

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MISSION VALLEY PLANNING GROUP**

January 08, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marla Bell
Deborah Bossmeyer
Paul Brown
John Carson
Gina Cord
Bob Cummings
Perry Dealy
Robert Doherty
Randall Dolph
Alan Grant
Elizabeth Leventhal
John Nugent
Doris Payne-Camp
Alex Plishner
Brittany Ruggels
Marco Sessa
Josh Weiselberg

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jason Broad
Monica Davis
John LaRaia
Karen Ruggels
Dottie Surdi

GUESTS

Daire Coco
Stephanie Fagan
Rob Hutsel
Ellen Mellon
Mike Mellon
Damien Osip
Jeremy Ogul

FEDERAL REP'S STAFF

Jonathan Hardy

CITY STAFF

Lx Fangoniloa
Adam McElroy

COUNTY STAFF

ASSEMBLY STAFF

Katelyn Hailey

Board member Perry Dealy, in President Dottie Surdi's absence, called the regular meeting of the Mission Valley Planning Group (MVPG) to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Mission Valley Library Community Room located at 2123 Fenton Parkway, San Diego, CA.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Verify Quorum: 17 members were present, constituting a quorum.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Marco Sessa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. INTRODUCTIONS / OPENING REMARKS/ AGENDA CHANGE

Perry Dealy welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded those present to sign the sign in sheets.

Perry Dealy expressed concern for the condition of some of the streets/roads in Mission Valley and asked if there was a priority list or timetable when street maintenance is scheduled to occur. Lx Fangoniloa, from Councilman Scott Sherman's office will investigate and report back to the MVPG.

Guests introduced themselves.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gina Cord moved to approve the minutes of the December 04, 2013 regular meeting. Doris Payne-Camp seconded the motion. Minutes were approved 14 – 0 – 3, with Paul Brown, Alex Plishner, Marco Sessa abstaining.

E. PUBLIC INPUT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Doris Payne-Camp expressed concern that the final bench/table along part of the San Diego River Trail had been removed. Doris expressed concern that this was opposite to the spirit of the recently approved San Diego River Park Master plan.

Rob Hutsel, from the San Diego River Park Foundation, said a kiosk was to be erected in its place as part of the bicycle path extension. He did not know if the picnic table and benches would be placed elsewhere on the new path. Previously, informational signs and were installed where other benches had been along the river because of Union Square Homeowners opposition to the use of the benches by the homeless. Homeowners reported that this change had reduced the presence of the homeless along this stretch of the river path and crime in their neighborhood. Doris said that the overall result is that there is no place along this scenic part of the river to sit and rest or enjoy the river scene. Benches were eliminated by the First San Diego River Improvement Project initiated by the Union Square at Hazard Center Condominium Association due to homeless and security issues. The project was coordinated with the San Diego River Park Foundation, the City of San Diego and the California Public Utilities Commission.

Marla Bell stated that the Union Square at Hazard Center Condominium Association had paid for three benches to be removed due to homeless and security issues. Union Square paid only for the 3 benches located directly behind the condominiums to be removed and replaced with the 3 signage kiosks. Union Square did not pay for the picnic table removal done in the last week and is not aware of the City's plans for relocation or if a sign will be located in its place.

The issue was referred to the MVPG Public Health, Safety and Welfare subcommittee.

2. Josh Weiselberg pointed out that the letter to the editor on the Mission Valley Post Office from Marc Skora on page 12 of the December 13, 2013 Mission Valley News contained some factual errors.

F. MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS – John Nugent

John reviewed the materials regarding the MVPG annual meeting and election on March 05, 2014 that were emailed to the MVPG members and printed on page 5 of the November 15, 2013 and on page 11 of December 13, 2013 issue of the Mission Valley News.

John invited any community members in attendance who are interested in serving on the Board to meet with him after the meeting.

John reminded the candidates that there would be an opportunity at the February meeting for them to make a statement, if the candidate so desired.

In summary the materials included:

1. MVPG Notice of March election
2. 2014 Candidate Report
 - Current members whose terms are expiring and are eligible for re-election
 - Gina Cord-Property Taxpayer
 - Marco Sessa-Property Taxpayer
 - Deborah Bossmeyer-Local Businessperson
 - Robert Doherty-Local Businessperson
 - Marla Bell-Resident
 - Dottie Surdi-Resident
 - Bob Cummings-Property Owner
 - Alan Grant--Property Owner
 - Alex Plishner--Property Owner

Current members whose terms are expiring and have served 8 years; may be eligible to serve again based on number of candidates recruited and elected by higher % of membership vote.

