

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

April 03, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marla Bell
Jason Broad
Paul Brown
John Carson
Gina Cord
Monica Davis
Randall Dolph
Alan Grant
John LaRaia
Elizabeth Levanthal
John Nugent
Doris Payne-Camp
Brittany Ruggels
Dottie Surdi

MEMBERS ABSENT

Deborah Bossmeyer
Perry Dealy
Robert Doherty
Michael McDowell
Alex Plishner
Karen Ruggels
Marco Sessa

FEDERAL REP'S STAFF

Jonathan Hardy

GUESTS

Stuart Fagan
Kim Gillie
Rob Hutsel
Kara Kung
Ellen Mellon
Lorena Pinto
Summer Polacek
Josh Weiselberg
Jean Whitney
Rick Wilson
Mary Dell Worthington

CITY STAFF

Officer Holly
Jack Straw
Brian Schoenfisch

COUNTY STAFF

Hanna Kite

ASSEMBLY STAFF

Ralph Dimarucut
George Gastil

President Dottie Surdi called the regular meeting of the Mission Valley Planning Group (MVPG) to order at 12:01 p.m. at the Mission Valley Library located at 2123 Fenton Parkway.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Verify Quorum – 12 members were present, constituting a quorum.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – John LaRaia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. **INTRODUCTIONS / OPENING REMARKS/ AGENDA CHANGE**

Dottie Surdi ask that Politifest 2013 be added to the agenda. There was unanimous consent to add the agenda item.

Guests introduced themselves. No opening remarks

D. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

John Carson moved to approve the minutes of the March 06, 2013 regular meeting. Elizabeth Levanthal seconded the motion. Minutes, were approved 13- 0 -1, with Monica Davis abstaining.

E. **PUBLIC INPUT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Brittany Ruggels raised the issue of traffic backing up on Camino De La Reina as cars enter the Westfield Mission Valley West Shopping Center. She recommended that the traffic pattern inside the parking lot be changed to “incoming traffic does not Stop” as a means to reduce congestion. The concern will be forwarded to representatives of Westfield Mission Valley West Shopping Center.

Jean Whitney inquired about the Serra Mesa-Mission Valley Trail Connection and outreach to and input from the homeowners/residents in the area of the trail. Contact information will be provided. The Serra Mesa-Mission Valley Trail Connection will appear on the Mission Valley Planning Group agenda in the future as it has only been an information item thus far.

Elizabeth Levanthal referred to the April 2013 issue of San Diego Magazine and its reference to the neighborhood of Mission Valley and the San Diego River Front Park.

F. **MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS** – Brittany Ruggels announced that Jason Broad was submitting his resignation as a resident member of Mission Valley Planning Group and was being nominated as a taxpayer member of Mission Valley Planning Group. The terms for each category end in 2016. This will open up a resident position on the Mission Valley Planning Group.

Brittany Ruggels moved to accept Jason Broad’s resignation as a resident member of Mission Valley Planning Group. Doris Payne-Camp seconded the motion. The motion was approved 14 – 0 – 0.

Brittany Ruggels nominated Jason Broad to the Mission Valley Planning Group to fill a “tax-payer” position with the term ending in 2016. Doris Payne-Camp seconded the motion. The motion was approved 14 – 0 – 0.

Brittany Ruggels reported that Michael McDowell has not attended a meeting in sometime and has not responded to inquiries regarding his status. Brittany Ruggels moved to remove Michael McDowell from the Mission Valley Planning Group. Doris Payne-Camp seconded the motion. The motion was approved 14 – 0 – 0.

Brittany gave an update on the open positions, and categories, for the Mission Valley Planning Group. In response to a community question, Brittany affirmed that a General membership meeting was held in 2012, the next one is due in 2014.

G. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – In Bob Doherty's absence, Dottie Surdi reported a balance of \$ 1,414.43.

H. **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

1. Police Department – Officer Holly reported that there had been a recent bank robbery in Mission Valley and gave a description of the suspect and car. She also noted that there have been numerous complaints about homeless individuals bathing in private swimming pools.

