

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING IN JOHNSON VALLEY, DECEMBER 21, 2009**

Opened with Flag Salute at 3:05 pm

Present were Maryan Barkley, Phyllis Burns, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Earlene McCloskey, Mike McGrath, Betty Munson, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Carl Schmitt, Joyce Wheeler.

Guests: Michelle Corbin, Larry Coulombe, Cindy Kazarian, Becky Lyvers, Martha Oswalt, Scott Wexton (Keep Our Desert Clean)

Delegate List changes: Tory Preston from Flamingo Heights added ; Adrienne Bishop, Judy Kemp, Linda Willgues from Landers Assn. added. All were present. List approved unanimously.

Agenda was approved unanimously.

Minutes of November meeting, posted to the Website in draft form, approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Earlene McCloskey.

Beginning balance 6,762.45; Income 100.00; Expenses 225.00; Balance 6,637.47

1. Guest Comments: none

2. Mike Romage, Code Enforcement Supervisor, invited to discuss Community Clean-up Organization.

Code Enforcement will coordinate trash or tire pickup days as the groups request. Notify Alan Rasmussen of date to ask Burrtec for trucks, and Mike to get Code Enforcement crew to help separate electronics, hazardous waste, etc. Groups should publicize.

Call him at 760-228-5426 to report illegal dumping, furniture, etc. abandoned on roadside. He will also supply free orange bags for highway cleanup.

Problems at the county dump were discussed, including charges, being turned away.

Mike is to coordinate with Scott Wexton of Keep Our Desert Clean.

Mike urged that people urge Board of Supervisors to allow anything to be taken to the dump for free even if only one day a month.

Suggestion to have Public Outreach Committee schedule Mike to come to talk the different communities, perhaps quarterly. Jim brought up the problem that board members come and go. Have Scott of KODC be the permanent middleman to coordinate cleanups, handle publicity.

3. Committee Reports

-Fund Raising/Events: The Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 19, drew 90-100 guests, who brought 120 gifts to donate for Tender Loving Christmas. Everyone who worked so hard deserves a lot of credit. "The Cousins" band from LA played for tips; HVCC will send a thank-you note. Earlene commented that social event for the children and for our four communities demonstrated that without that social spirit and people gathering together, there is no community. Martha read her comment to thank the HVCC for the celebration, giving of ourselves to the community and the children; that it was one of the most meaningful, most beautiful experiences of her life.

Next event, fundraiser to be discussed at January meeting.

-Advisory Committee: Minutes of committee meeting at the end of November are included in the agenda packet. Chair Nancy Sammons, the four presidents of the member organizations, and Alan Rasmussen discussed Standing Rules regarding delegate membership, to make improvements to run a little more smoothly and avoid the sort of controversy that occurred at the November meeting.

Approved by JVIA board, feedback from other organizations next month.

Committee recommends establishing borders for the four communities, for the convenience of HVCC organizations in appointing delegates. Proposed, another meeting of Advisory Committee to discuss borders. Maryan has Landers map.

-SOI Committee: new Chairperson, Carl Schmitt. LAFCO meeting in February. Need to get list of potential bus riders and phone numbers. Need quotes on bus charter rates.

-Hwy 247 Zoning: Forum held in Landers. Maryan reported that the owner of the large parcels withdrew all the area from commercial zoning except the land right next to the highway. Maryan attended commission meeting, commercialization according to county plan. Existing properties valuation and tax status won't change unless owners change use. Committee to stay open in case further action is needed.

-Public Outreach Committee: 70 flyers printed, but not folded. First page of newsletter with party pictures reviewed by delegates. Landers eligible to use HVCC bulk rate permit. Maryan and Linda to communicate about permit.

-Community Services/ Improvements/Communication: discussion of Sen. Dianne Feinstein's legislation for national monument status for large areas east of the Marine Base and along Route 66, announced today. This would preclude development by solar and wind energy projects. Second part, proposed Sand to Snow monument, would protect from Hwy. 62 to Big Bear area. Third part was to give national status as a recreation area to the Johnson Valley Open Riding Area. Johnson Valley not mentioned in announcement.

