

CARMEL VALLEY COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD
Meeting Minutes
7 pm, Thursday, April 24, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Board Member	Representing	Present	Absent	Absence (Board Year)
Jeffrey Heden, Vice Chair	CV Voting District 1	X		0
Greg Hodosevich	CV Voting District 2	X		0
Tyler Loman	CV Voting District 3	X		0
Debbie Lokanc	CV Voting District 4	X		0
Frank Macaulay	CV Voting District 5	X		0
Kevin Jasper	CV Voting District 6	X		0
VACANT	CV/PHR Business			
Allen Kashani, Secretary	CV/PHR Developer	X		0
VACANT	CV/PHR Property Owner			
VACANT	CV/PHR Property Owner			
Michelle Strauss, Chair	PHR D1	X		0
Adam Fox	PHR D2	X		0
Jason Stahl	Fairbanks Country Club/Via de la Valle/North City Subarea 2	X		0

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Heden motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Adam Fox and the motion passed (10-0-0).

B1. [ACTION ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER]

- FY 26 Budget Proposal to Close the Northwestern Police Station:** The Board will discuss the Mayor's proposal to shutter the Northwestern Police Station and reassign officers to the Northeastern Station. The Board will determine what course of action is appropriate in response to this recommendation.

Applicant: Chair, Carmel Valley Community Planning Board

Chief Wahl opened by explaining that keeping residents safe is a top priority. However, there is need to cut \$7M out of the police budget for operating expenses, while there is a \$26M-\$29M increase for prior agreement salaries. Chief Wahl overviewed how they arrived at the decision considering response times and detective workload and explained that the Police Department is extremely short staffed (by approximately one-thousand police officers). Chief Wahl explained that the last thing they want to cut is overtime, and that 36 police officers are being lost in June namely due to retirement.

Chief Wahl mentioned that he is looking to cut overhead after considering civilian positions, management positions and overtime. Chief Wahl added that the Northwestern Division has about one-thousand calls per month versus two-thousand calls per month at Northeastern Division, and that Northeastern Division can absorb the three-thousand calls, saving approximately \$4M and leaving a \$3M reduction left in overtime cuts. Chief Wahl added that the cut was to be temporary, and that they don't want to rush into a long-term decision.

Councilmember Joe LaCava also spoke and noted that a larger townhall format was being contemplated and Councilmember LaCava apologized to the community about City communication that response times would drop. Councilmember LaCava added that there was intention to look at the matter thoughtfully as the City Council has approximately a month to review before adopting the budget. Councilmember LaCava also added that on Friday, May 9 in the morning the Police Department will be talking further about the Police budget.

Chair Strauss expressed appreciation for Councilmember LaCava's words. Chair Strauss added that Carmel Valley/Pacific Highlands Ranch is a large community with 20 schools and the idea of losing the police station on top of already being insufficiently patrolled is a lot to swallow.

Chair Strauss asked about response delay being further addressed, and Chief Wahl mentioned that he very much leans into the data and has assigned staff to identify just how short the Police Department is. Based on their current call volume it is recommended to have 330 officers per day, and they field on average 270 officers per day. Chief Wahl added that the way they propose to bridge the gap is through overtime. Chief Wahl also added that response times are not being met for lower priority calls, and they are monitoring that. Chair Strauss mentioned that it was noted four officers maximum are monitoring 40 square miles. Chair Wahl responded that response times should not change with the closing of the Police Station.

Kevin Jasper identified that it appears there is need to prioritize the Police Department having appropriate services. The Chief responded that they were previously looking at a \$34M cut. Councilmember LaCava added that nothing has a higher priority than police services, and the City is still digging out from previous arrangements and difficulty in obtaining police services. However, Councilmember LaCava also added that maximizing park & recreation services, library services and fixing potholes are still priorities in addition to police services.