- Paul Brown-Property Taxpayer
- Randall Dolph-Resident

We are specifically recruiting candidates for openings in the categories of Property Taxpayer, Local Businessperson and Resident.

Candidates must qualify in one of the four following categories:

- Property Owner
- Property Taxpayer
- Local (Mission Valley) Business person
- Resident

and must have attended two meetings in the twelve months prior to the March 2014 March 2014 annual meeting and election.

G. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Doherty reported a balance of \$1,414.43.

H. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

1. Police Department – Officer Adam McElroy

Officer McElroy reported that the “c-unit” from San Diego State University had been relocated to the mall areas of Mission Valley during the holiday shopping period and that crime was down during this period in 2013 in comparison to previous years.

Officer McElroy read the San Diego Police department press release on the Mission Valley shooting of 22-year-old Salvatore Belvedere and 22-year-old Iona Flint on December 24, 2014. Both victims are deceased.

Officer McElroy passed out the missing persons flyer on Gianni Belvedere, described as being 6 feet tall and weighing 165 pounds, with brown eyes and brown hair. San Diego police are also looking for his dark green, four-door 2004 Toyota Camry XLE with Utah license plate B15-4VZ.

Anyone with information about Gianni or the California Mission Valley Mall shooting is asked to call the SDPD Homicide Unit -- Adult Missing Persons Section at (619) 531-2293 or the Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line at (888) 580-8477. Anonymous email and text messages can also be sent in via www.sdcrimestoppers.com, and a reward of up to \$1,000 may be paid through the San Diego County Crime Stoppers for information provided on the whereabouts of Gianni or the crime.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/2013/MissingPersonGianniLeonardoBelvedere.pdf>

Officer McElroy was asked about the homelessness issues, in light of the discussion of removing the benches/tables from the San Diego River Trail due to homeless and security issues. Officer McElroy stated that being homeless is not a crime and most often issues regarding the homeless are citation issues and are not the type of crimes that would warrant removal from society. Officer McElroy stated that occasionally a homeless individual will be found to have an outstanding warrant and then will be taken into custody.

Officer McElroy was asked about placing additional signs at crosswalks in the Mission Valley that read “Yield to Pedestrians”. Officer McElroy responded that the issue should be addressed with the City of San Diego traffic and/or engineering departments. Lx Fangoniloa, from Councilman Scott Sherman’s office will investigate and report back to the MVPG.

Fire Department – No report.

I. GOVERNMENTAL STAFF REPORTS

1. Mayor’s Office

Kimberly Ricci was no present.

2. State Representatives

a. Senate Member's Office – Sen. Marty Block from the 39th Senate District l Katelyn Hailey reported that the January session has begun, that all bills must be introduced by the end of March and encouraged members to contact their office if they need any issues addressed.

Katelyn indicated that Sen. Marty Block will be introducing legislation to allow Community Colleges, in specific need based situations, to offer baccalaureate degrees.

A final report is being prepared by a state community colleges study group that will likely recommend that many California junior colleges be allowed to award four-year degrees in vocational majors, such as nursing and information technology.

Katelyn indicated that Sen. Marty Block is also considering introducing legislation regarding teacher evaluations.

b. Assembly Member's Office – Shirley Weber from the 79th Assembly District George Gastil was not present. No report.

3. Federal Representatives

a. Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office --

Jonathan Hardy distributed the January 2014 "Davis Dispatch" and stated that Congress is back in session. He will be joining other staff members mid-January to prioritize legislative items and activities, and asked for community input through the survey on their web site or contacting him directly.

b. Congressman Scott Peters' Office – Sarah Czarrecki was not present. No report.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Homewood Suites Mission Valley-Site Development Permit (Project 322356)- Stephen L. Jones-Action Item

Randall Dolph reported that the project was removed from the DAB January 2014 agenda with a request for the project to be placed on the February 2014 DAB and MVRG agendas.

Since the DAB did not take an action on this project, and the applicant was not in attendance today, Randall Dolph requested that the Homewood Suites Mission Valley Site agenda item be removed from the agenda.