New Alternative 6 has been announced for the Marine Base expansion, would take all but about 22% of the OHV area, and part of the remainder would be closed at least twice a year for maneuvers. This in spite of scoping comments that opposed expansion to the west by a huge majority. Only 1% supported expansion to the west. Alternative 6 stops short of Edison power line, eliminating dealing with the PUC, which would trigger the need to study under California Environmental Quality Act. Betty Munson suggested that we write individual letters to the USMC, letting them know we are opposed to base expansion into the Johnson Valley recreation area. OHV groups and magazines are spreading the word about the expansion plans. Motion approved to create comment letter and a form letter to distribute to the four association members to send to the Marines. Will invite Joe Ross and Col. Weston again to make a presentation for communities east of Johnson Valley even before the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is made in September, to make sure everyone knows what lies in store for them and for the businesses in the area.

Jim Harvey suggested reaching out to the Joshua Tree MAC, and have a meeting with David Sick and Alan Rasmussen to explain HVCC and how it works.

Rick Sayers suggests a Special Districts forum, to discuss options: County Service Area, or Community Service Districts possibly in February.

4. Homestead Valley Road Signs: Mike McGrath has nothing new to report. planning meeting with Alan after Christmas.

5. SB County building permits and hauled water. Betty reported on meeting in Johnson Valley on 12/15/09, attended by reps from 1st and 3rd Districts, and Environmental Health Services, as well as HVCC, LVEDA, and a Johnson Valley water hauler, realtor and environmentalist. Minutes of the meeting are included in agenda packet. HVCC position, if the state licenses water hauling for your dwelling, no reason for the EHS to take discretionary action to deny permits. Mike McGrath commented it would cost \$80,000 for him to get a pipeline connection only 5 blocks out of Yucca Valley, on which he has been paying taxes for years, mostly for standby water. Policy is not legislated and is discriminatory against low income property owners. History and letters pertaining to the issue is on hvccsite.org

6. HVCC-sponsored workshops for Brown Act and CA Public Records Act: Alan Rasmussen is supporting event, Town of Yucca Valley gave a \$500 grant toward it. Planned for Wed, Jan 27. Jim will contact Terry Franke of

CalAware. We need reserve Yucca Room. Rick Sayers recommends Joshua Tree Community Center as it holds more people, but there may be a need for Power Point and JT not set up for it. Jim has talked to Gary Daigneault about radio. HVCC has invited Neil Derry to attend and to open meeting, as the subjects tie into his Ethics Commission and Sunshine Ordinance proposals. Large attendance expected.

7. Nettie Pena windmill documentary: Jim Harvey has a disk with trailer for documentary against the windmills. Behind the scenes factual presentation of living with the windmills. Suggested showing at large venues, though Nettie has said she would come as far as Johnson Valley. Over 10, 000 acres slated for wind development on the mesas at Flamingo Heights. Granite Mtn development at Lucerne Valley already in environmental study stage.

8. President's report: e-mail from Landers resident suggesting HVCC have regular sheriff and CHP reports at meetings, to talk about crime, statistics, problems they are seeing, on a regular basis. Fire Dept suggested also.

9. Item for the next agenda: should time for HVCC meetings be changed? Comments:

Meeting times both earlier and later have been requested by delegates and others .

3:00 seems to be the happy medium, though it excludes those who work but want to attend.

Driving home in the dark is an issue in the wintertime for some.

The timing of the organizational meetings are late enough to be accessible to people who work. Delegates are to report Council actions to their organizations and also to bring issues to the Council.

Minutes are written in such a manner as to try to give a good idea what was talked about, to delegates who miss the meeting or have to leave early.

HVCC speakers, people who can effect change, can be also be invited to community meetings, board meetings.

hvccsite.org suggested to be added to our Homestead Valley signs.

Next meeting at Flamingo Heights, Monday, Jan 18, at 3:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned 5:45

Betty Munson, Secretary

760-364-2646