

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

March 6, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Monica Davis
Michael McDowell

FEDERAL REP'S STAFF

Jonathan Hardy

CITY STAFF

Officer Holly
Jack Straw
Brian Schoenfisch
Carolyn Westfall

COUNTY STAFF

Dan McAllister

GUESTS

Jim King
Liz Zaninougi
Diane Johnson
Stuart Fagan
Rob Hutsel
John Ziebarthi
Naomi Grant Hartley
Pat Grant

ASSEMBLY STAFF

Ralph Dimarucut

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 – 16 members were present, constituting a quorum.

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

C. INTRODUCTIONS / OPENING REMARKS

Guests introduced themselves. No opening remarks

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Perry Dealy moved to approve the minutes of the February 06, 2013 regular meeting. Marco Sessa seconded the motion. Brittany Ruggels noted that Doris Payne-Camp was not listed as being absent and asked for a correction in the minutes accordingly. Minutes, with correction, were approved 15 – 0 – 1, with Marco Sessa abstaining.

E. PUBLIC INPUT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No items were brought forward.

- F. MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS** – Brittany Ruggels nominated John LaRaia, representing H.G. Fenton to fill a “tax-payer” position with the term ending in 2016. Gina Cord seconded the motion. The motion was approved 16 – 0 – 1. Since John had completed the Community Orientation Workshop he was eligible to join the Mission Valley Planning Group immediately, and did so.

Brittany Ruggels noted that a number of residents of Mission Valley have expressed an interest in serving on the Mission Valley Planning Group under the resident category, but no positions under the resident category are open. Brittany asked that if there are current members serving under a resident category that might be eligible to serve on the Mission Valley Planning Group under a different category to contact her to discuss the options and process of switching categories.

- G. TREASURER’S REPORT** – Bob Doherty reported a balance of \$ 964.43. Bob thanked those who had donated to help defray operating expenses of a recording secretary and other incidental expenses.

H. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

1. Police Department – Officer Holly updated the members on recent criminal activity in the area, highlighting the following areas:
 - Purse snatches from shopping carts inside of stores
 - “Apple picking” Taking Apple cell phones from individuals while person is talking/texting/using.
 - Older black male exposing self in children’s section of store

Officer Holly reviewed some property inspections at owners request and discussed some arrests of individuals for loitering and non-permit camping.

Officer Holly introduced Carolyn Westfall, prosecutor from the City Attorneys Office. Carolyn discussed her focus on quality of life issues around the San Diego river bed and the East District of the City Police Department. She explained the use of “geographical probation” for individuals who have repeated arrests in an area but do not have a permanent address in the area. Carolyn provided her office phone number, 619-533-5676 for further questions.

2. Fire Department – No report.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

1. Mayor's Office

Denise Garcia was not present. No report.

2. State Representatives

a. Senate Member's Office – Ralph Dimarucut introduced himself from the office of Sen. Marty Block from the 39th Senate District. He distributed copies of the latest newsletter.

b. Assembly Member's Office – Jason Weisz was not present. No report.

3. Federal Representatives

a. Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office -- Jonathan Hardy distributed the latest newsletter and briefly described the issues that the office is currently working on. He requested that members “like” Congresswoman Davis Facebook page for daily updates.

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

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Subcommittee Formation – (Action Item)

Elizabeth Leventhal made a motion to form a sub-committee on homelessness. Brittany Ruggels seconded the motion. Elizabeth explained that the homeless are a new constant in Mission Valley. The visible segment of this population are on the main street corners, in front of the library and along the riverbed, walkways, and trails of Mission Valley. She stated that there are many more hidden from sight but still in need of help, services, and solutions that would make both their lives better as well as ours as residents, business owners, and advocates for a safer, more walkable, and vibrant community. While there is a new permanent shelter downtown, a city government with a renewed focus on helping the homeless and a recent point-in-time homeless count conducted there has not been a focus on this issue as Mission Valley plans for new parks, the development of the riverfront, and other urban amenities such as the stadium grounds.

There was discussion regarding the role of a Planning Group addressing “social” issues independent of specific land use and planning projects. The name of the sub-committee was questioned as to the narrow scope it implied rather than a larger scope of public health and safety.

