

HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING IN LANDERS OCTOBER 18, 2010

Opened with Flag Salute at 3.00 pm

Present 100%: Maryan Barkley, Adrienne Bishop, Phyllis Burns, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Ken Jones, Earlene McCloskey, Betty Munson, Tory Preston, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Carl Schmitt, Joyce Wheeler, Linda Willgues. Alan Rasmussen out of state.

Guests: Dave Bare, Desert Valley Towing Service; Dave Benfield, Fire Dept; David Cooper YMIA; Barbara Harris, Morongo Basin Historical Society; Olivia de Hauleville; Mike and Cathy Hawkins, Friends of Giant Rock; Mike Romage, Code Enforcement

Delegate List approved with update of Linda Wilgues e-mail address

Agenda approved unanimously

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

Treasurer's report: Earlene McCloskey.

August beginning balance \$7,023.18; Income \$85.03; Expenses \$473.69; Marine Fund liability 624.21 Balance \$7,258.73 At Gubler Orchid Festival \$130 in Rotary Bucks collected for the Marine Unit Sponsorship.

1. Guest Comments:

-Morongo Basin Historical Society president Barbara Harris reported they have enthusiastic researchers willing to work on the Hwy 247 historic road project. She plans to have a vote on Society participation at their next meeting. HVCC voted to apply for a group membership in the MBHS.

2. Towing away clunkers and junkers for free - David Bare reported on the cooperative effort between Code Enforcement and Desert Valley Towing Service towing unwanted vehicles of all types out of the desert. Whether they are on private or public land, whether or not there is a title, they will take them. Bare is looking for a central location for a temporary impound yard to stage vehicles until there are enough to send out the big trailer. HVCC will try to plan a special day for towing, but the service is available at all times by calling 866-24-towit

3. SB County Code Enforcement - Mike Romage - discussion of incidental trash blowing out of trucks near the dump. Mike said the loads are supposed to be tarped or turned away. Burrtec will only take care of the area they are required to do. Discussed difficulty of having inmates clean up trash.

Code Enforcement will try to do abatements when the illegal dumping is small enough to fit into their trucks. All illegal dumpsites should be reported to CE, they can mount surveillance cameras to try to halt dumping before it gets worse. Joshua Tree Clean Team cleans up Hwy 62 every week. Mike will set up Community Cleanups when asked well in advance.

Hard cases are when there is nobody to cite for a mess on private property, and no money to do an abatement.

County takes over a parcel when no taxes are paid for 5 years. Out of state corporations switch title back and forth and no taxes are paid for 5 years and one month when new owner takes over.

Keep Our Desert Clean is coming to JV Community Cleanup; has been in touch with Code Enforcement. Scott Wexton worked very hard to get a Household Hazardous Waste site at JV.

Update on results of removal of staging fee from OHV ordinance: it has not affected ordinance one bit. CE and Friends of Giant Rock are educating people. Meeting at 6:00 pm at Joshua Tree Community Center on November 22 about OHV ordinance.

HVCC supported removal of the staging permit. Jim Harvey stated we want to be able to say HVCC is receiving reports from Mike, monitoring the situation monthly. Comment was made that removal of the staging permit was a blessing. Mike said changes in the ordinance have made it work; riders are not be cited unless they are creating a public nuisance. Mike also said there are some people who make repeated complaints and they are not true. Countless man-hours have been spent by various agencies investigating false complaints.

4. SB County Fire Dept - Dave Benfield - regional hazardous materials response teams located in Victorville, Fontana, San Bernardino. Hazardous materials specialist and equipment also located in Joshua Tree, grant money coming to get a vehicle to transport equipment.
Incidents take a very long time to mitigate. First they investigate, then protect people from the hazard. Joshua Tree specialists get the ball rolling until reinforcements can arrive. Maybe a specialist will come to next HVCC meeting. Call 911 to report hazardous incident, on the roads, in people's homes.
Discussed disposal of insulin needles and old medication. Go to sbcfire.org for Household Hazardous Waste Division. Possibly post Rx disposal days on Community Calendar.
Rumor control: recently firemen took 2 hours to attend to victim of dog bite, waiting for Sheriff's Dept to clear, but they were delayed by other incidents. Policy is to assume the worst at any scene with a report of violence that would threaten Fire Dept personnel. They are unarmed and defenseless, and must wait for law enforcement to clear first.

5. Committee Reports

- **Fund raising / Events:** Christmas Dinner & Toy Drive Sat, Dec 18 Each person bring a new unwrapped toy valued at \$10 or more. Admission \$5? Toy = 2 drinks? Committee to decide. Neil Derry has agreed to sing again.
- **Advisory Committee:** Nancy asking for communities to specify locations for highway signs.
- **Public Outreach** - Betty sent out e-mail invitations to Wine and Cheese Party plus it appeared in newspaper columns; junk car story was on radio as lead-in to meeting announcement. HVCC protest against the Chevron Lucerne Valley solar project on Hwy 247 dismissed as incomplete. However, no notification received by us or Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association before the "fast-tracked" project was announced as a done deal. Report said no visual impact as visitors would be passing by on the highway too quickly. Protest did get circulated a lot, used in newspaper accounts. Betty mentioned the LA Times story about the tortoises being moved only a half a mile in Ivanpah, then fence out of their territory. Encouraging that at least 90% of the online comments are saying why don't we put the solar panels on rooftops. Map of proposed solar sites on www.protectourlands.com
- **Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation** - Jim Hanley spoke to county and CalTrans about highway signs. Questioned about location and funding.
Mike Snow sent info on CERT training, info in agenda packet. Disaster preparedness, help report downed power lines, etc. Individual associations to recruit possible attendees. Possibility of 6 half-day sessions?
Community Block Grant Request classes coming up soon.

6. Homestead Valley Community Map by Hospitality Plus - Jim Harvey requested a separate map for Homestead Valley communities with a free ad for each association. Need letters from member associations requesting inclusion in map which will go to advertisers. Advertising pays for free distribution. Will need to proofread their engineers' maps. Council approved project unanimously.

7. Basin Wide Foundation Workshop for Non-Profits - Betty described the program, distributed materials on grant writing, sources for grants, record keeping. A very thorough and worthwhile workshop. DVD will be available at BWF about 5.00.

8. Marine Sponsorship Fund - already discussed

9. No president's report

10. Adjourn 5:00 Next meeting in Yucca Mesa Nov 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Betty Munson, Secretary
760-364-2646