

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING
IN FLAMINGO HEIGHTS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011**

Opened with Flag Salute at 3.00 pm

Observed a moment of silence for Phyllis Burns, a charter member of the Council, who passed away late last month. She was very active in the Flamingo Heights Community Association, and worked on the studies for the creation of the Homestead Valley section of the County Plan. Several Council members made comments of remembrance of Phyllis. A Celebration of Life is to be held on Saturday, January 29, at 11:00 am at her home. All are invited. RSVP Adrienne Moore, 760-364-2345.

Present: Maryan Barkley, Adrienne Bishop, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Ken Jones, Earlene McCloskey, Betty Munson, Tory Preston, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Joyce Wheeler, Linda Willgues, Alan Rasmussen

Absent: Carl Schmitt

Delegate list approved

Guests: Jennifer Salciccoli, Burrtec; Roy Villareal, Burrtec; Mike Ramage, Code Enforcement; Elva Rasmussen, Barbara Harris, Morongo Basin Historical Society; Phillip Brown, Morongo Basin Historical Society; Ed Cronin; John Codgen, Hospitality Plus; Tim Humphryville, Yucca Valley Planning Commission; Betty Stirratt, FHCA; David Cooper, YMIA

Agenda approved unanimously

Minutes of December meeting, posted to www.hvccsite.org in draft form, approved unanimously

Treasurer's report: October and November reports to be posted on website.

December beginning balance, \$7,397.29 Income 529.03, Expenses 380.26 Ending balance 7,838.42

Report on Christmas Party and Toy Drive from September 1, 2010, through today: Total expense 50.11

Over 140 toys collected.

1. Burrtec-Jennifer Salciccoli, District Environmental Coordinator, and Roy Villareal, Yucca Valley

Site Manager Q&A from the Council and several guests concerning issues which arose in previous meetings, chiefly illegal dumping in the desert, and policies which seem to encourage it.

-Property owners who are cited by Code Enforcement for trash abatement, but are refused by the landfill for being overweight limit, or not allowed to bring some things, or cannot pay fees, or cannot transport items. Jennifer pointed out that Burrtec customers can request free pickup of bulky items with 48 hrs notice, to be put out at the curb twice a year, limit 4 items per pickup. Burrtec also has other similar programs such as Christmas tree pickup. Discussed distribution of brochures and other educational info on these programs. Possibly not available in all Homestead Valley communities as contracts with the County for each area can differ. Roy said that residential customers are eligible for the free bulky item pickup, but those with dumpsters are considered commercial accounts, and would have to pay a fee. Also there are two free dump days a year, but for household trash.

-The high cost of green waste disposal (which is ground up and sold) was discussed, though some have been told at the dump that they can bring their green waste using their dump card.

-The high cost of disposal of construction debris was discussed. There is a recycle program for contractors, who are advised to put the disposal cost into the job quote. Tracked by certified scale ticket.

-All landfill rates and fees are set by the County; contracts renew at different times. Ultimately the County complies with State requirements.

To be addressed:

What programs are available in the Homestead communities, how do they differ?

Who to call about the problems with fees?

Why are there any fees? Could a little be added to property taxes to eliminate them, and solve the problem a people being turned away and dumping their trash in the desert?

Could more free pickup programs be created?

What to do with property owner construction debris?

Should all trash pickup be made mandatory?

What to do about huge accumulations of trash on a property?

If a property owner has a dump card, is the discount on a dumpster available in all areas?

Is it mandatory to have your ID with the dump card? (carrying trash for a disabled neighbor)

Should Code Enforcement require a scale ticket when they followup on cited properties, to prove trash did not go to the desert— Is it even possible to estimate?

How can volunteers who pick up trash, including bulky items, e-waste and hazardous materials, dispose of them easily?

Concerning the local landfill:

Is it possible for Burrtec to search approach roads with magnets to collect nails etc.

Trash blowing out of Burrtec trucks: report truck number to Roy at 760-365-4152 ext 221. the number is on the back six digits beginning with 101.

Code Enforcement can supply bags for road cleanup volunteers.

Tires without rims can be brought free to recycle center behind copper Mountain Mesa Community Center on the 1st and 2nd Saturday of each month between 8-12 am, or by appointment with Code Enforcement. Johnson Valley Community Center has a small “tire garden” to collect tires found in the desert, which are transported by members of the Friends of Giant Rock to the Copper Mountain center.

Joshua Tree has a Household Hazardous Waste collection on the 3rd Saturday; 15 gal or 125 lbs per visit.

Burrtec accepts e-waste free, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm at their location at Hwy 247 and Buena vista rd. in Yucca Valley. 5 items per load. Help available to offload if you need it.

Desert Valley Towing will pickup unwanted cars and other equipment plus scrap metal for free. 760-

2. SB County Code Enforcement - Mike Romage -

Discussed arrangements for Johnson Valley cleanup days, County cleanup days. Will supply link to shooting map from Fish and Game Dept.

3. SB County Fire Dept - Dave Benfield -

Dave unable to attend today.

Betty gave Mike Snow’s report on CERT classes. 30 signed up so far. He is planning another series of classes for Wednesday evenings from 6-9 pm, in July and August.

4. Committee Reports

- **Fund raising / Events:** Brief discussion of Poker Run, date to be set.

- **Advisory Committee:** No meeting

-**Community Outreach-**emailed latest fire regulations to be circulated; meeting announcements by email and newspaper columns.

-**Community Services /Improvements /Cooperation**

- Rick Sayers spoke with Bryan Anderson about the Community Block Grants, was told there was no money for unincorporated cities. Alan Rasmussen explained the CDBG money went to one project for the County; an equal amount will be transferred from the General Fund to the Board of Supervisors to prioritize applications. We should submit applications in the usual way, even if deadline has passed, but not to delay too long. Betty will email the Instruction and Application Form files to the Council members.

5. Hwy 247 Scenic/Historic Designation Project

Council approved forming a special committee for the project, with Barbara Harris as chair. Betty Munson and Jim Harvey volunteered to be on the committee, along with Phillip Brown and other Historical Society members that Barbara will recruit. Meeting next Wednesday at Johnson Valley Community Center, with a tour of the old road afterwards.

6. Draft Homestead Valley Community Map

John Codgen of Hospitality Plus has brought maps for us to distribute for proofing. The final product to be distributed free at stores, restaurants, Welcome Center. 10, 000 copies to be printed.

7. SB County Update-Alan Rasmussen - Wanted to get County official here for landfill discussion; why shouldn’t it be free to residents?

8. President’s Report- Everything covered in other discussions.

8. Action Items and Community Reports List -

HV maps email, to line up volunteers to check;ask for points of interest also.
Email CDBG forms.

9. Adjourn 5:10 - Next meeting in LANDERS Tuesday, FEBRUARY 22, at 3:00 p.m.

Betty Munson
Secretary
760-364-2646