MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MISSION VALLEY PLANNING GROUP

March 04, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT Steve Abbo Deborah Bossmeyer Paul Brown John Carson Bob Cummings Perry Dealy Robert Doherty Randall Dolph Alan Grant	MEMBERS ABSENT Jason Broad Matthew Guillory Alex Plishner Karen Ruggels	<u>GUESTS</u> Wilma Goodness George Holbrook Camilla Hurd Richard Hurd Kathy Lippitt Robert McDowell Terry Odle Jeremy Ogul Sharon Rissling
Derek Hulse Rob Hutsel John LaRaia	FEDERAL REP'S STAFF	Jesse Sanchez Felicity Senoski Robert Shandor
Elizabeth Leventhal Andrew Michajlenko John Nugent	STATE STAFF	Marcus Thefeld
Jim Penner	CITY STAFF	
Marco Sessa	Nancy Graham	
Dottie Surdi	Seth Litchney	
Rick Tarbell Josh Weiselberg	Ryley Webb	

Dottie Surdi, Chair, 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: 19 members were present, constituting a quorum.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

Elizabeth Leventhal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. INTRODUCTIONS / OPENING REMARKS/ AGENDA CHANGE

Dottie Surdi welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded those present to sign the sign in sheets.

Guests introduced themselves.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Penner moved to approve the minutes of the February 04, 2015 regular meeting. Allan Grant seconded the motion. Minutes were approved 16 - 0 - 3 with Steve Abbo, Deborah Bossmeyer, and John Carson abstaining.

E. PUBLIC INPUT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS BUT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING GROUP.

"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." Mission Valley Planning Group Bylaws as Amended 05/07/2008, approved 12/02/2008

Issues addressed:

• San Diego Padres starts new season with first cactus league game tonight.

F. MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS

John Nugent recommended Derek Hulse to the position of Property Taxpayer with a term ending in 2018. Derek provided a brief introduction of himself.

John Nugent nominated Derek Hulse to the position of Property Taxpayer with a term ending in 2018. Allan Grant seconded the nomination. Nomination was approved 19 - 0 - 0.

John reported that all current positions are filled but that candidates are still being sought for future openings.

John reported that progress is being made on revising the MVPG By-laws and the draft revisions should be available by summer. Once the MVPG approves the revised MVPG By-laws they are submitted to the San Diego City Council for final approval.

G. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Doherty reported that the balance is \$1,357.06.

H. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

1. <u>Police Department</u> – Officer Adam McElroy Officer McElroy was not present

2. Fire Department – No report.

I. GOVERNMENTAL STAFF REPORTS

1. Mayor's Office

Anthony George was not present, no report

<u>2. City Attorney's office</u> Julio DeGuzman was not present, no report

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More information can be found at: http://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney/divisions/index.shtml

3. Council Office-District 7- Councilmember Scott Sherman

Ryley Webb reported on:

- Mid-year budget process and review
- State of the art Mission Valley Fire stations on Friars road is on schedule.
- Friars Road repaying is about complete
- Councilman holding "State of Neighborhood meetings.
- Councilman prefers stadium be at current site
- Newsletter was distributed.

3. City Planning Update-Nancy Graham

Nancy reported:

- Mission Valley Community Plan update kickoff will be scheduled once City Council approves contracts for consultants
- Money in 2015 City budget for MV Community Plan Update can be carried over to 2016 budget
- 2016 City budget contains money for MV Community Plan Update
- There will be community outreach strategies to develop community interest in the MV Community Plan Update.
- City Planning Commission approved the project initiation for the Town and County project. This initiation is required to allow for the site to be removed from Atlas Specific Plan so a new mixed use plan for project can be developed. The Commission expressed concerns over health impacts with freeway adjacency, flooding, traffic, and cumulative impacts, which will have to be addressed in the forthcoming approval process.
- City Planning staff is recommending approval of the Union Tribune Mixed Use Project based on the project implementation of the goals of the San Diego Park River Master Plan and TOD strategies.

Discussion/Comments

- Proposed Mission Valley developments should be evaluated in a collective and concurrent manner rather than on an individual basis
- Comprehensive transportation studies of Mission Valley will be part of Community Plan Update
- All projects in Mission Valley that have an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) requirement complete a traffic study that examines cumulative traffic impacts based on current, proposed and foreseeable projects. CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 defines cumulative impacts as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." The CEQA Guidelines further state that the individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects; or the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects.
- An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) may conclude that a project would result in significant but mitigated environmental impacts to the following areas Land

Use, Biological Resources, Geologic Conditions, Historical Resources (Archaeological), Paleontological Resources, and Noise (Construction), Traffic/Circulation/Parking or may have significant and unmitigated impacts in any of the same areas.

