



The voice of our community

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Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

4:00 pm ~ 1469 East Valley Road

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Present: Aptaker, Bollay, Colin, Cook, Denson, Kent, Kern, Nordlund, Petersen, Schleck, Short, Sinsler, van Duinwyk, von Wittenburg

Absent: Atwill, Feinberg, Weider

I. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

President Nordlund called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda

Phyllis Marble, MERRAG, provided a report on their Village 4th participation. Reported on the region's CERT meeting attended by Geri Ventura on disaster preparedness. MERRAG has met its membership goals this year. She invited community members to ongoing regular volunteer training on the second Thursday of every month at 10am at the San Ysidro firehouse.

Jeff Bridgeman, new pastor at El Montecito Presbyterian Church introduced himself to the board and audience. The church is committed to the community and sharing resources. They would like to assist in efforts to have a crosswalk installed between the hardware store and Community Hall if the Association supports it.

Carl Perry, trustee at El Montecito Presbyterian Church encouraged the Association to support a crosswalk at the library.

III. Approval of Minutes ~ July 12, 2011

MSC Sinsler/Kent, Unanimous, Colin abstained

IV. Community Reports

Terry McElwee, MFPD, advised new state law enacted on July 1st requires carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in homes. With regard to the closure of the Santa Maria air tanker base, area Fire Chiefs are continuing to work with the US Forest Service in Washington, D.C. to have the base returned to fulltime status. He also introduced the department's new wildland specialist Jeff Saley. Saley stated he is looking forward to working with and for the community.

Tricia Price, new Superintendent/Principal of Cold Spring School was introduced. The school is completing work on a new playground structure funded through a bond measure.

Tammy Murphy, Montecito Union School said that they have welcomed more families and have 452 students enrolled for the fall term. They have released an RFQ for an architect to work on the school's facility planning and hopes to convene a meeting in October. Land Use Committee member John Watson has offered participate in the process.

Gregg Hart, SBCAG, reported that construction of the third lane on Highway 101 at Salinas street will continue through December. The next phase of highway widening will begin next year at Mussel Shoals and work north. Hart was questioned about how the high occupancy vehicle lane would be used. Typically, these lanes are limited to use by carpools during peak hours and open to all traffic the rest of the time. As the lane and highway becomes more congested, the vehicle occupancy requirement and hours can be increased.

V. President's Docket

Nordlund informed there will be meeting with Supervisor Carbajal in the upcoming week, invited the directors to attend. On the subject of Smart Meters, Nordlund believes the Association is on the right path in supporting an opt out option.

VI. Conference Agenda

Receive a Presentation from the Transportation Subcommittee Regarding the Highway 101 High Occupancy Vehicle Project – Short and Bollay reviewed several options under review by Caltrans for the 101/Cabrillo/Hot Springs interchange. All of the alternatives being evaluated by Caltrans involve the closure of fast lane on and off ramps. Some of the options replace these ramps and some include elimination of the northbound off ramp. This would result in the Hermosillo exit providing access to the beach areas via the roundabout and Cabrillo Blvd. Because of potential problems resulting from additional traffic in this location and the high cost of the Caltrans alternatives, the subcommittee had suggested an alternative that would retain the fast lane ramps. Caltrans will not agree to include this alternative in the draft environmental impact report for the project because their State-wide policy is to eliminate such ramps. It is believed that design measures could be employed to address some of the concerns regarding increased traffic using Hermosillo, though such measures have yet to be evaluated.

Members of the public present expressed concerns regarding closure of the northbound off ramp and increased traffic on Hermosillo. They urged the Association not to take a position in favor of this change at this time. Hart of SBCAG, clarified that engineering, environmental, and traffic studies are underway. At this point we are having an informal dialogue. After the environmental impact report is released, there will be the opportunity for formal public comment and discussion of the alternatives.

Coast Village Business Association leadership and Hermosillo Road neighbors requested inclusion in discussions about alternatives and discouraged premature decisions on the part of the Association. Nordlund informed that the Association will continue to work on a proper solution for this project.

Bollay also described the work proposed at the Sheffield Road interchange and described a potential alternative he is studying that would include some use of existing County right-of-way.

No action was taken as the presentation was intended to inform the Board and audience.

Consider a Letter to SBCAG Requesting that Improvements to the San Ysidro/Highway 101 Interchange be Included in the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan – Short advised that in order for the deficiencies at San Ysidro/Highway 101 to be corrected, the need must be identified in the planning document for regional highway improvements. He recommended that the Association submit a letter with this request to SBCAG. MSC Schleck/von Wittenburg, unanimous, Sinsler abstained.

Consider a Letter to Caltrans Regarding Tree Trimming on Highway 192 Adjacent to Birnam Wood – Nordlund advised Caltrans wants to make sure the community is on board for tree trimming, this letter will begin negotiations for proper tree trimming maintenance. Nordlund addressed Aptaker's concern that the tree trimming will be done by homeowners, the goal is to have Caltrans provide the maintenance and be responsible for a major portion of the expense. MSC Kent/Petersen, unanimous.

The board voted on the appointment of the **2011 Board Nominating Committee** with Michael Cook as chair, Monica Brock Petersen, Richard Nordlund, Peter van Duinwyk and Judy Ishkanian. MSC vonWittenburg/Kern, unanimous.

The board voted to adopt a **Resolution Establishing Board of Directors Election Dates and Date of the Annual Meeting**, MSC Denson, Sinser, unanimous.

Committee Reports

Land Use – Kent reported on the project at 789 Rockbridge, the architect will be asked to present to the Land Use Committee. A permit application has been submitted to the City of Santa Barbara by Verizon to install an artificial tree with a cell tower at 900 Channel Drive, the Historic Landmarks Commission expressed major concerns and it is unclear whether the project will be pursued. The Chevron remodel and car wash project on Coast Village Road is moving forward at the City Architectural Review Board, Land Use is satisfied with recent design. The Fire District has hired architects to develop the plans for Fire Station 3 and a presentation is expected in the near future. Approximately 50-60 people attended the YMCA forum. Greene reported on behalf of Palladini that MBAR will now meet every 3 weeks, more site visits are in the works, better noticing and community participation at meetings and on site visits is being observed, and he encourages the Association, Land Use and the community to stay involved.

Beautification – Denson confirmed Beautification Day 2011 will be on November 5th, with Montecito Country Club catering the breakfast. Meeting preparations are being made, as well as participation from local vendors.

Community Services- Cook advised there are no new issues. A previous issue with excessive tree chipping at a residence is being resolved between the neighbors.

History – No report given.

Publicity and Communications – Schleck reported on a meeting with the Association web site designer, with several design concepts being reviewed. The committee worked to have the article on the Highway 101 HOV issue written in the Montecito Messenger.

Treasurer's Report – Sinser reported on current financials and membership.

Executive Director's Report- Greene advised on September 17th the Association will participate in Coastal Cleanup with a station at Butterfly Beach and will host a biologist-led creek walk along the Ennisbrook Trail on September 22nd.

New Business - Nordlund commended all of the committees and their members for their hard work.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.