Elizabeth amended her motion to change the name of the sub-committee from “homelessness” to “public health, safety and welfare”. Brittany affirmed the name change.

The motion passed 19-0-0 with Elizabeth Leventhal and Doris Payne-Camp as initial members. A request was made to return to the next meeting with a purpose statement and goals for the sub-committee.

2. San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector - (Information Item)

Dan McAllister, San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector addressed current issues in the Treasurer-Tax collector's office. He discussed the changing diversity in the San Diego office and steps his office has taken to address the issues that this presents, namely, language barriers. He handed out some information from his office highlighting the pamphlet titled "New Homeowners Property Tax Guide" which was printed through a public-private partnership with his office and Lawyers Title.

Dan answered questions including tax paying dates/frequency, the reserve account for redevelopment monies, school bonds and tax sales/auctions. He passed around a list of individuals/businesses that had refunds due them and asked that members review and contact his office if a refund is indicated.

3. Serra Mesa/Mission Valley Trail Connection – (Information Item)

Jim King representing the San Diego River Conservancy and State Coastal Conservancy presented an overview of Serra Mesa-Mission Valley Trail connection through Ruffin Canyon, a segment of the Tributary Canyons Project, formally known as the "Rim to Rim" Trail Project.

There was discussion and questions regarding ADA access on the trail, public access through established housing developments, trail enhancements and trail markers. This project will be presented to the Mission Valley Planning Group for approval later in 2013.

4. BevMo CUP (5644 Mission Center Road)-(Action Item)

John Ziebarth reviewed the application for a tenant improvement conditional use permit that includes a liquor license at 5644 Mission Center Road.

There was discussion and questions regarding the number of liquor licenses available in this census tract and if this business was an additional location or a replacement location.

Alex Plishner moved that the application for a tenant improvement conditional use permit that includes a liquor license at 5644 Mission Center Road be approved. Doris Payne-Camp seconded. The motion passed 16-1-0 with Elizabeth Levanthal voting no.

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. City Planning Update

Brian Schoenfisch informed the members that the FY 14 draft budget includes money to begin the process of updating the Mission Valley Community Plan. If included in the final budget there would be further discussion on the model and approach that would be appropriate for updating the plan.

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

Jack Straw distributed s flyer on the Free Community Cleanup and recycling event on Saturday March 9, 2013 at Qualcomm Stadium and distributed the latest newsletter.

Jack discussed the priority in the current storm water report for cleaning up the Murphy Canyon Creek that causes Qualcomm Stadium parking lot and adjacent bike trail flooding. He also discussed the funding to light the bike/pedestrian path under Hwy 163 adjacent to Camino Del La Reina.

3. Subcommittee Reports

a. Design Advisory Board

Randall Dolph reviewed the DAB meeting on March 4, 2013 which received an informational presentation of the Vantile/Little Russell project, also known as Discovery Place.

b. Stadium Committee

Randall Dolph reported that there were no new developments.

c. San Diego River Coalition

Alan Grant reported on the February which included a presentation by Mike Nelson on the San Diego River Conservancy Report and a report by Judy Swink of Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 (C-3) on their history with the planning for Mission Valley.

Alan stated that the next meeting is March 15, 2013. The agenda includes a discussion about Wilderness designations in the Cleveland National Forest and a presentation from one of the Coalition organizations. There will also be an update on development projects and other efforts along and near the River.

d. Community Planners Committee (CPC)

The minutes for the February 26, 2013 meeting were e-mailed to members on March 4, 2013.

e. Parks Subcommittee

Jason Broad reported that Civita Park planners have asked the MVPG Parks Sub-Committee work with them on their designs for the park space in their Development. Meeting times and locations are in the process of being set up.


f. Uptown Regional Bike Corridor Advisory Group

Brittany Ruggels reported that there had been a 2nd meeting on a bike route from Fashion Valley Transit Plaza to Uptown, no resolution at this time.

5. Miscellaneous Mail

There was no miscellaneous mail.

K. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. at the Mission Valley Library, Community Room.



Brittany Ruggels, Secretary