- An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with significant and unmitigated impacts will not automatically cause a project to be denied because the purpose of CEQA is to disclose the environmental impacts and associated mitigation (or lack thereof).
- It is up to the Mission Valley Planning Group to determine if the recommended remedies for any direct significant and unavoidable impacts or significant and unmitigated impacts are acceptable or if the Mission Valley Planning Group wants to recommend further remedies as part of their review and recommendation.
- Some members commented that a City traffic engineer should attend the MVPG meetings, when requested, to offer non-biased insight into the technical basis of traffic data and to hear from the planning group on the practical sides of how traffic flows in the Mission Valley

4. State Representatives

a. <u>Senate Member's Office</u> – Sen. Marty Block from the 39th Senate District I. Katelyn Hailey was not present-no report More information can be found at: <u>http://sd39.senate.ca.gov/</u>

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

5. Federal Representatives

a. Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office

Armita Pedramrazi was not present but asked that the Davis Report be distributed and the Student Financial Aid workshop be highlighted. More information is available at: http://www.house.gov/susandavis/

b. Congressman Scott Peters' Office -

Sarah Czarrecki was not present. No report. More information is available at: <u>http://scottpeters.house.gov/</u>

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Agenda Item J-1. COSTCO Site Development Permit-Action Item

Proposed Draft Motion: To recommend approval of site development permit #3380911 for the COSTCO Mission Valley Addition

Information

Terry Odle reviewed the request for a Site Development Permit to construct a 2,787 square foot addition and another 2,347 square foot addition at an existing 143,311 square

foot commercial building. As part of the project the existing receiving dock would be expanded by 2,347 square feet and a new 2,787 square foot tire sales area would be constructed along with the conversion of the existing tire sales area to a tire installation area. Also included in the scope of work would be the installation of a new produce cooler. The project would take place at an existing commercial center where existing public utilities are in place to serve the proposed development.

Comments/Questions:

- The City of San Diego determined that the project would qualify to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) which allows for the addition of up to 10,000 square-feet in areas where all public services and facilities are available and where the project would not be located on a site containing sensitive resources. Since the project is located on a site where public services exist and is devoid of sensitive resources and the addition does not exceed 10,000 square feet the project qualifies to be categorical exempt from CEQA. Based upon the previously developed nature of the site the exceptions listed in CEQA Section 15300.2 would not apply. http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/CEQA/PN1300%20%232775 50% 20Draft% 20EIR% 20Part% 201% 20Date% 202-20-15.pdf
- The City is requiring that no fewer than 769 parking spaces, including 15 accessible spaces, be permanently maintained on the property. COSTCO, through restriping, will provide 777 parking spaces, including 32 accessible spaces.
- Some members expressed concern with COSTCO shrinking the parking width of each parking spot from 10 feet to 9 feet, that it would be a problem for many vehicles and would not be a popular solution
- Some members commented on the smaller size of parking spaces in other Mission Valley shopping center parking lots and the City's minimum width requirements of 8 feet per parking space.

http://puff.lbl.gov/transportation/transportation/pdf/sandiego-municipal-codech14.pdf

John Nugent moved to recommend the approval of Site Development Permit (SDP) #3380911 for the COSTCO Mission Valley Addition with the parking requirement that no fewer than 769 parking spaces, including 15 accessible spaces, be permanently maintained on the property. John LaRaia seconded the motion. Motion was approved 18–1–1 with Marco Sessa abstaining.

2. Agenda Item J-2. Union Tribune Mixed Use Project- Action Item

Proposed Draft Motion:

To recommend the approval of the Union Tribune Mixed Use Project No. 277550 located in Mission Valley, north of Interstate 8, west of State Route 163 and Camino De La Reina South, south of the San Diego River, and east of the Town and County Resort Hotel and Convention Center at 350 Camino De La Reina.

Perry Dealy introduced his team, which discussed the history of the project (<u>http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/CEQA/PN1300%20%23277550%20</u> <u>Draft%20EIR%20Part%204%20Date%202-20-15.pdf</u>), the community benefits through impact fees and mitigations, the project being a transit oriented development project and provided an overview similar to the one described in the following DAB excerpt of 3/02/2015 Design Advisory Board (DAB) meeting minutes:

Design Advisory Board (DAB) report: (excerpt of 3/02/2015 (DAB) meeting minutesfull DAB minutes are under: K. Old Business, A. Standing Committees 1) DAB of these minutes)

Perry Dealy introduced the team and provided a brief history of the UT mixed-use project. Perry commented that due to current and projected demand for class A office space in Mission Valley, the office component of the project was deleted in favor of retaining the residential component.