Randall Dolph moved to amend the agenda to remove the agenda item of the Homewood Suites Mission Valley. Marco Sessa seconded the motion. Motion was approved 17 – 0 –0.

2. Murphy Canyon Channel Maintenance Project-MSWSMP SCR-Anne Jarque-Information Item

John Nugent reported that the presentation has been moved to the February MVPG meeting, at the request of the planning department. Consequently, John Nugent requested that the Murphy Canyon Channel Maintenance Project be removed from the agenda.

John Nugent moved to amend the agenda to remove the agenda item of the Murphy Canyon Channel Maintenance Project. Alex Plishner seconded the motion. Motion was approved 17 – 0 – 0.

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. City Planning Update

Brian Schoenfisch was not present- no report.

2. Council Office-District 7- Councilmember Scott Sherman

Lx Fangonilo reiterated that he will follow up on a priority list or timetable for street maintenance and additional “Yield to Pedestrians” signs.

Lx was asked about the status of the proposed HAWK (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacon) traffic signals used to stop road traffic and allow pedestrians to cross safely. He will inquire and report back to MVPG.

3. Mission Valley Survey- John Carson

John Carson thanked members who had completed the sample survey and passed out the results.

The results are posted below:

NOTE: the conversion from Excel to Word below provided some format inconsistencies so while the information is the same as was passed out at the meeting the format is different and inconsistent.

1	What best describes your status in Mission Valley?		
	Answer Choices –	Responses –	
	Property owner in Mission Valley	64.29%	
		9	
	Renter in Mission Valley	14.29%	
		2	
	Business Owner in Mission Valley	7.14%	
		1	
	Employed in Mission Valley	7.14%	
		1	
	Live in San Diego County and just visiting	0%	
		0	

	Other	7.14%	
		1	
	Total	14	
2	Overall, how safe do you feel in this neighborhood?		
	Answer Choices –	Responses –	
	Extremely safe	28.57%	
		4	
	Quite safe	28.57%	
		4	
	Moderately safe	35.71%	
		5	
	Slightly safe	7.14%	
		1	
	Not at all safe	0%	
		0	
	Total		14

3	Does this neighborhood have too many, too few, or about the right number of public parks?	
	Answer Choices –	Responses –
	A great deal too many	0%
		0
	Quite a bit too many	0%
		0
	Somewhat too many	0%
		0
	About the right number	28.57%
		4
	Somewhat too few	21.43%
		3
	Quite a bit too few	28.57%
		4
	A great deal too few	21.43%
		3
	Total	14
4	Does this neighborhood have too many, too few, or about the right number of bicycle paths?	

	Answer Choices –	Responses –
	Much too many	0%
		0
	Somewhat too many	0%
		0
	Slightly too many	0%
		0
	About the right number	57.14%
		8
	Slightly too few	21.43%
		3
	Somewhat too few	21.43%
		3
	Much too few	0%
		0
	Total	14
5	How quickly does the local government respond to requests for help from people living in this neighborhood?	
	Answer Choices –	Responses –
	Extremely quickly	0%
		0
	Very quickly	25%
		3
	Moderately quickly	41.67%
		5
	Slightly quickly	16.67%
		2
	Not at all quickly	16.67%
		2
	Total	12

6	Answer Choices –	Responses –
	Extremely satisfied	14.29%
		2
	Moderately satisfied	71.43%

		10
	Slightly satisfied	14.29%
		2
	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0%
		0
	Slightly dissatisfied	0%
		0
	Moderately dissatisfied	0%
		0
	Extremely dissatisfied	0%
		0
	Total	14

7	What changes would most improve this neighborhood?				
	Showing 9 responses				
	end the homeless problem, esp begging on the streets				
	More parks, better roads, moving the stadium, programs to help the homeless/combat local homelessness				
	Doing something with Qualcomm				
	reduce all crime				
	It would be great if all public buses had a different location rather than Fashion Valley				
	Better traffic management				
	Better traffic infrastructure				
	Get rid of the homeless. Add more parks -- we have none right now.				
	Better police activity				
8	What do you like least about this neighborhood?				
	Showing 10 responses				
	no recreation areas/parks, high end restaurants, need more urban style homes/communities				
	Crime, poor roads, potholes, and traffic				
	the traffic				
	Garish buildings				
	traffic				
	I would like to see a speed limit a little lower on Friars Road				
	Speeding drivers cutting through our neighborhood				
	Traffic				
	Homeless people everywhere leaving their trash and mess behind.				

