

OTAY MESA-NESTOR COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

10 March 2010

Members Present:

Dist. 1 John Swanson
Dist. 2 Sam Mendoza
Dist. 3 Ed Abraham
Dist. 4 Diane Porter
Dist. 5 Diego Padilla

Dist. 6 Maria Mendoza
Dist. 7 Ira Briggs
Dist. 8 Myrna Briggs
Dist. 9 Vinnie Thoms
Dist. 10 Bob Mikloski
Dist. 11 Marie Johnson

Dist. 12 Carlos Sanchez
Dist. 13 Daniel Wagner
Dist. 14 Wayne Dickey
Dist. 15 Walt Zumstein
Dist. 16 Steve Schroeder

Guests Present:

Mark Carpenter, guest
Amenda Caniya, resident
Ricardo Apodoca, guest
Bertha MacTiernan, guest

Tom Orstead, guest
Mike McCoy, guest
Bobby Hicks, resident
Michael Prinz, guest

Margarita Sanchez, resident
Bob Mintek, guest
Whitney Benzian, guest

1. Call to Order/Introduction of Members: Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Daniel Wagner, Chair, at the Otay Mesa Branch Library. He welcomed all Board members and the community to the meeting of the Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Planning Group (OMNCPG).
2. Approval of minutes – Motion by Vinnie Thoms to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2010 as amended, the motion was passed unanimously.
3. Non-Agenda Public Comments:
 - A. Diane Porter – said she attended a meeting with the City of San Diego traffic engineer, council office and the park ranger, and is continuing to discuss the Otay Mesa – Nestor Multi-Use Pathway project in the Hollister/Leon/Saturn area.
4. Council District 8 Report: Whitney Benzian said that emails have been sent out regarding sidewalk repairs in the District. He said he is working with Diane Porter on the pathway project. He also said that he will be inviting members of the City of San Diego Streets Division to soon come speak to the OMCPG on some of the many different projects under their jurisdiction.
5. SDPD Community Relations: Officer MacTiernan introduced Officer Ricardo Apodaca who was appointed to serve the OMNCPG area as the new San Diego Police Department community relations contact. Officer Apodaca said that his phone number is 619-424-0438, and that his email address is rapodaca@pd.sandiego.gov
6. Informational Item: Otay Mesa – Nestor Multi-Use Pathway Project. Diane Porter. Ms. Porter introduced this informational item and made a brief presentation about it. It is described as a pathway system that will provide transportation, traffic calming, recreation, access and linkages. It is proposed to link the Otay Valley Regional Park with the Tijuana Valley Regional Park, and would be used by pedestrians, bikes, horseback riders.
7. Action Item: Medical Marijuana Task Force (MMTF).

Alex Kreit, Chairman of the MMTF presented that committee's recommendation to the OMCPG:

 - a. He said that the City of San Diego is responding to California State Proposition 215, which allows "medical Marijuana" dispensaries.
 - b. The City does not currently have a land use Ordinance to regulate "medical Marijuana" dispensaries.

- c. He said that the MMTF committee's recommendation is currently being presented to Planning Groups throughout San Diego for input.
- d. He said that the recommendations of all the Planning Groups regarding this issue will be presented soon to the San Diego City Council, who may soon consider an Ordinance to regulate this type of business.
- e. He said that the MMTF looked at how other cities in California have approached regulating the dispensaries.
 - i. Some cities have enacted land use Ordinances to regulate them, while others have banned them.
 - ii. He said that cities that have enacted the strictest regulations have had the best success in regulating the dispensaries:
 1. Few complaints have been received about their operation;
 2. Little illegal activity has occurred near them.

Scott Chipman, a member of the Pacific Beach Community Planning Group, then spoke in opposition to the proposed City of San Diego Ordinance:

1. He said there are 100-150 "medical Marijuana" dispensaries operating illegally in the City of San Diego.
2. He said that the proposed regulations are not strong enough to regulate the sale of this "medical Marijuana."
3. He said that the City of San Diego will not be able to enforce any proposed regulations.
4. He said that Federal law makes the possession or sale of marijuana illegal.

Motion to approve the following recommendations of the MMTF made by John Swanson, seconded by Vinnie Thoms:

- a. "Medical Marijuana" cooperatives can operate in commercial and industrial zones.
- b. They are not allowed to be located within 1,000 feet of any school.
- c. They are not allowed to be located within 500 feet of each other.
- d. They must obtain a permit from the City of San Diego.
 1. The City staff will analyze the application, and make sure that it complies with the regulations.
- e. Larger cooperatives must go through more rigorous processing and regulatory oversight.
- f. The cooperatives must submit evidence that they operate as non-profit companies.
- g. Security and camera systems must be in place to deter crime.
- h. Signs and hours of operation will be regulated.
- i. Process 4 & 5 is required.

Voting results: 12 approved, 4 opposed. Motion carries.

8. Chair's Report: No report.
9. Long Range City Planner's Report: No report.
10. Other Business/Announcements: None.
11. Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by John C. Swanson, Secretary

The next meeting is April 14, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., at the Otay Mesa/Nestor Branch Library.