Selected highlights of the presentation included:

- The existing site area is 12.86 acres at 350 Camino De La Reina.
- A total of 200 residential units are included in the development for a total of 285,645 gross square feet. One tower consists of a 2-story parking structure with 5 stories of residential above. The second tower houses 7 stories of residential units. A mix of townhouse-style and flat units are proposed facing the river. All units will be rental, and will consist of a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units.
- A total of 671 parking spaces are proposed, totaling 212,069 gross square feet to be located below-grade and in the base of one of the residential towers.
- The project is one of the first to implement improvements in accordance with the San Diego River Park Plan, including a river wall promenade and public pocket park. Additionally, both pedestrian and bike circulation paths are proposed.
- The exterior palette presented included brick (to match the existing UT building), precast concrete, colored concrete pavers, and decorative concrete masonry for the retaining walls.
- Dealy reminded the group that the project is situated above the 100-year flood plain.

The "Visual Effects/Neighborhood Character" portion of the EIR concluded that: The proposed project would substantially change the visual appearance of the proposed site by increasing the building mass and density; however the proposed project is consistent with the City of San Diego General Plan, Mission Valley Community Plan, MSCP Subarea Plan, and the San Diego River Park Plan, and would substantially improve the visual quality of the site. The proposed project would not substantially effect any visual resources or create any substantial light or glare in the area. The proposed project would pose a less than significant impact to the existing landform. The proposed changes in landform would not be visible from any public viewpoint. The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to visual resources and neighborhood character.

The DAB did not take exception to the EIR findings noted above.

As such, Paul Dugas moved that the DAB recommend the project to the full board. Dottie Surdi seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-0.

The DAB thanked the UT team for their presentation.

End of excerpted DAB minutes

Comments/Questions at MVPG 3/04/15 meeting:

- Transit connection is via pedestrian bridge over San Diego River behind Town and Country Hotel
- High end rental project based on market need for rentals as opposed to additional condominiums
- Exterior materials will be similar to existing office buildings on site
- San Diego River Park Foundation consulted and approved the river park trail portion of project
- Pocket park will be given to City through an easement, City responsible for maintaining park and trail but project will seek an agreement to maintain for City.
- Project includes TDM strategies (Transportation demand management, traffic demand management or travel demand management (all TDM) is the application of strategies and policies to reduce travel demand (specifically that of single-occupancy private vehicles), or to redistribute this demand in space or in time through strategies that attempt to influence travel behavior by mode, frequency, time, route, or trip length to balance demand across all components of a transportation network, maximizing the efficiency of the system and improving mobility for all users.)
- The draft EIR concludes that the project would result in significant but mitigated environmental impacts to the following areas Land Use, Biological Resources, Geologic Conditions, Historical Resources (Archaeological), Paleontological Resources, and Noise (Construction) and significant and unmitigated impacts related to: Transportation/Circulation/Parking. <u>http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/CEQA/PN1300%20%232775</u> 50%20Draft%20EIR%20Part%201%20Date%202-20-15.pdf.
- Project will require some transportation mitigation but other mitigations were determined to be infeasible
 <u>http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/CEQA/PN1300%20%232775</u>
 50%20Draft%20EIR%20Part%205%20Date%202-20-15.pdf
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 defines cumulative impacts as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." The CEQA Guidelines further state that the individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects; or the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Ten projects within close proximity to the proposed project area (Union Tribune) were identified by the City of San Diego that are anticipated to generate traffic or otherwise contribute to cumulative environmental impacts. see

http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/CEQA/PN1300%20%232775 50%20Draft%20EIR%20Part%205%20Date%202-20-15.pdf

• The proposed project would result in direct significant and unavoidable impacts to one (1) intersection and four (4) roadway segments under the Existing + Project

and Near-Term (Opening Day 2017) Scenarios. A preliminary mitigation feasibility analysis was conducted as part of the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) based upon the proposed mitigation measures for each significantly impacted intersection and roadway segment. The feasibility analysis determined the proposed mitigation for the impacted intersection and for each street segment in each scenario would be infeasible for various reasons (Section 8.1) <u>http://docs.sandiego.gov/citybulletin_publicnotices/CEQA/PN1300%20%232775</u> 50%20Draft%20EIR%20Part%205%20Date%202-20-15.pdf

Randy Dolph moved to recommend the approval of the Union Tribune Mixed Use Project to the City Planning Commission. Jim Penner seconded the motion. Motion was approved 17 - 0 - 3 with Deborah Bossmeyer, Andrew Michajlenko and Perry Dealy abstaining.

