

CRESTON ADVISORY BODY MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2024 – 7:01pm to 8:52pm

Creston Community Center – 5110 Swayze St, Creston

1. Call to Order – Flag Salute at 7:01 pm.

Members Present: Sheila Lyons, Jim Wortner, Roy Barba, Kurt Almond, Matt Lyngé, Michael Aarons

Members Absent: Don Clark, Thomas Edel

2. Recorder: Matt Lyngé

3. Motion to approve minutes of September meeting: Motion by Kurt Almond and seconded by Matt Lyngé, Unanimous approval August meeting minutes still need approval at next meeting.

4. Limited Public and/or CAB Member Comments:

Addressing Noise Issues

Audience expressed concerns about the increasing noise from the cannons in the vineyards in the area, particularly at night, which was causing distress to pets and residents. It was suggested that the issue could be better addressed through a more effective and coordinated approach, possibly involving the local growing association. Kurt Almond also mentioned that he had tried alternative methods to deter birds, such as scarecrows and noise devices, but acknowledged that these might not be suitable for all neighbors. He hoped for a more proactive approach from the county to address the issue, considering the growing number of vineyards and residents in the area.

5. Public Safety - Cal Fire, Sheriff, CHP, etc.

a. Sheriff's Department - Deputy Matthew Barksdale

b. CHP - Lieutenant Chandler Stewart - Templeton Station

c. Cal Fire - Fire Captain – Jesse Ryan or Chad Mitchell

Deputy Barksdale from the sheriff's office, discussed the main calls for service recorded in the last month.

CHP Lt. Chandler Stewart is retiring. He introduced Darren Gennuso, who will be replacing him as the commander of the Templeton station. Darren is from Morro Bay and is currently serving as the administrative assistant to the chiefs down at the division. He also presented a report for the Templeton CHP area for the 3rd quarter of 2023, highlighting the number of crashes investigated, enforcement actions, and citations issued. He noted a decrease in crashes in the area compared to the prior year and mentioned that there were no fatal collisions in the area. Creston area specifically, he reported on the jurisdiction's collision statistics, noting a 10-year period with three collisions, one of which involved DUI

and child endangerment. He also mentioned an ongoing issue with a homeless encampment near the 41 bridge, which is now on private property.

Cal Fire Report - Captain Jesse Ryan, stats are from 2 months. 23 veg fires, 5. Public assistance, 46 medical aids, 16 traffic collisions, 4 structure fires, 2 hazmats, and 4 ringing alarm.

6. Fifth District Supervisor Report–Supervisor Debbie Arnold or LA Kathleen Goble- Zoom

Supervisor Debbie Arnold, news from the Fire Safe Council reported on their efforts to tackle preventative projects, including work on Park Hill and Pozo Road. She also mentioned the council's allocation of about 12 million dollars for these projects.

Concerns Over Paso Robles Basin Cooperative Committee

Debbie expressed concerns about the Paso Robles Basin Cooperative Committee's actions, particularly the inclusion of the El Pomar Estrella Creston water district, which could lead to private investor companies controlling the groundwater. She also criticized the county's Board of Supervisors for not listening to the people's wishes and allowing the El Pomar Estrella Creston water district to join the committee in the first place. LAFCO specifically stated they would not be allowed to join if they were allowed to be formed as a water district in the first place. . Debbie voiced her opposition to the Multi Benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing Program, which she believes could lead to the end of farming in the Basin and threaten the Williamson Act program. She urged others to stay informed about the issue by watching the Board of Supervisors meetings. Debbie also shared her past experience with Heather Moreno and Susie Anderson, who had successfully fought against Creek setbacks in Atascadero. She emphasized the need for the community to work together to protect their property rights. The conversation concluded with Debbie's plans to provide Heather, the incoming supervisor, with necessary information to tackle these issues.

7. Planning Department Update & Project Referrals

- a. CAB Liaison-Dominic Dal Porto
- b. Cannabis projects update – Jim Wortner & P&B liaison if present.

Cell Tower Project Updates and Locations

Dominic from the planning department discussed updates on the cell tower project. Verizon is considering three potential locations for the tower, including one on the community center property. The planning commission has expressed interest in the community center location, but a deed restriction may need to be modified to allow for the tower. The planning commission has postponed the decision until December 12th to allow for a new submittal.

Members discussed the progress of two cannabis projects, one led by Eric Hughes and the other by Mason Denning. He mentioned that Eric's project was moving forward, with Daniel

submitting a lot of documents and Eric sending an email about it. Mason's project, however, was still awaiting a cost accounting agreement, and if not provided, the project might be withdrawn. Creston also mentioned a third project, which was still in the planning stages and had been ongoing for six years. He praised Eric and Mason for their cooperation and expressed hope for a positive outcome for all projects.

8. Unfinished Business

Verizon Towers, ADU Program, Light Pollution, and Zoom Adoption

CAB members discussed the potential decline of Verizon towers due to T-mobile's partnership with Starlink. He also mentioned a program for ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) that the county had expedited, offering pre-approved plans for various configurations. CAB members also noted that some residents were still experiencing issues with light pollution from nearby properties.

9. New Business – None at this time.

10. Report from the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Special – Murray Powell Water Management Issues and Marijuana Cultivation

Members discussed the ongoing issues with water management in the area, expressing skepticism about the effectiveness of the Miller (MILR) program and the lack of trust in government among water pumpers.

He also mentioned the upcoming hearing on October 30th and the county's failure to follow its own rules regarding project withdrawals. Members also brought up the topic of marijuana cultivation, advising the team to file complaints if they smell it, as it's a problem during harvest season.

Disappointment, Voting Procedures, and Grant Updates

Sheila expressed disappointment from the community over a recent PG&E meeting, particularly the lack of a presentation and the absence of a clear plan of action.

The discussion then shifted to voting procedures, with Creston noting local residents being assigned to a poll somewhere in Atascadero (12-18 miles away) when they live within sight of the Creston Community Center poll. People from Paso and Templeton coming to Creston to vote. Public is confused about the voting locations for different areas.

Lastly, there was a discussion about using a certain AI method to generate meeting minutes, which Roy found promising.

Roy discussed the annual grant received for \$1,300, which brought the total to \$2,860.90, We have an unpaid bill for Zoom. He also mentioned the possibility of acquiring a permanent camera for the conference room.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 20th.

Next Steps

1. Sheila to contact the heir of the original doctor who donated the community center property regarding potential deed restriction changes for the cell tower.
2. Dominic to pass on the heir's contact information to Verizon representatives.
3. Creston Advisory Council to prepare a thank you letter for the planning commissioner who pushed for reconsideration of the cell tower location.
4. Mike to research and potentially acquire a permanent camera with tilt-swivel capabilities for future meetings.
5. Roy to send a check to Mike for the annual Zoom subscription fee of \$159.90.
6. Mike to create a draft of updated business cards for the Creston Advisory Council for review.
7. All council members to seek potential alternates for the advisory council to ensure quorum at future meetings.
8. Creston Advisory Council members to attend the Halloween event at the Community Center.
9. Roy to research broker distributed power for a future meeting topic.
10. Creston Advisory Council to prepare certificates of appreciation for Supervisor Arnold

Motion to adjourn filed by Roy and seconded by Aaron, unanimously approved at 8:52PM