

CDP Advisory Group To Hold Monthly Public Meetings

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The same month that the County Planning Department announced it would no longer staff the action committees of all district's Community Development Plans (CDP), North Kohala held its first successful meeting of the new Advisory Group (AG), whose mission is to implement Kohala's CDP.

The eight members conducting the August 31 meeting were assured that the decision would not affect the workings of the Kohala AG because it was set up, with the blessings of the Planning Department, to be a possible pilot project for other districts to develop independent groups more representative of the population.

With five members of the public in attendance the group got right to the job of re-organizing the structure of the committee, its seven subgroups, and its relationship to the County.

First, the group decided to hold monthly public meetings at 5pm on the last Wednesday of each month at the Kohala Intergenerational Center in Kamehameha Park. Upcoming agendas will be published in Kohala Mountain News along with reports of meetings and calendar notices. The public is encouraged to attend meetings and comment on agenda items or bring up any issues they wish the AG to address.

Officers elected to serve until next elections in January are John Winter, chair; David Fuertes, vice chair, and Alan Brown, secretary.

Winter led the group through a draft mission statement and proposed structure for bylaws. The main goal is to implement the goals and strategies of the NKCDP. Several additions and amendments were made, and it was agreed to re-visit them at the next meeting, which is scheduled for September 28.

In bringing up the recent letter from Planning Director Zendo Kern ending the departments participation in the CDP action committees, Winter said he was part of a small committee that has been working with the Long-Term Planning division of Kern's department for a year to come up with the guidelines for an independent group with a more diverse representation of the community.

The department would be invited to attend future AG meetings, but would not conduct them as in the past, Winter said. Agendas and minutes would be shared with the department. The NKCDP is a county ordinance and attached to the General Plan.

The subgroups of the Advisory Group were described at the "work horses" of the CDP process. Winter called on members to join the subgroups and report on their accomplishments monthly. Three groups – Community Access, Affordable Housing and Parks, Water, Roads have continued to meet through the pandemic. Joe Carvalho agreed to continue with Access; Collin Kaholo and Jack Hoyt will report on Affordable Housing, and John Winter will cover Parks, Water, Roads. David Fuertes and Sadie Young will work with the Agriculture group and Steve

Hoffmann will re-organize the Power, Viewplanes and Erosion Control group. Growth Management group is in the process of re-organizing. The Health and Wellness Group and the Historic and Cultural Group have not met for several years.

All groups are looking for new participants. Anyone interested in serving in the Agriculture Group contact David Fuertes at dcfuertes808@gmail.com.

Carvalho, who is chair of the new Kohala Community Plan working group, gave an update on the progress of the long-term planning arm of the overdue revisions to the 2008 NKCDP. He said the group would continue to stay in close touch with the Advisory Group.