3. Agenda Item J-3. Morris Cerullo International Center –Information Item

Jim Penner introduced Mike Harrah and provided an overview of the life work of Dr. Morris Cerrullo. Mike Harrah distributed a booklet on the project and provided an overview of the Morris Cerullo Legacy Center (located at Mission Valley Resort - 875 Hotel Circle South) similar to the one described in the following DAB excerpt of 3/02/2015 Design Advisory Board (DAB) meeting minutes:

Design Advisory Board (DAB) report: (excerpt of 3/02/2015 (DAB) meeting minutesfull DAB minutes are under: K. Old Business, A. Standing Committees 1) DAB of these minutes)

Morris Cerullo Legacy Center – Information Item

Jim Penner introduced Mike Harrah and gave a brief history of the project. Current components of the project presented included:

- Building #1: Welcoming Center, 2-story, 17,000+/- gross square feet (gsf).
- Building #2: History Dome Theater, consisting of an artifact museum and history dome theater, totaling approximately 30,000 gsf.
- Building #3: Catacombs, a 6,000+/- gsf subterranean space composed of retail and learning center. • Building #4: Training Center Pavilion, including a learning center, retail gift shop, grand foyer, restaurant, theater, TV studio/theater, learning center, and wellness center. This building is approximately 105,000 gsf.
- Building #5: Timeshare Legacy Village, composed of 127 units totaling 136,000 gsf in a 5- story building.
- Building #6: Executive Offices, a three story building housing approximately 23,000 gsf of office space.

Exterior improvements proposed to the site included:

- 300-seat outdoor amphitheater
- Subterranean parking structure with 314 parking stalls in approximately 114,000 gsf.
- 5-story parking structure with an additional 280 spaces in approximately 94,000 gsf.
- Entry arches

- Central plaza and outdoor water feature
- Outdoor pool
- Pedestrian pathways

The material palette for the project incorporated Jerusalem stone, terra cotta, sandstone, and EIFS (acrylic stucco over rigid insulation, simulating stucco or stone).

The style of architecture presented had been substantially revised from the previous Romanesquethemed style to a more traditional Mediterranean/Tuscan style. A majority of the domes have been removed. Towers replaced thematic elements. Columns and capitals were simplified. The Arc-DeTriomphe entrance component was greatly simplified into a pair of towers with a flattened arch. Renderings of the overall development and timeshare building were presented.

Question, comments, and discussion from the board included:

- The DAB suggested the applicant study Building #1 (Welcoming Center) to validate that it is utilizing the same architectural vocabulary as presented in the rendering of the timeshare building.
- Although the white/light color of the stone presented for the material palette is quite elegant, the applicant may want to consider the amount of dust/dirt that may buildup on the façades during the dry season, which may product dirt streaks during the rainy season.
- When asked about off-street improvements, Harrah provided a brief review of the traffic related scope included in the project.
- The DAB inquired about the view of the development from the street. Although a 2- dimensional line drawing section was included, the DAB commented that a 3- D view would be helpful to understand the relationships.
- The DAB expressed concern with the water consumption of the proposed ficus trees. Harrah commented that dense foliage and a water feature are being considered as a means to mitigate unwanted noise from the adjacent freeway.

Since the project was before the board for information only, the DAB thanked the team for the presentation and especially for their efforts in addressing the DAB's previous comments.

End of excerpted DAB minutes

The proposed mixed-use project requires a Process Five Community Plan Amendment, Atlas Specific Plan Amendment, Rezone, Site Development Permit, Planned Development Permit, Conditional Use Permit and Vesting Tentative Map to construct a mixed-use development with religious non-denominational faith based entertainment Center, Museum, timeshare, administrative, recreational and commercial uses.

Due to time limitations there was no discussion of the project.

More information can be found at: <u>http://www.mcwe.com/legacy.php</u>

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Standing Committees:

<u>1) Design Advisory Board – Randy Dolph</u> Minutes from the March 01, 2015 meeting are:

DESIGN ADVISORY BOARD Mission Valley Planning Group March 3, 2015

TO: Dottie Surdi, MVPG Chair FROM: Randy Dolph, DAB Chair SUBJECT: Report of March 2, 2015 DAB Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. in the Mission Valley Library. Members present were: Paul Brown, Randy Dolph, Paul Dugas, and Dottie Surdi. Union Tribune applicant representatives included Perry Dealy, Randi Coppersmith, and Sharon Rissling. Morris Cerullo Legacy Center applicant representatives included Jim Penner and Mike Harrah.