Jeffrey Heden asked why funds that were being used towards homeless issues aren't being used to address police funding issues. Councilmember LaCava responded that there are decisions being made by the Mayor office however each Councilmember is advocating for resources in their area.

Regarding assurance that there won't be less quality in public safety, Chief Wahl responded that situation requires constant monitoring.

Chair Strauss asked if \$1.7M in the budget is found could the closure of the Police Station be avoided. Chief Wahl responded that funds would need to be earmarked specifically for the Police Station. Chair LaCava suggested we frame this as a question for the City.

A question was asked how can the community participate in the next round of budget cuts, and is the trend reversible? It was also asked are the trends potentially going to impact other police stations? Chief Wahl responded identifying that it is a priority for the Police Department to build trust with the community.

During discussion Allen Kashani explained that Councilmember LaCava's office asked the Planning Board for budget priority feedback a few months prior and that the Board responded indicating that police and fire was a top priority and everything else was second; and Debby Lokanc echoed that police and fire are essential compared to other services.

Adam Fox from the Board mentioned that he thinks it is important to humanize the matter and mentioned that his house was broken into. Adam added that it is not just about response times but goes beyond that, and we have to get this one right. Adam thinks given \$7M in budget cuts that police services is not being made top priority, and that we should protect 'the big rocks' first and everything else comes next.

Bruce Camerson, president of Pacific Highlands Ranch North Homeowner's Association representing approximately one-thousand homeowners spoke and indicated that it is a full expectation that the funds for police services is fought for. Bruce also added that the City should take revenue from home values into budget cut consideration.

Alia Ludwig from the public asked how frequently the data gets reviewed, and asked what benchmarks would change the strategy and how will outreach be done with the community? The Chief responded that he owns the communication part; and Erwin from SDPD also spoke regarding the data indicating that the commitment is to maintain the same officer allocation to the area, regardless of police station location.

Alia also added to Councilmember LaCava that she would like to see more fighting for the community, and Alia asked about communication with the schools. Councilmember LaCava responded that they are fighting for the community.

Danielle from the San Diego Jewish Academy asked what the community can do to put pressure to keep the Police Station open? Councilmember LaCava suggested that outreach been done from community members to the Mayor and City Council, preferably with coalition groups.

Jenny Williams from the public mentioned that she recalls there is way for Councilmembers to advocate for the \$1.7M needed by convincing other Councilmembers. Councilmember LaCava mentioned he can only talk to four Councilmembers, and that \$30M has already been cut. It was also noted that voting for the trash fee helps solve \$100M in funding, and that \$20M funding can be obtained by parking.

Dan from the Jewish community voiced his support for the Police Station.

The president of the Sorrento Valley Town Council asked is there any other Police Stations proposed to be closed in San Diego. Chief Wahl responded that no other Police Stations proposed to be closed.

Katie Suel from the Solana Beach School Board asked the Police Chief and Councilmember to let us know what we can do. It was noted that on May 15 the Mayor will be submitting a new budget.

Melissa Slonim, a Girl Scout leader voiced that a perception of safety is very critical and mentioned that the community is very focused on schools and safety.

A Pacific Highlands Ranch homeowner expressed some concern about hearing the words 'should' versus 'will' and that there is concern about drugs becoming an issue in the community.

In response to a question about what community members can do, Councilmember LaCava mentioned community leader voices and phone calls to Council Members would be appropriate. Chair Strauss mentioned concern about the community's district taking a bigger burden than other communities in the City.

A member from the Torrey Pines Community mentioned that their community is concerned and that many didn't know about the meeting tonight.

Chair Strauss closed the discussion requested that those interested in making outreach happen to reach out to Chair Strauss via email or provide name/email on a list provided. Chair Strauss thanked the Police Department and Councilmember for attending.

C. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

A member of the public mentioned that a 70-year old resident was fatally hit by a car Sunday night on Carmel Knolls Drive, and the member of the public requested to have discussion at a future planning board meeting in June after canvassing the community with a petition. Chair Strauss will add the item to the agenda and Joaquin added that an evaluation will occur.