Officer Holly announced a training on graffiti prevention/removal at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library on April 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.. The public is invited.

2. Fire Department – No report.

I. **GOVERNMENTAL STAFF REPORTS**

1. Mayor's Office

Denise Garcia was not present. No report.

2. State Representatives

- a. Senate Member's Office – *Marty Block*- Ralph Dimarucut representing Sen. Marty Block from the 39th Senate District invited all present to a Community Town Hall Meeting on California's Education Budget at 6:00 p.m. on April 18, 2013 at University City High School.

Ralph reported that SB 543 had passed out of the public safety committee. This bill would upgrade a conviction for theft from an elder or dependent adult to a felony violation under Section 496 of the penal code.

Randall Dolph asked about Assemblywoman Toni Atkins Assembly Bill 976 that cleared the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. The bill would give the California Coastal Commission the authority to directly fine violators rather than having to take them to court. Since the bill was in the Assembly, and not the Senate, Ralph had no update or position on the bill.

- b. Assembly Member's Office – *Shirley Weber* - George Gastil representing Shirley Weber from the 79th Assembly District announced her appointments to the following Assembly Select Committees by Speaker John A. Pérez:

- Select Committee on Agriculture and the Environment—Chaired by Assemblymember Marc Levine
- Select Committee on Biotechnology-Chaired by Assemblymember Kevin Mullin
- Select Committee on California's Clean Energy Economy-Chaired by Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
- Select Committee on California/Mexico Bi-National Affairs-Chaired by Assemblymember Ben Hueso
- Select Committee on Community and Neighborhood Development-Chaired by Assemblymember Ken Cooley

- Select Committee on Domestic Violence-Chaired by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez
- Select Committee on Increasing the Integration of Science, Technology and Engineering in California K-12 Schools-Chaired by Assemblymember Susan Bonilla
- Select Committee on Out of School, Unemployed Youth-Chaired by Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra
- Select Committee on Regional Approaches to Addressing the State's Water Crisis-Chaired by Assemblymember Rudy Salas
- Select Committee on Regional Transportation Solutions-Chaired by Assemblymember Quirk-Silva
- Select Committee on Women of color-Engagement, Opportunity and Progress-Chaired by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia

3. Federal Representatives

a. Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office -- Jonathan Hardy distributed the April 2013 newsletter and reported on:

- The Senior Scam Stopper public meeting in conjunction with the Contractors State License Board on April 30, 2013 at the Mary & Gary West Senior Wellness Center. The meeting will provide fraud information relating to home repair, auto repair, insurance, telecommunications and identity theft.
- The 2013 Congressional Art Competition, an annual contest for young artists to showcase their work in the U.S. Capitol. Entries are due at the Congresswoman's San Diego Office on April 26, 2013.

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

J. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Rock 'n' Roll Marathon and ½ Marathon Routes – (Information Item)

Kara Kong reported on the June 2nd Rock 'n' Roll Marathon and ½ Marathon Changes this year include:

- Finish line will be at Petco Park rather than Seaworld
- Southbound SR-163 will remain open on race day
- Northbound SR-163 will be closed for less time between downtown and Friars Rd
- Access lane will be provided in protected eastbound bike lane from Colusa St to Fashion Valley Rd. All traffic must turn on Fashion Valley Rd.

Brittany Ruggels reminded members that the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon and ½ Marathon originated in San Diego and that this was a great opportunity to showcase neighborhoods, businesses, and to show support and encouragement by cheering along the route.

2. Politifest 2013– (Information Item)

Susan Polacek from the Voice of San Diego, the host of Politifest 2013, reported on the event. Politifest is a family-friendly festival dedicated to civic

engagement located in Liberty Station on Saturday, August 3. The theme is "State of the Neighborhoods."

Susan explained the Idea's Tournament, where organization's can compete by presenting an idea to improve your neighborhood. The winner will receive a \$5,000 prize to help implement the idea.

