LIGHTING & LANDSCAPE COMMISSION (L&L)

of the Crockett Community Services District

P.O. Box 578 - Crockett, CA 94525
850 Pomona Street
Telephone (510) 787-2992
E-mail: Districtsecretary@town.crockett.ca.us
Website: www.town.crockett.ca.us

MINUTES FOR LIGHTING & LANDSCAPING COMMISSION MEETING JULY 21, 2026.

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL: Chair Pannell called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Present: Commissioners Garbis, Gomez, and Pannell. Absent: Commissioners Fisk (unexcused) and Mitzel (excused). General Manager (GM) Goodman and District Secretary (DS) Rivas were present. Recreation Commissioner Cusack and Fire Captain Colombo were present.
2. CALL FOR REQUESTS TO CONSIDER ITEMS OUT OF ORDER: Chair Pannell requested that items 9 and 10 be swapped. There was no opposition to the request.
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Commissioner Gomez noted that a new California flag is needed; the concert series banner needs to be bigger, and the swim team banner should be removed since it has been posted for longer than 30 days. DS Rivas suggested a digital community board as an alternate option to banners.
4. CONSENT CALENDAR: Consent Calendar was approved. (Garbis 1st, Gomez 2nd, 3/0, 2 absent)
   a. Approve minutes for regular meeting on June 16.
   b. Receive report on actions taken by the Board (June 24)
   c. Receive warrant transmittals (June).
   d. Receive Cash Account and LAIF Balances.
   e. Receive streetlight inventory list. A current inventory list was distributed at the meeting. Crockett Public Services will take over inventory tracking.
5. CONSIDER ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR: None.
6. ADMINISTRATIVE
   a. REVIEW THE BOUNDARIES AND OWNERSHIP OF THE HILLSIDE PUBLIC SPACE AREA BEHIND ALEXANDER PARK AND THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR BRUSH CLEARING: The hillside area is owned by the District and was previously cleared by the Crockett Carquinez Fire Department using Measure X funds, which is considered an initial, substantial mitigation effort. Measure X is generally intended for the initial removal of heavy fuels, with ongoing maintenance becoming the property owner's responsibility. The Commission discussed whether L&L (Measure L) funds could be used to clear the overgrown brush in anticipation of fire season. The original intent of L&L was described as beautification and maintenance of community pride, not fire mitigation. The hillside is considered both a beautification and public-safety concern and is used as a common space by the community. No final decision was made to spend L&L or Recreation funds on the hillside. The immediate direction was to clarify the legal authority for using L&L funds, determine what other funding is available, and obtain a realistic cost for limited vegetation removal. Staff will discuss the issue with the Recreation Commission, but their budget is precarious.

      The group learned that Crockett has recently achieved Firewise Community status. This may make the community eligible for certain grants and other fire-mitigation resources. The Fire Department can assist with identifying funding opportunities and providing support letters, but it does not perform or manage the actual property-improvement projects. The CIA will be asked

to put the Firewise Community issue on its agenda and explore Measure X and other grant opportunities.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCE: L&L spending has been conservative with minimal impact to the budget. The District's annual budget adoption public hearing and the public hearing regarding the Crockett Sanitary sewer use charge increase were scheduled for the following day (July 22). An update was provided on the status of a statewide initiative affecting special-tax revenues that could have affected L&L funding. The initiative was withdrawn, and a counterproposal is on the ballot that would not take L&L revenues.

8. MAINTENANCE PLAN AD HOC: Commissioners Garbis and Pannel continue to make progress on the Maintenance Plan. The plan is intended to establish a prioritized schedule of maintenance activities for the Commission to determine whether scheduled work was completed. The goal is to finalize the Maintenance Plan by approximately January to prioritize spring cleanup activities. The plan will remain flexible and can be modified as needed.

9. REPORT FROM STAFF: The landscape contractor, Let's Dig, has performed vegetation maintenance on the Wanda hillside and Pomona area. Crockett Public Services (CPS) has also provided volunteer maintenance at the bridgehead. Staff advised that a large Caltrans infrastructure project is anticipated along Highway 80 and the underpass area, potentially beginning in August or September. Staff recommended using the upcoming project as an opportunity to communicate with Caltrans regarding maintenance responsibilities.

   Staff also discussed contacting Supervisor Scales-Preston, who has been effective in working with outside agencies. The Commission discussed lighting and landscaping concerns around the bridge. Commissioner Gomez reported that she had contacted a Caltrans representative regarding bridge lighting and planned to provide photographs and follow up regarding landscaping and maintenance.

10. 10. REPORTS / COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioners expressed concern about the condition of the Highway/Bridgehead area, including vegetation and general appearance. Chair Pannell suggested working with Caltrans to determine whether the agency could take responsibility for maintenance of portions of the area. Commissioners discussed the need to balance vegetation removal with maintaining an attractive appearance rather than simply mowing vegetation down.

    Commissioner Gomez asked whether the proposed maintenance responsibility discussion between L&L and CPS would address which agency is responsible for particular maintenance needs. Commissioners discussed the limited capacity of Crockett Public Services because Darcy performs much of the work on a volunteer basis. The Commission also discussed placing a request on the Recreation Commission agenda concerning possible funding participation.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
    - Consider and discuss the use of Parcel Tax funds to clear growth on the hillside public space area behind Alexander Park and the Community Center.
    - Joint meeting with Recreation – still being coordinated; no date has been established.
    - Adopt-A-Highway update

12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM until August 18, 2026. The August meeting may be canceled pending assessment of discussion topics.

Respectfully submitted,
Sonia Rivas, MBA
District Secretary