

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING IN YUCCA MESA NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

Opened with Flag Salute at 3.05 pm

Present: Maryan Barkley, Phyllis Burns, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Betty Munson, Tory Preston, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Carl Schmitt, Joyce Wheeler,

Absent: Adrienne Bishop, Ken Jones, Earlene McCloskey, Linda Willgues, Alan Rasmussen.

Guests: Dave Bare, Desert Valley Towing Service; Mara Cantelo, Tender Loving Christmas; Sherry Craft; Ed Cronin; Mary Coulombe; Nancy Guzman, Tender Loving Christmas; Barbara Harris, Morongo Basin Historical Society; Olivia de Hauleville; Joanne Keiter; Mike Romage, Code Enforcement; Mike Snow, Fire Dept.; Scott Wexton, Keep Our Desert Clean

Agenda approved unanimously

Minutes of October meeting, posted to the Website in draft form, approved unanimously with one addition.

Treasurer's report: October balance \$7,722.55; Marine Fund liability 764.55 Tabled for more complete report from Earlene next month

1. Guest Comments:

--**Ed Cronin** brought up agenda item on tomorrow's meeting or the Town Council of Yucca Valley concerning seismic testing in Section 11 (OWS Rd. at Aberdeen). Property was given to Town and several proposals have been made for usage that would affect traffic on Hwy 247 (extreme sports park, solar field, fairgrounds etc.) He plans to attend on behalf of the road association that borders Section 11: Rick and Carl also said they would try to be there.

HVCC to send letter to Town inquiring the purpose of the seismic testing.

Ed to report on Town's intentions.

He also noted the town guide did not list the Rhythms of Life earthwork sculpture. There is a hiking trail to the geoglyph, and an old 4WD trail with most impressive view of the Mesa.

--**David Bare** of Desert Valley Towing thanked us for our support of the towing away of unwanted vehicles; 5 were taken out of Morongo Valley today, vehicles abandoned in wash in Johnson Valley to be taken out this week.

Staging area not set up yet, but people can still call anytime, 866-24-towit.

--**Barbara Harris** of Morongo Basin Historical Society reported on their board's vote to partner with HVCC on the Hwy 247 Scenic/Historic road project. Already stories of the area are coming out, they will document. Starting now, but it is a long term project, they have people willing to work. Council continued with Agenda Item #5 at this point. Jim Harvey attended the MBHS meeting and was impressed with the amount of work included on the agenda, pleased with the Board's decision to work on the project. He also spoke with the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association president about the 247 project, and they will probably be on board with it.

With these organizations partnering, it might be time to take this to Neil Derry and ask for County support.

It might be time for a preliminary meeting with State Assembly people, Connie Conway and Paul Cook.

Meeting announcement on radio included 247 project and requested info and old pictures.

2. SB County Code Enforcement - Mike Romage - Johnson Valley Community Cleanup - Mike

thanked Scott Wexton for getting a Household Hazardous Waste site at JV last Saturday. The cleanup was a big success; 4 Burrtec dumpsters were there and were picked up Monday. No trash was left at the dumpsters after the noon shutdown time. John Schwab, supervisor of Household Hazardous Waste was surprised at the amount of stuff brought in, and said we could do it again next year in the fall. Betty wants to have a twice-a-year cleanup day, same weeks every year, same systems. Mike wants to get at least 6 dumpsters next time. The collection time was announced for 8-12 noon; 1-1/2 dumpsters were filled by 7:00.

At closing time, a truckload of probable commercial e-waste was sent away, would have filled one whole HHW truck, no room for it anyway. Stats to come from Burrtec and HHW. Probably at least 3 pallets 6-ft tall filled with e-waste. One truck got a short scratch on the truck bed during unloading; CE apologized and told the driver he could submit a claim to the County.

Jim Hanley commended Mike and his crew for the outstanding job they did, he heard many positive comments. Mike repeated that he could not believe Scott had talked HHW into being there. People who cannot drive to the dump or collection center in Joshua Tree had no excuse; no doubt we would have been picking some of this stuff up out of the desert.

Discussed lack of County funds for abatement of trash on private property. Abatement money is only available for fire hazards and imminent danger.

Scott said someone arrived at noon with a full truckload, by that time the dumpsters were full to the max. Next time Mike will bring free dump passes for that day if that situation occurs again. Also passes for someone who arrives with a trailer full of loose trash that would have to be unloaded by hand piece by piece. In the future we will ask for loose trash to be bagged up. County Code says you should take your household trash to the dump every week.

Jim Harvey said the HHW site was very hard to get. He asked Scott if anyone had commented to him about it. Scott did get some donations for Keep Our Desert Clean. Jim commented that Scott stuck his neck out; if the HHW equipment and collection site been set up and no one came it would have been a disappointment.