Union Tribune Mixed-Use Project – Action Item

Perry Dealy introduced the team and provided a brief history of the UT mixed-use project. Perry commented that due to current and projected demand for class A office space in Mission Valley, the office component of the project was deleted in favor of retaining the residential component.

Selected highlights of the presentation included:

- The existing site area is 12.86 acres at 350 Camino De La Reina.
- A total of 200 residential units are included in the development for a total of 285,645 gross square feet. One tower consists of a 2-story parking structure with 5 stories of residential above. The second tower houses 7 stories of residential units. A mix of townhouse-style and flat units are proposed facing the river. All units will be rental, and will consist of a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units.
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- The exterior palette presented included brick (to match the existing UT building), precast concrete, colored concrete pavers, and decorative concrete masonry for the retaining walls.
- Dealy reminded the group that the project is situated above the 100-year flood plain.

The "Visual Effects/Neighborhood Character" portion of the EIR concluded that: The proposed project would substantially change the visual appearance of the proposed site by increasing the building mass and density; however the proposed project is consistent with the City of San Diego General Plan, Mission Valley Community Plan, MSCP Subarea Plan, and the San Diego River Park Plan, and would substantially improve the visual quality of the site. The proposed project would not substantially effect any visual resources or create any substantial light or glare in the area. The proposed project would pose a less than significant impact to the existing landform. The proposed changes in landform would not be visible from any public viewpoint. The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to visual resources and neighborhood character.

The DAB did not take exception to the EIR findings noted above.

As such, Paul Dugas moved that the DAB recommend the project to the full board. Dottie Surdi seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-0.

The DAB thanked the UT team for their presentation.

Morris Cerullo Legacy Center – Information Item

Jim Penner introduced Mike Harrah and gave a brief history of the project. Current components of the project presented included:

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Question, comments, and discussion from the board included:

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- Although the white/light color of the stone presented for the material palette is quite elegant, the applicant may want to consider the amount of dust/dirt that may buildup on the façades during the dry season, which may product dirt streaks during the rainy season.
- When asked about off-street improvements, Harrah provided a brief review of the trafficrelated scope included in the project.
- The DAB inquired about the view of the development from the street. Although a 2- dimensional line drawing section was included, the DAB commented that a 3- D view would be helpful to understand the relationships.
- The DAB expressed concern with the water consumption of the proposed ficus trees. Harrah commented that dense foliage and a water feature are being considered as a means to mitigate unwanted noise from the adjacent freeway.

Since the project was before the board for information only, the DAB thanked the team for the presentation and especially for their efforts in addressing the DAB's previous comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M., with the next regularly meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2015.

2) Mission Valley Community Plan Update-John Nugent The committee did not meet so there was no report.

John asked community members interested in serving on the committee to sign the interest sheet next to the sign in sheets.

John reported that community members will not be named to the committee until after the "kickoff".

B. Ad Hoc Committees

<u>1) Parks – Jason Broad</u> The committee did not meet so there was no report

2) Public Health, Safety and Welfare – Elizabeth Leventhal Elizabeth Leventhal did not have an update.

3) Riverwalk-John Nugent

John Nugent reported that the subcommittee is waiting for some project organizational issues to be completed prior to a meeting being called.

The purpose of the subcommittee is to monitor the plans for development and offer advice to the developers, assure that the development plans are consistent with the Mission Valley Community Plan, meets the land use and environmental standards, rules and regulations established by City, State and Federal governments and advise on mitigation's the development may have to make to offset some of the additional traffic, noise, environmental, water control or other issues that may surface in planning the project.

John asked community members interested in serving on the subcommittee to sign the interest sheet next to the sign in sheets.

2. Community Reports

1. San Diego River Coalition

Allan Grant reported that there was no February meeting.. The agenda for the March meeting has not been set. The committee meets the third Friday of each month from 3:00-4:30 at the Mission Valley Library.

3. Community Planning Chairs Meeting –

Dottie Surdi reported that the minutes of the last meeting will be sent out when approved.

4. Miscellaneous Mail

There were no items

5. Miscellaneous Items

There were no items

L. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 P.M.

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday April 01, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at the Mission Valley Library, Community Room.

John Nugent, Secretary