

HOMESTEAD VALLEY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



“One voice for the people of Homestead Valley”

P.O. Box 3694, Landers, CA 92285 www.hvccsite.org

Agenda for the January 19, 2010 Homestead Valley Community Council Meeting
at the Flamingo Heights Community Center, 3:00 P.M.

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Delegate List

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

1. Guest Comments

2. Committee Reports:

Fund Raising / Events

Advisory

Sphere of Influence

Hwy 247 Zoning

Public Outreach

Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation

3. Hwy 247 Shoulder Project Ea 08-0F660 (Jim Harvey)

4. HVCC January 27th Open Government Workshops (Jim Harvey)

5. HVCC regular monthly meeting times and location (Landers delegates, Maryan Barkley)

6. Bulk mail (Maryan Barkley)

7. Nettie Pena windmill documentary "They're NOT Green" (Jim Harvey)

8. President's Report

9. Items for Next Agenda: next meeting date?

HVCC DELEGATES

Maryan BARKLEY ...FHCA364-2737 ...maryanmeetoo@thegrid.net
Adrienne BISHOPLanders364-2345 ...
Phyllis BURNSFHCA364-4391 ...pburns979@verizon.net
Jim HANLEYJVIA364-4829 ...jhaflame@aol.com
Jim HARVEYJVIA401-1015 ...johnsonvalley@gmail.com
Judy KEMPLanders364-3842 ...judykemp1846@juno.com
Earlene McCLOSKEY ..YMIA365-8422 ...emac-r@msn.com
Mike McGRATHYMIA369-9463 ...mcgrathm007@gmail.com
Betty MUNSONJVIA364-2646 ...ranchotaj@gmail.com
Tory PRESTONFHCA364-3373 ...ToryPreston2@aol.com
Barbara RENTONFHCA364-4210 ...nessi92000@yahoo.com
Nancy SAMMONSYMIA365-8507 ...nansam@inreach.com
Rick SAYERSYMIA574-6598 ...rick@ricksayers.com
Carl SCHMITTYMIA (alternate) .228-3184 ...carlandy@peoplepc.com
Joyce WHEELERJVIA364-3392 ...shipitshop@peoplepc.com
Linda WILLGUESLanders364-9203 ...linda.1024@live.com

Alan RASMUSSEN228-5400arasmussen@sbccounty.gov

1/19/10

**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

Homestead Valley Community Council Committees
01/19/10

Ad Hoc Committees

Hwy 247 Zoning: Chairperson Phyllis Burns and Maryan Barkley

Sphere of Influence: Carl Schmidt
Betty Munson
Rick Sayers

Nominating: assembled in April for May nominations and June election

Standing Committees

Fundraising / Events: Chairperson Earlene McCloskey
Phyllis Burns
Nancy Sammons

Advisory: Chairperson Nancy Sammons
Presidents of the 4 HVCC community organizations:
Wilma Ochoa, Landers
Tory Preston, FHCA
Charlie McHenry, YMIA
Betty Munson, JVIA
Alan Rasmussen, Third District Field Representative

Public Outreach: Chairperson Betty Munson
Maryan Barkley
Mike McGrath
Linda Willgues

Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation: Chairperson Rick Sayers
Jim Hanley
Betty Munson

Minutes of the HVCC Advisory Committee meeting at 6:00 P.M. in Landers on 11/23/09

Nancy Sammons, chairperson

Presidents of the 4 HVCC community organizations:

Wilma Ochoa, Landers;

Tory Preston, FHCA;

Charlie McHenry, YMIA;

Betty Munson, JVIA

President of HVCC: Jim Harvey

Third District Field Representative, Alan Rasmussen

This meeting was called to address unprecedented problems; the Council's lack of authority to refuse an undesirable Delegate, or to expel a Delegate whose actions were detrimental to the HVCC, other Delegates or a member organization.

In a discussion of Standing Rules concerning Delegate Membership:

Alan pointed out that the Item 2 under Membership seemed incomplete; there was no method for the Council to terminate a Delegate's membership. Only absences are addressed.