Mike was asked what a person should do if they have more stuff than their dump card will allow them to bring. Mike said it was a classic problem he has tried to address. Some people don't have the funds to pay for trash not considered "household." Problem should be addressed to Neil Derry. Not all who are turned away will dump trash in the desert but some will. County is citing people when complaints come in about trash on their property; when they want to show good faith and comply, they are told Solid Waste Management policy won't allow them to bring non-household waste to the dump without paying. A huge issue, a problem for years. Even with a dump card, non-household waste will be turned away.

HVCC will present this problem to the Board of Supervisors. The trash ends up in the desert because it is difficult to do the right thing.

Joyce Wheeler brought up that you can take green waste to the dump using your card.

Suggestion to invite someone from Burrtec to HVCC meeting to clear up some of these things. Mike said Mark Dvorak in charge of Solid Waste Management is the person in charge.

Mike was then asked about the firearms ordinance: rule is no shooting within 150 yds/450 ft from a structure.

Mike is still planning to attend the meeting about the OHV ordinance at the Joshua Tree Community Center at 6:00. Code Enforcement, Sheriffs Dept, CHP all invited. He will make a 5-minute presentation of his statistics since the removal of the staging permit requirement, plus answer 6 questions. Jim Harvey will represent HVCC; Betty Munson will represent JVIA.

Our position is still the same opposing the staging permit.

3. SB County Fire Dept - Mike Snow - Battalion Chief South Desert covering from Yucca Valley to the Colorado River, 7900 sq. mi.

CERT class in Feb. 12,19, 26. All-day classes. So far 12 applications, looking for 50. Class will be in the Yucca Room at the YV Community Center. Application in HVCC agenda packet at www.hvccsite.org. Half day CERT classes on Wednesdays 6:30-9:00 p.m. will be held; possibly in October, 7-8 weeks. Much material will be supplied to students beforehand for download; online written exam.

Hazardous materials emergency response team and equipment in Joshua Tree, includes specialized protection equipment, terrorism protection and decontamination trailer.

Jim Harvey told about last Saturday's cleanup day, and John Schwab delivering lecture on hazardous wastes to 24 Whitman College students on a tour of public lands and how we use them. Mike Snow said PR people could be available on such occasions.

Discussion of education of Burrtec customers concerning hazardous wastes going into household dumpsters, including such things as little household batteries. It becomes the effort of the individual as to how conscientious they are. Possibly look into some PSA announcement other than the printed handouts. Go to sbcfire.org to look up Household Hazardous Waste Division. Code Enforcement spot checks at dumps for violators, tries to do education. BLM land not policed, no manpower.

Technically HHW collection will be items from resident's own address.

Burrtec will take e-waste at Buena Vista location.

Mike Snow said these questions are all good; could stimulate policy change if taken to district representatives. Groups who care about the environment and go out to clean up the desert should not be penalized for doing a good deed.

Possibly Community Services Committee can meet with Alan on this issue.

4. Committee Reports

- **Fund raising / Events:** Christmas Dinner & Toy Drive Sat, Dec 18 at 6:00 pm Each person bring a new unwrapped toy valued at \$10 or more. Admission \$5. Toy = 2 drinks. Neil Derry to sing, Bill Wright to play piano. Not a fundraiser; purpose to collect toys for the kids. Yucca Mesa Improvement Assn has said they would donate \$100 toward the party. Landers not at the meeting, Jim will contact Linda.

-**Advisory Committee:** Nancy has locations for road signs from the four presidents. Need to have a meeting when we have more information from the County and CalTrans.

-**Public Outreach** - Needed info for Christmas Toy Drive flyer; meeting announcements in newspaper and radio. E-mail flyers. Sending out flyers on bulk mail, piggyback with community events.

Google maps on calendar for Landers and Flamingo Heights is not correct.

-**Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation** - Jim Hanley called Bernard Karmatz at CalTrans about highway signs. His district supervisor nixed the idea, said it might denote some sort of commercial entity. Ed Petre from the county asked for a proposal. Need to do our HV map, sign picture and brochure for presentation to clarify our non-commercial status. After the holidays.

2 + 2 Committee with YV Town Council. Need to request a council person for committee to replace Lori Herbel.

According to Makino Community Block Grant Request classes coming up soon.

5. Hwy 247 Scenic/Historic designation-covered under Guest Comments

6. HVCC sponsored CERT class - covered by Mike Snow, under item #3

7. President's Report- Flamingo Heights turned in another \$8 for Marine unit sponsorship.

Good high quality copies made for each of the thank-you letters from the Marines; a set made for each association to display.

Jim Harvey election to the Lucerne Valley Unified Shool District Board of Governors does not affect his commitment to the HVCC.

8. Action Items and Community Reports List - recap meeting, list items to take back to communities and to get feedback.

9. Adjourn 5:00 Next meeting in Johnson Valley Dec 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Betty Munson, Secretary 760-364-2646