Grossmont Hospital construction monitoring citizens group reelects chair

The volunteer citizens group overseeing the spending of millions of dollars in taxpayer-approved bonds for new and improved patient care facilities at Sharp Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa has reelected its chairman and vice chairman.

Kathleen Bute of El Cajon, a financial policy and planning officer with the County of San Diego, and La Mesa resident Glen Sparrow, a retired San Diego State University professor, will serve as chair and vice chair, respectively, for a one-year term ending June 30, 2016.

The 11-member citizens group, called the Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (ICBOC), has been meeting following the June 2006 election when East County voters approved Prop. G, a $247 million bond measure for financing improvement projects at the hospital. The Prop. G ballot measure passed by more than 77 percent, well over the two-thirds required.

ICBOC members are uncompensated East County residents who are charged with monitoring bond proceeds spent by the Grossmont Healthcare District (GHD), the public agency managing the bond-financed construction at the hospital. GHD serves as landlord of the hospital, including ownership of the property and buildings on behalf of local taxpayers.

Specific seats on the ICBOC are filled by individuals representing various constituency groups, according to ICBOC by-laws. Sparrow is serving as a representative of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA), while Bute is serving in the seat for a committee member with finance experience. Both Bute and Sparrow joined the ICBOC in 2011.

Bute has more than 28 years of financial service experience with government agencies. She joined the County of San Diego in 1987, and has served with several County departments, including Agriculture, Weights and Measures, Purchasing and Contracting, and Public Works prior to joining the Finance and General Government Group.

Sparrow, professor emeritus of SDSU's School of Public Affairs with more than 25 years of experience in regional and municipal administration, has served on two oversight oommittees for the City of La Mesa from 2008 to 2010, and the La Mesa Spring Valley School District since 2009 to the present. He is currently chair of the SDCTA's Healthcare Committee.