Suggested changes to Standing Rules (new material in red):

DELEGATE MEMBERSHIP

1. Each Organization shall select up to four of its paid-up, active, interested members in good standing to be their Delegates to the Council, **subject to the approval by a quorum of existing Delegates. HVCC President or Secretary to be informed as soon as possible of the selection of a new Delegate.**
2. **Residents of one member community cannot be made a Delegate from another member community.**
Community Boundaries agreed upon:
 - Johnson Valley: on the west, Mile Marker 28 on Hwy 247; on the east, Bodick Rd.; on the north and south. BLM land.
 - Landers:
 - Flamingo Heights:
 - Yucca Mesa:
3. **Delegate's status of good standing will be subject to Council review if the Delegate's behavior does not conform to the Code of Conduct or is deemed detrimental to the Council or a member organization.**

Maps and boundary names to be filled in ASAP. Alan will try to get a map showing what area the County considers to be Homestead Valley.

Bus quotes for February 17, 2010

Depart Yucca Valley, 7:00 A.M.

J.C. Tours – Chris or Barbara 909-884-6021

\$550 – seats 47 (5 hrs)
\$80 each additional hour

Celebrity – Joani 760-770-2700

\$650 – seats 54 (5hrs)
\$90 each additional hour

Lin Lines - Lin Ford 760-969-4230

\$675 – seats 56 (5hrs)
\$130 each additional hour

Meeting with California Department of Transportation, January 12, 2010 at 1:00 P.M.

Location: Alan Rasmussen's office

Present: **Mark Schelske** and **David Smith** – Caltrans Environmental Planning
Alan Rasmussen – SB County Third District Field Representative
Barbara Renton, Maryan Barkley, Phyllis Burns, Jim Harvey – HVCC
Bob Dockendorff – Hwy 247 safety advocate

Scope: Discussion on Draft Environmental Document for Caltrans District 8 Project OF660,
Shoulder Widening on State Route 247

The project involves installing 8 ft. wide asphalt paved shoulders on both sides of Hwy 247 from mile **1.8** to **9.6**. Mark explained this is "standard" Caltrans shoulder spec. The current sand shoulders will be leveled out with suitable materials to form a base for the asphalt.

Barbara expressed concern for Joshua Trees that may have to be removed. Jim suggested Caltrans contact an adoption organization. Bob recommended MBCA. Mark said that was no problem.

Project may require up to 20 ft wide grading to get level in certain areas. Mark explained that Caltrans will purchase any additional ROW (rights of way) from land owners, and distributed a chart listing affected parcels and estimated ROW amendments. ROW is defined from hwy centerline to new required outer edge. Residents can get current ROW at assessor's office. HVCC will scan and post chart on HVCC website.

Alan asked about expected completion date. Mark explained that is all dependent on available funds. Project is high priority because it is a safety improvement project. Alan and Bob asked about Caltrans working with SB County on 247 improvements. Dave explained this is happening now.

Bob explained turnout/entrance/exit issues on hwy 247 and produced a safety improvement proposal he worked on with the Town of Yucca Valley for SANBAG. There are 26 entrances/exits on hwy 247 in Flamingo Heights alone. Proposal recommends reducing this to 6 and adding new turn lanes, Caltrans requires road improvements at these intersections before they can implement modifications. These road improvements are responsibility of SB County. Bob reiterated the importance of Caltrans and SB County working together. Bob inquired about the status of these safety proposals. Dave explained the many steps these proposals go through before breaking ground. Step one is the proposal. Step two is P.I.D. (Project Initiation Document) – which still does not mean allocated funding. Bob's proposals have not received allocated funded as of yet.

Mark suggested Dave talk to Caltrans Transportation Engineering Tech Mr Johnson (spelling incorrect) and set up a meeting between Caltrans/Bob/HVCC/residents to discuss these additional improvements.

Maryan asked for investigation into adding left turn pocket and right turn lane at Hero's Market asap (safety issue). Market expansion has increased activity in and out of greatly enlarged parking lot.

