierce will attend the Sweetwater meeting.
- CSA 128: We went over this earlier in the meeting.
- TAC: Custeau had sent out a list of Spring Valley roadways where the speed limits are proposed to be lowered as part of the Safety Corridor, based on fatal and serious injuries. 400 miles of roads are part of the original designation. Of the top 65 most dangerous intersections, Spring Valley has the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Under AB43, these roadway speeds can be lowered another 5 MPH, when approved by the Board of Supervisors as early as April 2025. Lowes wants to get the contact name for trimming trees that are blocking street signs.
- Highway cleanup: Saturday, 12.14 0800 at Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
- APG: Robin, chair of the APG, had sent a notice that SANDAG has been cleared of any federal charges from the recent investigation. Robles asked about ending the toll on SR125. Gettmann said that the problem is that SR125 goes to the border and commercial trucks would use SR125 more if the toll was removed.
- Other: None

3. Next scheduled SVCPG meeting: January 14, 2025

#### **E. ADJOURNMENT** at 7:43pm

##### **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.