

OTAY MESA-NESTOR COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 2017

Members Present:

District 1 John Swanson
District 2 Sam Mendoza
District 4 Patty Swanson
District 6 Maria Mendoza
District 7 Robert Broomfield
District 8 Edgar Gonzalez
District 9 Jacki Farrington
District 10 Bob Mikloski
District 11 Albert Velasquez
District 12 Carlos Sanchez
District 13 Brian McGonagill
District 15 Walt Zumstein
District 16 Bobby Hicks

Members Absent:

District 3 Ed Abraham
District 5 Gabriel Uribe
District 14 Wayne Dickey

Vacant Seats:

None

Guests Present:

A number of guests were present, see the OMNCPG secretary for a copy of the guest list.

1. **Call to Order/Introduction of Members:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Albert Velasquez, at the Otay Mesa Nestor Branch Library. He welcomed all Board members and members of the community to the meeting of the Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Planning Group (OMNCPG).
2. **Approval of minutes** – Jackie Farrington made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Non-Agenda Public Comments:**
 - a. Walt Zumstein read a brief history of the “Egger Highlands” name, and requested that an item be placed on a future OMNCPG agenda for more discussion about this topic.
 - b. Bob Mikloski said that the landscaping soil is eroding near the Otay Mesa Nestor Branch Library sidewalks, possibly creating a hazard to pedestrians.
4. **SDPD Community Relations:**SDPD Officer Esmeralda Sanchez, emsanchez@pd.sandiego.gov (619) 424-0412 was in attendance, and gave the following report:
 - a. She announced the upcoming SDPD Southern Division Open House, which is to be held on July 8, 2017.
 - b. She said that the San Ysidro “Crime Awareness Community Walk” will happen June 15, 2017.
5. **California State Assembly, 80th District Report:** Aida C. Castañeda, Field Representative, 619-338-8090 Aida.Castaneda@asm.ca.gov
 - a. No report.

6. **Council District 8 Report:** District 8 Representative Vivian Moreno, Council Representative, 619-236-6688 vmoreno@sandiego.gov:

Vivian's comments included, but were not limited to the following general statements:

- a. Vivian said she would speak to anyone who had questions after the meeting.
- b. Vivian is concerned about due process of the SMART program.
- c. She said she is concerned about equitable programs placed in our community, and that South Bay is not always the dumping ground, with the community only receiving prisons, landfills and similar projects.
- d. She ceded the rest of her presentation time to representatives of the City of San Diego to present details about the San Diego SMART program.

7. **Informational Item:** Joe LaCava, Member, Public Land Public Vote Coalition, was not in attendance. This item was tabled until a future meeting.

8. **Informational Item:** Lara Easton, Deputy Chief City Attorney and Stephen Maduli-Williams, Community Development Division Program Manager informed the group about a proposed City of San Diego purchase of a motel at 1788 Palm Avenue (the former Super 8 Motel). If the purchase is completed, the building will be repurposed as a transitional housing community for the San Diego SMART program. This program is an innovative pilot program that provides homeless low-level misdemeanor offenders with housing, case management, job training and other supportive services required to end the cycle of homelessness. She gave a Power Point presentation that described and defined the requirements for the program and how participants would qualify to stay in the program. Stephen Maduli-Williams, Community Development Division Program Manager, commented about the choice of the hotel. The search throughout city landed upon the Super 8 Motel on Palm Avenue.

Comments from both the members of the OMNCPG board and from the public about this agenda item included, but were not limited to these following general statements:

Jackie Farrington spoke about the need for accountability regarding sobriety and meeting rooms. She asked if family health clinics will come to the site, and if there will be overnight staff? She said that this hotel only provides "bridge housing," not permanent housing. She said that the community needs permanent housing.

Walt Zumstein asked questions about why the program only helps drug addicts, and was informed that the program was geared only for those with drug addiction problems.

Sam Mendoza asked about how the people are being tracked and monitored once they leave the hotel. He said he is also concerned about the high percentage of affordable housing that we currently have in our district, compared to other districts.

Bobby Hicks asked how long until an individual is apprehended once they leave the requirements of compliance in the program.

Brian McGonagill stated that he felt most drug addiction programs failed.

Albert Velasquez asked about the actual cost of the site. The City of San Diego representatives said that the cost is estimated as \$12 million total, with \$4 to 5 million for SMART program, and \$7 million to purchase and renovate the Palm Avenue property.

Joan Snider asked if people will be confined to the hotel the whole time during the program.

Vivian Moreno said that the individuals in the program will come from downtown area.

John Swanson said that homelessness downtown should be taken care of downtown and not moved to South Bay.

Barbara Elliot Saunders commented on the danger to our children from the individuals who are in this program.

Sam Mendoza said that South Bay is being used as the dumping ground for City of San Diego programs.

Dr. Matt Dickson asked about the recidivism rate of the current SMART program. The City of San Diego representatives said that they made 23 offers to homeless individuals, with 10 people still in the program. They said that the pilot program is based on a 40% recidivism rate. They also said that there will be one staff member for every 25 participants enrolled in the program at the site.

Additional public comments included:

What is the exit plan? What is the acceptable rate for crime in our community?

The City should revisit the idea of using the library downtown. Individuals shouldn't be allowed freedom of movement until they complete the program.

There is nothing positive for our community in this SMART program. The City should consider the Chargers facility, which it already owns.

Warehousing large amounts of problem people in one place is not wise or productive.

9. **Sub-Committee Reports:** No reports for the By-Laws, Parks and Recreation, Volunteer Code Compliance, and Elections subcommittees.
10. **Chair's report:** No report.
11. **City Planner's Report:** No report.
12. **Adjournment:** 8:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted by John C. Swanson, Secretary