John Dean from Neighborhood 8 in Carmel Valley identified that his property is surrounded by brush and that he would like to join the Fire Safe committee.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

F. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

G. COMMUNITY PLANNER REPORT - Lesley Henegar, City of San Diego (CV / PHR / Fairbanks CC / Via de la Valle)

No report.

H. MAYOR'S REPORT – Fatima Maciel, Office of Mayor Gloria

No report.

I. COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 REPORT – Joaquin Quintero, Office of Councilmember LaCava

Joaquin provided a report. By June 30 the City must approve a balanced budget.

J. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – Office of Supervisor Lawson-Remer

Diana provided a report. A fact sheet on electric bike legislation requiring that a driving license is needed to operate electric bikes on streets was passed out. Diana added that the Department of Transportation allowing clearing of encampments on State lands was passed by legislation 15-0; and that the FAIR plan has increased coverage for fire insurance. Adam Fox asked about SB79 & SB677, and Diana mentioned that there was strong opposition.

K. STATE ASSEMBLY REPORT – Gonzalo Rocha-Vanquez, Office of Assembly Member Darshana Patel

No report.

L. STATE SENATE REPORT – Diana Kutlow, Office of State Senator Catherine Blakespear

Diana provided a report.

M. US CONGRESS – Liane Barkhordar, Office of US Congressman Scott Peters

No appearance however a report was sent out.

N. INFORMATION AGENDA:

None.

O. Action Agenda

- 2. Formation of the Carmel Valley Fire Safe Council:** Consider recognizing the Carmel Valley Fire Safe Council, CV FSC as a subcommittee of the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board; appoint Michelle Strauss, Jason Stahl, Debbie Lokanc, Phoebe Katsell and Alia Ludwig as official board members of the CV FSC; allow the CV FSC to apply to be part of the San Diego County Fire Safe Council, and if accepted, serve as an advisory body to the CVCPB on fire safety issues in the Carmel Valley Planning Area.

Applicant: Chair, Carmel Valley Community Planning Board

Chair Strauss explained that the City suggested the Planning Board form a subcommittee to address liability concerns forming a Fire Safe Council. Chair Strauss is asking the Board to formally recognize the Fire Safe Council as a subcommittee appointing hers, Jason Stahl and Debby Lokanc as members with two volunteers to be co-chairs of the subcommittee. An application with the County is required and the process has started. Jeffrey Heden motioned to recognize the Fire Safe Council as a subcommittee to the Board appointing Michelle Strauss, Debby Lokanc, Jason Stahl, Alia Ludwig and Phoebe Katsell as the members, seconded by Allen Kashani and unanimously approved (9-0-0).

- 3. City of San Diego ADU Bonus Program:** The City is currently reviewing this program and considering making significant changes due to some of the negative impacts the program has had on communities throughout the City of San Diego. The Board will discuss the policy, the proposed changes, recent CPC actions and possibly weigh in on the issue.

Applicant: Jeff Heden, CPC Rep

Jeffrey Heden provided an update on the State's program for Accessory Dwelling Units and the City's proposed bonus program for rent-controlled units. After discussion, there was sense that the City should be following the State's program, and should add brush management setback requirements, an infrastructure fee and parking requirements. Adam Fox recommended that Chair Strauss write a letter recommending the City amend the Density Bonus ADU Program to align with State law and include the additions mentioned by Jeff, seconded by Greg, and unanimously approved (9-0-0).

P. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeffrey Heden provided a report.

Q. CHAIR'S REPORT

It was noted that Lin Li stepped down from the Board and the business seat is open.

R. OLD / ONGOING BUSINESS

None.

S. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at approximately 10:45 PM.

T. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, May 22, 2024, 7 pm Location Carmel Valley Library

Note: MAD meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month in February, April, June, September, November, and December at the Carmel Valley Recreation Center 4:30PM.