Susan outlined the benefits of the Mission Valley Planning Group having a booth at the event to highlight the neighborhoods and businesses of Mission Valley.

There was discussion regarding having food at booths and the cost of the booth. The item will be on a future agenda, once further information is received.

K. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. City Planning Update

Brian Schoenfisch stated that the money for our community plan update remains in the draft 2014 city budget, which will begin July 01, 2013. Brian addressed the article in the March 15, 2013 Mission Valley News. While the paper reported that updating community plans is a long process, up to four years, the strategy for Mission Valley is to complete the plan in approximately 18 months by using less consultants, more City Staff and having active involvement by the Mission Valley Planning Group.

2. City Council Office-District 7- Councilmember Scott Sherman

Jack Straw reported on two projects:

- San Diego Mission Road East. The road has been approved to have sidewalks added. Currently there are no sidewalks and there have been numerous complaints about pedestrian safety.
- The City has received grant funding to install two high intensity crosswalks across Cam Del Este and Mission Center Road to connect the San Diego River paths. There was discussion about high intensity crosswalks as opposed to an overhead (pedestrian/bike bridge) structure, and the decision to place a high intensity crosswalk across Mission Center Road. It was pointed out by Rob Hutsel that the San Diego River Foundation had studied high intensity crosswalks across Cam Del Este and Mission Center Road and had not recommended a high intensity crosswalk across Mission Center Road. Jack Straw indicated that he would do more research and send an email to Dottie Surdi with an update on the project.

3. Subcommittee Reports

a. Design Advisory Board

Randall Dolph reported that there had not been a meeting. The next meeting will be on April 29, 2013 with a review of the UT project scheduled.

b. Stadium Committee

Randall Dolph reported, that after extensive searching, there were no new developments.

c. San Diego River Coalition

Alan Grant reported on:

- The March meeting included a presentation and discussion on further wilderness designations in the Cleveland National Forest, which will be continued at future meetings.
- The April meeting will include an update to the San Diego River work plan and the Mission Trails Regional Park
- San Diego River Days in May 2013.

d. Community Planners Committee (CPC)

Dottie Surdi reported that she had attended the last meeting, where Mayor Filner was present to discuss Community Planning groups. Minutes of the meeting will be sent out when available.

e. Parks Subcommittee

Jason Broad reported that the sub-committee attended the Civita Park community meeting and then met separately with the Civita Park planners. Jason reported that the presentation included three different designs/plans. The subcommittee provided feedback on elements of each plan that could be incorporated into a fourth design.

In response to a question about Civita Park being a public park there was discussion about this being a population based park under the City General Plan which has a minimum standard for Population-based Parks in residential developments of 2.8 acres per 1000 population. It was further discussed that the park is being designed based on “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)”. CPTED designs are based solely upon the theory that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime, and improve the quality of life. Built environment implementations of CPTED seek to dissuade offenders from committing crimes by manipulating the built environment through design, surveillance, access control, encouraging active use using a variety of options like dog parks or children play equipment.

f. Uptown Regional Bike Corridor Advisory Group

Brittany Ruggels reported that no meeting had occurred but there are great expectations for the next meeting.

g. Public Health, Safety and Welfare

Elizabeth Leventhal reported :

- the March 11 grand opening of Connections Housing Downtown, 1250 Sixth Avenue, which combines 150 interim housing beds and 73 permanent studios with convenient access to multiple supportive services and a community health clinic under one roof.
- The City of San Diego’s Downtown Emergency Winter Shelter (tent) for homeless adults has received funding for another 3 months. The Emergency Winter Shelter has 220 beds and also offers health care, mental health and substance abuse counseling.

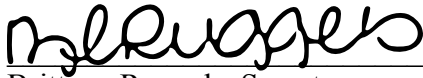
Dottie Surdi asked about the request at the last meeting for a purpose statement and goals for the sub-committee. Elizabeth indicated that it

would be emailed.

4. Miscellaneous Mail

There was no miscellaneous mail.

L. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. at the Mission Valley Library, Community Room.



Brittany Ruggels, Secretary