	Homeless beggars at traffic lights				
9	What do you like most about this neighborhood?				
	Showing 10 responses				
	shopping, trolley, football stadium, restaurants				
	Convenience, closeness to everything. The potential as an nice urban community				
	all the variety of things to do				
	Freeway access				
	convenience				
	I love the neighborhood...I have lived in the same location for over 30 years.				
	The river path				
	The planned communities of Escala and Civita.				
	Convenient to trolley and easily walkable.				
	Shopping				
10	Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?				
	Showing 5 responses				
	The area is building up very nicely and much faster than anyone expected.				
	We enjoy living in Mission Valley in spite of the 24/7 noise and dirt from the freeways.				
	Leave the stadium where it is. Construct a new stadium on the parking lot of the existing stadium. Return to the river some of the most flood prone land adjacent to the river.				
	Also relocate the sports arena to this spot. Sell the land the sports arena is on to help defray costs of the new sports arena and stadium. Construct a parking structure and/or hotel and/or eateries to help defray costs.				
	If taxpayers contribute in any way to the costs, then there can be no more blacked out games. We cannot fill the stadium we have and developers want to build a bigger one with taxpayer dollars.				
	As a taxpayer, I see the benefits to many with a new stadium and sports arena, however, it will be a hard sell to most taxpayers if blackout games continue.				

John Carson discussed next steps including asking for \$250.00 to fund the survey mechanism and having an article/link published in the Mission Valley News.

In response to the December MVPG discussion regarding the scope and role of MVPG as opposed to Mission Valley Community Council as per the MVPG Bylaws, John stated that the MVPG role in the survey is sanctioned under MVPG Bylaws Article VI-Community Planning Group and Planning Group Member Duties; Section 3:

“It shall be the duty of the Mission Valley Planning Group and its members to periodically seek community-wide understanding of and participation in the planning and implementation process as specified in Article II, section 1. The planning group shall give due consideration to all responsible community attitudes insofar as these are deemed to be in the best long range interest of the community at large.”

MVPG Bylaws Article II: Purpose of Community Planning Group and General Provisions: Section 1.

“The Mission Valley Planning Group has been formed and recognized by the City Council to make recommendations to the City Council, Planning Commission, City staff and other governmental agencies on land use matters, specifically concerning the preparation of, adoption of, implementation of, or amendment to, the General Plan or a land use plan when a plan relates to the Mission Valley community boundaries. The planning group also advises on other land use matters as requested by the City or other governmental agency.”

While there was general support and appreciation for the survey there were numerous questions regarding the validity of the survey instrument and recommendations of individuals/groups that have experience preparing/conducting/evaluating surveys that may be able to help develop a final survey that is considered reliable and valid.

Perry Dealy recommended that we consult with the San Diego Foundation about similar community surveys being done in other San Diego communities which the Foundation is overseeing and funding. Community member Mike Mellon offered his assistance in designing a more comprehensive survey that could be circulated more extensively. Board members pointed out the importance of compiling reliable information so that various stakeholders are segmented (residents, shoppers, visitors, business owners) and so that the results will be more useful.

John Carson indicated that he would appreciate contact names and would do further research on survey questions prior to asking for final approval of the survey instrument or monies to fund the survey.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Design Advisory Board
There was no January 2014 meeting, so no report.
- b. Stadium Committee
Randall Dolph- No report
- c. San Diego River Coalition
Alan Grant reported that there was no December meeting, the next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2014. The agenda will include a presentation on the water authorities related water project.
- d. Community Planners Committee (CPC)
Dottie Surdi was absent-no report

- e. Parks Subcommittee
Jason Broad was not present-No report
- f. Uptown Regional Bike Corridor Advisory Group
Brittany Ruggels -No report.
- g. Public Health, Safety and Welfare
Elizabeth Leventhal stated that she is seeking additional speakers to present at future MVPG meetings.

Elizabeth stated that she will send out a meeting notice as to when the subcommittee will meet regarding the removal of benches/tables near the Union Square at Hazard Center Condominiums due to homeless and security issues.

4. Miscellaneous Mail

No Mail.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Board Chair Dottie Surdi for her service in 2013.

L. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 05, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. at the Mission Valley Library, Community Room.

John Nugent, Secretary