

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

January 9, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marla Bell
Deborah Bossmeyer
Jason Broad
Paul Brown
John Carson
Gina Cord
Perry Dealy
Robert Doherty
Randall Dolph
Alan Grant
Elizabeth Levanthal
John Nugent
Doris Payne-Camp
Alex Plishner
Brittany Ruggels
Karen Ruggels
Marco Sessa
Dottie Surdi

MEMBERS ABSENT

Monica Davis
Michael McDowell

CITY STAFF

Brian Schoenfisch
Robin Shifflet
Jack Straw

ASSEMBLY STAFF

GUESTS

Josh Weiselberg
Dave Schwab
Trevor Hubbard
Rob Hutsel
Mike Mellon
Ellen Mellon
John LaRaia
Lisa Gualco

President Dottie Surdi called the regular meeting of the Mission Valley Planning Group (MVPG) to order at 12:03 p.m. at the Mission Valley Library located at 2123 Fenton Parkway.

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

C. INTRODUCTIONS / OPENING REMARKS

Guests introduced themselves.

Brittany Ruggels noted a change to the agenda; the Mission Valley PFFP item will be added to the February 2013 agenda rather than being acted upon at this meeting.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Doris Payne-Camp moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2012 regular meeting. Marco Sessa seconded the motion. 17 – 0 – 0.

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

No items.

F. **MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS – Brittany Ruggels**

Brittany Ruggels moved to accept the resignation of Allen Jones in the property owner classification. Marco Sessa seconded the motion. 17 – 0 – 0. Brittany will notice the community of four vacancies, two in the property owner and two in the property taxpayer classifications. She explained the qualifications that interested parties must meet and invited all members of the audience to contact her if they are interested in serving.

G. **TREASURER’S REPORT – Bob Doherty reported a balance of \$689.43. He noted that a letter will be sent out soliciting contributions from the community to help defray operating expenses.**

H. **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

1. Police Department – No report.

2. Fire Department – No report.

I. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan -- (Action Item)

Karen Ruggels began her report by recognizing and acknowledging the significant time and effort of the many entities and individuals who have worked to create the SDRP Draft Master Plan. She then reported that the MVPG special work group had convened on January 7, 2013 and had formulated several recommendations. She distributed two draft letters containing these recommendations for full MVPG consideration, noting that each is intended as a starting point for discussion and input from the full group. One letter provided input from the MVPG regarding the SDRP Draft Master Plan, and the second provided input on the SDRP Draft Master Plan Draft Program Environmental Impact Report. Karen noted the urgent need to finalize both letters in order to meet City deadlines.

Robin Shifflet, representing the City of San Diego, along with the City’s consultant for the preparation of the draft master plan, presented an overview of the plan, including a discussion of key milestones to date; a showcase of successful rivers in other cities; and a summary of the plan’s vision and principles, general recommendations, specific reach recommendations, design guidelines for the river corridor area and river influence area; plan implementation; and regulatory framework. It was noted that the overriding intent of the plan is to reclaim the valley as a synergy of water, wildlife, and people, considering the unique characteristics of the region; flexibility for development;

human access, use, and recreation; and the balance of natural and built environments.

Karen Ruggels walked the group through the recommendations detailed in the SDRP Draft Master Plan letter and invited discussion. MVPG members voiced numerous concerns in addition to those outlined in the draft letter. During the discussion, Randy Dolph summarized the Design Advisory Board's input from approximately one year ago, reiterating the DAB's comments at that time.

Following a lengthy and detailed discussion of concerns, Karen Ruggels offered a motion that the MVPG authorize the MVPG special work group to amend the proposed draft letter on the SDRP Draft Master Plan to include discussions of concerns surrounding six additional items identified by the full group: transparency, identification of the floodway, signage, safety and security, the incorporation of existing development into the plan, and a reaffirmation of lighting aspects outlined in the draft plan. Perry Dealy seconded the motion.

The group then discussed the desire to ensure that its comments would be taken seriously, noting that the draft letter as written states that the MVPG cannot support the SDRPMP as currently written.

Dottie Surdi called for the vote: 12 – 4 – 0.

Rob Hutsel, representing the San Diego River Park Foundation, expressed disappointment that members of the public had not been provided the opportunity to offer comments on this important matter. President Dottie Surdi and several members of the MVPG apologized for this accidental oversight, and, in view of it, Perry Dealy moved to retract the vote previously taken, with Brittany Ruggels seconding the motion. 16 – 0 – 0.

Karen Ruggels then moved to continue this item to the February 6, 2013 regular meeting of the MVPG in order to provide an opportunity for all interested members of the community to provide input. Brittany Ruggels seconded the motion. 16 – 0 – 0.

Dottie Surdi invited audience members to provide input. Guests voiced concerns about river access and suggested that transparency be achieved in residential developments through the use of one-way-glass.

Karen Ruggels announced that, since the January 11, 2013 deadline for submittal of comments regarding the Draft PEIR will have passed before the next MVPG meeting, the group will not be submitting a letter. She will let City staff know.

J. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. City Planning Update – Brian Schoenfisch – No report.

2. City Council Office – Jack Straw reported that members of the District 7 City Council office will participate in an estuary clean-up in Mission Valley on Saturday, January 12, 2013.

3. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Design Advisory Board – Randall Dolph – No meeting. New meeting day is the Monday immediately prior to the MVPG regular meeting.
- b. Stadium Committee – Randall Dolph – No report.
- c. San Diego River Coalition – Alan Grant – Alan reported that a presentation of the Rim-to-Rim Trail will be made at the next meeting on the third Friday of the month at 3:00 p.m..
- d. Community Planners Committee – Marla Bell – No meeting was held in December. No report..
- e. Parks Subcommittee – Jason Broad – Jason having left the meeting, there was no report.
- f. Uptown Regional Bike Corridor Advisory Group – Brittany Ruggels – Brittany having left the meeting, there was no report.
- g. Mission Valley PFFP Interim Update Subcommittee – Karen Ruggels – Karen having left the meeting, Dottie Surdi reminded the group that this item will be on the February 6, 2013 MVPG agenda.

4. Miscellaneous Mail

There was no miscellaneous mail.

K. GOVERNMENTAL STAFF REPORTS

1. Mayor's Office – Denise Garcia was not present. No report.
2. Senate Member's Office – Deanna Spehn was not present. No report.
3. Assembly Member's Office – Jason Weisz was not present. No report.

L. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. at the Mission Valley Library, Community Room.



Brittany Ruggels, Secretary