

**Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board**  
**12463 Rancho Bernardo Road #523, San Diego, CA 92198**

[www.rbplanningboard.com](http://www.rbplanningboard.com)

**January 18, 2024, 7:00 PM**

**7 Oaks Community Center 16789 Bernardo Oaks Dr, San Diego, CA 92128**

**Preliminary DRAFT Meeting Notes**

<b>2023 RANCHO BERNARDO COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ROSTER</b>									
P = present, A = absent, LE = left early									
<b>Robin Kaufman</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Sara Nucci</b>	<b>LE*</b>	<b>Steve Dow</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>June Smith*</b>	<b>A</b>		
<b>Benjamin Wier</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Vicki Touchstone</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Hugh Rothman</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Sujata Yellaepeddi</b>	<b>A</b>		
<b>Gary Long</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Donald Bertsch</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Sonny Googins</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Keith Mikas</b>	<b>P</b>		
<b>Rebecca Rapp</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Steve Gallant</b>	<b>P*</b>					<b>Total Seated Prior to Item 4</b>	<b>13</b>
								<b>After Item 4</b>	<b>14</b>
								<b>Total in Attendance Prior to Item 4</b>	<b>9</b>
								<b>After Item 4*</b>	<b>10</b>
								<b>After Item 10*</b>	<b>9</b>

LE\* Left Early; \*Seated under Item #4, presented himself at the December 2023 meeting.

**ITEM #1 Call to Order/Roll Call: 7:00 pm**

Meeting was called to order by Robin Kaufman, Chair, at 7:00 pm. Roll call with 10 present and 3 absent.

Robin welcomed everyone. Non-members present included Emily Piatanesi, Community Representative for the Mayor’s Office for Council Districts 1 and 5 (EPiatanesi@sandiego.gov) and member of the public, Alfred Ortiz.

**ITEM #2 Chair Remarks:**

The chair, Robin Kaufman, provided information about a potential four-story apartment complex at a site near Lomica Drive and Bernardo Center Drive. More information will be available if or as the project moves forward. Robin also described a public comment made from an individual representing the Ed Brown Center at the recent Park and Recreation Board meeting regarding potential use of the old lawn bowling area. He was seeking support from the Park and Recreation Board for their project. Robin spoke afterwards, giving information on how the RB Community

Recreation Group came to their decision to move forward in converting the area to turf, opening it up to multi-purpose use.

**ITEM #3 Non-agenda Public Comment:** No public comment, but Alfred Ortiz was present to express his interest in joining the Board, as discussed under Item #4.

**ITEM #4 Request Community Members to Identify Themselves if Interested in Appointment to Open Vacancies on the Board**

Alfred Ortiz introduced himself and indicated his interest in joining the Planning Board. He recently served on the County Grand Jury and would like to continue involvement in matters affecting the community and the region. He indicated an interest in running for a position on the Board as a representative from Swim and Tennis (District D). Because it is so close to the elections, he was asked to submit a declaration of candidacy application. The Board thanked him for his interest in the being on the Board and encouraged him to submit his application before 7 pm on February 15, 2024.

Steve Gallant, who came to the Board in December to express interest in filling one of the Board's vacancies, was appointed to the Board to represent Seven Oaks, where he currently resides and there has been an unfilled position.

Robin reminded everyone that new members must, and existing members are recommended to attend the annual Community Orientation Workshop (COW) meeting put on by the Planning Department. More details to come.

**ITEM #5 Government Staff Reports:** Emily Piatanesi, Community Representative for the Mayor's Office, gave the Board an update on issues of interest in the Mayor's office. The Mayor gave his 4<sup>th</sup> State of the City Address on January 10, where he stated he were supporting businesses and addressing needs associated with homelessness, housing, and infrastructure. He also indicated support for an amendment to Prop 47, which was approved to lowered some criminal sentences to misdemeanors. He also proposes to provide 1000 shelter beds by this time next year, but the design and type is yet to be determined. An online survey regarding this issue is available to receive public input. Emily verified that the Office of Race and Equity will be present at our next meeting to address changes to separations between cannabis establishments and child related uses, such as schools.

**ITEM #6 Modification and Adoption of Agenda:** Ben Wier made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Gary Long seconded the motion. Approved unanimously (10-0).

**ITEM #7 Administrative Items:**

- a. **Approval of the December 2023 Meeting Minutes:** Donald Bertsch made the motion to accept the minutes as drafted, and Gary Long seconded. Motion passed 8 -0-3, with Robin Kaufman, Sara Nucci, and Sonny Googins abstaining as they were not present at the last meeting.
- b. **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Gary Long presented the Treasurer's report. The Board's account balance is \$557.45. The increase from last month was related to City reimbursed expenses for our website. Of that, \$322.95 was repaid an upfront payment of

the required website fees. Gary also noted that the Board previously approved spending up to \$70.00 for election expenses, if needed. Gary made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, seconded by Ben. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ITEM #8 Draft Mobility Master Plan:**

Vicki Touchstone gave a brief review of the Regional Issues Committee’s evaluation of the City’s draft Mobility Master Plan. The Committee provided the drafted letter to the City to the Board members for review in advance of the meeting. Vicki presented a quick overview of the Plan and the content of the draft letter. There were no questions or recommended revisions. Vicki made a motion to approve sending the letter to the City, including a copy to the Mayor and District 5 Council Offices. The motion was seconded by Steve Dow and the Board unanimously approved sending the letter. Robin will sign the final letter and distribute it as approved.