Barbara asked why the shoulder proposal and other safety recommendations were not addressed when Hwy 247 was recently repaved. Mark explained that limited financial resources limit project scope.

Jim asked for a Public Hearing on the shoulder project, as originally requested per direction of HVCC delegates in October meeting. Alan agreed. Mark and Dave also agreed, and suggested Thursday, February 4th at 6:00 P.M. At FHCA. Pending availability. Bob suggested a press release when confirmed.

Jim Harvey

From: [Jim Harvey](#)

Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 3:46 PM

To: [Kurt Heidelberg](#)

Subject: Re: Proposed Informational Meeting 0F660 --- 08-SBd-247-PM 1.8/9.6 Shoulder Widening

Mr. Heidelberg

Thank you for contacting me. Yesterday's meeting with Mr. Schelske and Mr. Smith was very productive and informative. HVCC appreciates your help in arranging it.

On October 19th 2009, the council instructed me to contact you and request a Public Hearing per the Notice of Intent to adopt the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. HVCC's main concern is that area residents and business owners, especially affected property owners along Hwy 247, are given a chance to see the project details and ask questions. The black and white maps in the September 2009 Initial Study with proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration were so condensed to fit the booklet, it was almost impossible to decipher the details and scope of the project. The larger color maps and proposed ROW requirements charts that Mr. Schelske distributed in yesterday's meeting provide much better detail. I would like the affected property owners to have an opportunity to see them.

In order for me to abandon the request for a Public Hearing, I must seek council approval. Fortunately our next scheduled HVCC meeting is January 19th at 3:00 P.M. I have placed this issue on our agenda, and will recommend to the council that we sponsor an informal community meeting in lieu of the Public Hearing originally requested on November 4th. This should give us ample time to post and publicize the suggested February 4th 6:00 P.M. community meeting at the Flamingo Heights Community Center. I hope this timeline is acceptable to you. Please let me know.

Thank you for all your efforts to keep the public informed on this project.

Jim Harvey

Homestead Valley Community Council

760-401-1015

www.hvccsite.org

From: [Kurt Heidelberg](#)

Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 2:35 PM

To: johnsonvalley@gmail.com

Cc: [Mark Schelske](#) ; [Amr Abuelhassan](#)

Subject: Proposed Informational Meeting 0F660 --- 08-SBd-247-PM 1.8/9.6 Shoulder Widening

Mr. Harvey,

Thank you for your interest in proposed Caltrans project 08-0F660, on State Route 247 from post mile 1.8 to 9.6, to construct standard width 8-foot shoulders in both directions. I understand that you and several other members of the Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) met with two members of my staff, Mark Schelske and David Smith on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, to discuss some details of the project.

After the September 2009 circulation of the Draft Initial Study for the project, you requested a public hearing. It is my understanding that since your request you and Mr. Schelske discussed alternatives to a public hearing, and during Tuesday's Homestead Valley Community Council meeting you, other members of the Council, and he agreed that an informational meeting at your next Council meeting would provide a better forum to address your concerns. This is an important distinction since a "Public Meeting" is a formal event hosted by Caltrans that would require additional newspaper ads, mailers, and would require substantial lead-time. An informational meeting can

be hosted by your organization at a time and place to your convenience.

Please confirm that you and the Council find this solution satisfactory in lieu of a Public Hearing, and that you would like representatives from Caltrans to attend your informational meeting on February 4, 2010, at the Flamingo Heights Community Association facility in Yucca Valley. I would like to use the meeting as an opportunity for you to meet our Project Manager, Amr Abuelhassan, as well as project team members from our Environmental, Design, and Right Of Way divisions. I am confident that as a group we will all be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the project.

I look forward to your response. Thank you.

Kurt Heidelberg
Environmental Studies "D" Branch Chief
Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of Transportation, District 8
464 W. Fourth Street, 6th Floor, MS-820
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400
909-388-7028 (o)
951-317-1255 (c)