

## **CRESTON ADVISORY BODY**

### Regular Meeting Agenda Minutes

Creston Church (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month except December unless called.

1) Call to Order – Flag Salute

Attendance: Sheila, Susan, Jan, Geraldine, Tom, Kurt, Roy, Steve.

Since Sheila has a cold, she asked Kurt (Vice Chair) to conduct the meeting.

2) Minutes of the previous meeting(s) (5 min) (January 15th, 2020) Moved to accept minutes by Steve and seconded by Susan. Passed unanimous.

3) Public and/or CAB Member Comments for Items NOT on the agenda (2-3 min each) Including Community events and other items of interest.

CAC representatives Thomas Edel and Murray Powell (Templeton CAC) summarized the contents of a meeting that they attended on JAN 27, 2020 with Supervisor Peschong and County Planning Director Trevor Keith. In said meeting, Edel and Powell offered suggested changes to increase the efficiency of the County's Commercial Cannabis Application Process from the viewpoint of the CACs. Specifically, the discussion centered on the desire for early initial notifications (being made to both the neighbors and the CACs) and the importance of the County providing the CACs only Applications that are deemed to be "materially complete". The CAC Representatives also expressed disappointment that the County's current Cannabis Application review process does not take into consideration (in their decision) instances where the location of a proposed new Application falls within a neighborhood where CC&RS expressly prohibit Commercial Cannabis Growing Operations (Note: The County Legal Staff is currently advising that this is a separate "civil" matter to be addressed by the homeowners Associations).

4) Public Safety - CHP – Lt. Coomer not present Sheriff's Department - Deputy John McKenney – not present

Cal Fire - Fire Captain Ryan

- Porterville fire the company lost 2 fire fighters.
- 50 calls, 38 medical calls, burning on 229

5) Fifth District Supervisor Report – Supervisor Debbie Arnold or LA Micki Olinger

- Updates: Feb. 25 County/State Budget and Cannabis update
- Phase 3 Cannabis changes
- April 1 Housing ordinance
- Board on Feb 11 established prohibiting plastic bags
- April 8 was vote to bring ordinance back
- Templeton has 13 projects on hold/cannot get more current info/10 no info/3 one or two pieces of info.
- Health concerns to be brought up to elected officials regarding the plastic bag ordinance
- Public update on the Coronavirus—none in SLO county. Updates on website
- Grants available to non profit March 2-Apr 10 to submit applications

6) Planning Department— Project Referrals/Other permits in our area and an update on what is happening in the department – Young Choi, County Planner assigned to CAB, was introduced and will follow up on P&B Dept. items for us, reporting back in the future.

- a. Project review: Minor Use Permit (DRC2018-00234) to authorize the continued outdoor cultivation of cannabis, totaling 43,500 sq. ft. of canopy, utilization of an existing building for processing and secure storage (Phase 1), and the future (Phase 2) construction of up to 22,000 sq. ft. of greenhouse for mixed-light indoor cannabis cultivation.

Direct link:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/cdb5f0ec-ea96-4784-9708-61738758b337/DRC2018-00153-CLARK-Referral-Package.aspx>

Jamie Jones and Jessica Miller gave overview of day to day application. Cannabis is a whole new world— applications going thru process of minor use to conditional use permit. Eric Clark was ill and not present.

- Clark 5145 Calf Canyon Highway, 88 acre rural land, well on property, medicinal act-cannabis urgency ordinance. Huer Huero Rd is closest.
- Three phased cultivation:
  - 1. Outdoor
  - 2. Upgrade metal building—commercial processing/drying F1 occupancy
  - 3. Indoor green house cultivation. Build up to 8/2800 sq feet green houses. Lighting inside, screens, electronic lighting inside to keep light inside. Curing/drying process
- Drive way access-residential agriculture use. Cal trans (Steve) to prepare road to meet requirements.
- Traffic trips-10 trips per day.
- Eric Gobler, Civil engineer to prepare road to meet requirements for the traffic.
- Employees vs size increase: 2 to 10
- Set back modification 204' vs 300'
- Topography in the valley
- Proximity to next resident 1000'
- Mailing address is UPS in Atascadero. Now a resident in Cambria
- Grading violation 2015-16
- Cannabis use permit 5 year renewal only. A neighbor called the CHP, the reset clause let the operation continue. When an odor problem arose, Eric Clark talked to the neighbors
- Jim Wortner had a handout: Environmental studies not done in pristine area, a CEQA violation, exemption being fought. This project is off highway 58. There are 3 others being propose in the area. Spraying oils are detrimental to grapes to future potential agricultures.
- A fire hazard area—ethanol extraction will be high risk.
- Neighbors' wells in danger of going dry. One already has and neighbor believes it was a result of the operations already being conducted on this property. It is a burden on neighbors to hire legal reps to prove cannabis influence dried up their well.
- Motion: Tom E. Made a motion that the Clark cannabis project is not compatible to the community as recognized by the information provided at the meeting and visit to property. Sheila seconded the motion. All eight voted to oppose the cannabis project, 5145 Highway 58, Creston, CA 93432.