**ITEM #9 Update from the Election Committee (Information Item)**

Gary Long stated that the applications had been sent out to current members who are up for election, and posters seeking new members were posted in various locations throughout the community. He also provided the reminder that any person wishing to be elected to the Board must have attended at least one past Planning Board meeting prior to providing an application per the current City-approved bylaws. Current members whose terms are up include: Robin, Sonny, Steve, June, Vicki, and Don. Applications must be provided to the Election Committee no later than 6:59 pm on February 15, 2024. The Board thanked the Election Committee members, Gary, Keith, and Ben, for their work. The Board also approved by a unanimous vote sending a letter to the Planning Department (cc’d to the Mayor and District 5 councilmember), expressing appreciate for Marlon Pangilinan’s excellent assistance prior to and during the holidays with the newly required planning group documents.

**Item #10 Hats Off to Volunteers (Voting Item)**

Robin explained the history of Hats Off to Volunteers and that April was Volunteer Appreciation Month. The Board has been recognizing members for their contributions for a long time. Based on the amount of work that Becky Rapp has done in educating board members and other members of the public about cannabis issues within the Rancho Bernardo Community and beyond, Robin made a motion to nominate Becky Rapp as the Board’s choice to be recognized for this year’s Hats Off to Volunteers Award. The motion was seconded by Ben and approved unanimously by the Board.

**Item #11 Sub-Committee Reports:**

- Development Review Committee - Did not meet in January.
- Regional Issues Committee – Reviewed/provided a draft letter on the draft Mobility Plan.
- Traffic & Transportation Committee – Did not meet in January.

**Item #12 Liaison Reports:**

- Community Council.....Robin Kaufman prepared a report, which was attached to the agenda.
- Community Planners Committee (CPC).....No meeting in December.

Recreation Community Group..... No meeting in December.  
SANDAG..... No meetings in December.  
San Dieguito River Park .....No meeting in January.  
San Pasqual/Lake Hodges Planning Group....Did not meet.  
Commercial Representative .....No representative.

**ITEM #13 Old Business Item** –Gary indicated that the operating procedures had be successfully uploaded to the City. Planning group approvals should occur in April or May.

**ITEM #14 New Business:** RB Alive will occur on September 15 and the Board will have a booth. Becky discussed smoke shop requirements and a draft ordinance being developed by the Downtown planning group for required distance separations from schools.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Becky Rapp made the motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm, seconded by Keith Mikas. The motion as approved unanimously.

**Rancho Bernardo Community Council:**

**By Robin Kaufman**

- the Board welcomed the 2024 student member, Sydney Mellott;
- the Board approved the annual Maintenance Assessment District budget;
- the Board approved the date and time for the annual earth day fair (Sunday, April 14, 10 a.m. through 1 p.m. at the RB Community Park);
- the Board approved a request of fire station #33 to purchase a mini refrigerator to hold 120 beverages and a 20 pound medicine ball. These items are being purchased with some of the funds raised during the annual safety fair.

**Rancho Bernardo Community Recreation Group:**

- The Group will not be meeting on January due to lack of action items

**RB Planning Board – SANDAG Update  
(Steve Dow; 2024-01-13)**

- **January 2024 highlights**
  - Improving Mobility for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities
    - [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zoon0KxUQqaZUhnBrLgkng#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zoon0KxUQqaZUhnBrLgkng#/registration)
    - Virtual workshop open to public – February 7 at 3pm

- SANDAG's 2023 Annual Report:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ITXTqdobK4>
  - <https://www.sandag.org/annualreport>
  - Key focuses: "Connecting the San Diego Region", "Stimulating the Economy", "Addressing Social Equity", "Fostering a Healthier Environment", "Improving Processes and Engagement"
- 35 Years of TransNet Tax
  - [https://www.sandag.org/funding/transnet/transnet35?utm\\_source=SANDAG+Newsletter&utm\\_medium=TransNetAnniversaryArticle&utm\\_campaign=November&utm\\_term=button+](https://www.sandag.org/funding/transnet/transnet35?utm_source=SANDAG+Newsletter&utm_medium=TransNetAnniversaryArticle&utm_campaign=November&utm_term=button+)
  - ½ cent sales tax administered by SANDAG
  - \$4.4 billion generated to date
  - More than 700 projects delivered
- New 2024 Road Rules
  - <https://engage.sandag.org/saferstreets>
  - "People biking may now proceed when the "WALK" signal is lit up at an intersection.
  - Drivers are prohibited from parking their vehicles within 20 feet of any marked or unmarked crosswalk or within 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present (also known as "daylighting").
  - Drivers must pass people biking on the road by moving into another lane whenever it is possible and safe to do so."
- SANDAG CEO Recruitment Process
  - <https://www.sandag.org/ceorecruitment>
  - Applications accepted through February 23.