- b. Project discussion: Minor Use Permit (DRC2020-00013) cultivation of cannabis. Do we want to comment on this application at all since it is adjacent to the CAB boundary? If so, can we adopt the assessment made by the TAAG Cannabis Committee?

[https://energov.sloplanning.org/EnerGov\\_Prod/SelfService#/plan/37c725ff-075d-4695-8322-e26277dbec25?tab=attachments](https://energov.sloplanning.org/EnerGov_Prod/SelfService#/plan/37c725ff-075d-4695-8322-e26277dbec25?tab=attachments)

We will take no action at this time since this is outside the CAB boundaries.

- c. Project discussion - **DRC2020-00013 C-FOUR SM PARTNERS, LLC** - Proposed MUP for a 3-acre outdoor cultivation, 2200 SQ FT indoor cultivation, ancillary nursery, and ancillary processing to be located at 1175 Calf Canyon Rd in Creston. APN#: **037-391-049**

[https://energov.sloplanning.org/EnerGov\\_Prod/SelfService#/plan/37c725ff-075d-4695-8322-e26277dbec25?tab=attachments](https://energov.sloplanning.org/EnerGov_Prod/SelfService#/plan/37c725ff-075d-4695-8322-e26277dbec25?tab=attachments)

Neighbor of this project was present and had concerns about several issues - crime (many kids in the area), light pollution from all sources on the property including driveway lighting (value the dark night skies in Creston), concern they are going from 2,000 to 22,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, Owners don't live on the property, smell (what kind of scrubbers will be used, are they noisy??). They are only 113 ft from the neighbor's property. This neighbor is concerned that expressing opposition for other cannabis projects across the state has led to retribution on the immediate neighbors so is hesitant to voice concerns.

As this project is within the CAB boundaries, once the project is flushed out, we may take a more complete look at it in the future but for now we voted to take no present action.

- d. Project discussion - **DRC 2019-00183 (formerly DRC 2018-00102) Caldwell Smyth** - Rocky Canyon Road cannabis permit request.

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/a7480536-4c55-4db0-98fc-dc407911b536/DRC2018-00102-DRAEGER-Referral-Package.aspx>

and

[https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/7f52e3de-bedf-4603-a7e1-8c73fed1f01b/DRC2018-00183-CALDWELL\\_SMYTH-Referral-Package.aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/7f52e3de-bedf-4603-a7e1-8c73fed1f01b/DRC2018-00183-CALDWELL_SMYTH-Referral-Package.aspx)

Discussion of the change in size of the project from the original permit request, the change in ownership, issues with not having a complete and accurate permit application. Young Choi commented that the P & B Dept is too understaffed to perform a complete check on the permit requests. For this property there were changes to the allowed property line setbacks to 100' or less, in one case from the 300' requirement, and also less than 100' on another part of the project. Steve Almond and Jim Wortner are putting together a plan to lead the neighbors and others against this cannabis permit. As with the other cannabis permit requests, the members of the public present at the CAB meeting were consistent in their opposition to it.

Since we were already at 9:30 Kurt called for a motion to continue the meeting past our scheduled adjournment time. Motion was made and approved unanimously.

#### 7) New Business (10 minutes) –

- a. Committee for projects in areas with no CAB representative? Two areas have no representation. Should we use members of public or alternates to take on projects?

No action taken at this time due to lateness of the hour.

- b. Geraldine-neighbor is seeing a cell tower and wants to know how a cell tower is allowed. The tower on the hill points at the neighbor—no notification to neighbors has been made. What is the process of getting approval?  
Sheila has asked Young Choi, CAB liaison will check into this for us.

Answer: a minor use permit is required. It needs to go through a review and a public hearing required. The project manager can come to present information about cell towers. Rocky Canyon Emergency tower?

8) Committee Reports/Next Steps (5-10 min each as needed) –

- a. By-Laws – Sheila L. & Jan M. – none
- b. b. Elections – Sheila L. & Susan S. Judy Blankenship (public) - return of any COS forms for incumbents up for re-election -
  - 1. CAB areas #2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 – Vacant, Geraldine, Susan, Vacant & Kurt respectively. Distribution of COS forms to any candidates who wish to run but are not incumbents.
  - 2. For Susan a replacement is available (Don Clark). Susan would be Don's alternate (Don must return his COS signed form first)
  - 3.
- c. Public Information – Roy B., Tom E. & Mike Aarons w/ Website update – Kurt A.

Name plates-Tom is authorized to purchase 10 in a package at \$20.

10) Treasurer's Report –

Church payment: \$700 Pd  
Balance.           \$1598.00

11) Adjournment by approximately 9:40 p.m.

Sheila made a motion to adjourn  
Kurt 2nd the motion.