

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING IN FLAMINGO HEIGHTS SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

Opened with Flag Salute at 3.02 pm

Present: Maryan Barkley, Adrienne Bishop, Phyllis Burns, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Ken Jones, Earlene McCloskey, Betty Munson, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Carl Schmitt, Joyce Wheeler, Alan Rasmussen

Absent: Tory Preston, Linda Willgues,

Guests: Dave Benfield, Fire Dept; David Cooper YMIA; Larry Coulombe; Mary Coulombe; Olivia de Hauleville, Elva Rasmussen; Mike Ramage, Code Enforcement; Bob Warman, JVIA

Agenda approved unanimously

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

Treasurer's report: Earlene McCloskey.

August beginning balance \$7,620.61; Income \$14.38; Expenses \$15.62; Marine Fund liability 634.55
Balance \$7,023.18 [Earlene to make a correction, not received yet]

Betty asked if Maj. Valerie Hodgson's detachment which fields and repairs the robots which disarm homemade bombs in Afghanistan would be considered suitable for sponsorship before the holidays, particularly since it would be to somebody we know.

The next VMU unit leaves in seven months, start fundraising around the 4th of July.

Received thank you letters from Marine Unit VMU-1 in Afghanistan. To go to the various communities in rotation, and put on website.

Need binders for Earlene and for Ken Jones.

\$85 income from desert plant sale at the Yucca Mesa Country Faire, very generous donations from communities. Trees best sellers: mimosa, mesquite, palo verde, etc. Also Jim Hanley sold 3 Wine & Cheese tickets.

1. Guest Comments:

-Dave Benfield reported good news, a slow month for fires; one only, in Yucca Mesa.

He said to ask Mike Snow about CERT training. Betty had sent him an email asking about minimum size class. Mike has been off for a while so no response yet.

2. Committee Reports

-Fund Raising / Events: Earlene

25 tickets to each association for the annual HVCC Wine and Cheese Party, Oct 23. Donation of hors d'oeuvres and/or raffle prizes requested from members. Planning on 100 guests. Barefoot wines, wine glasses for raffle prizes. Joanna Wright to help with table decor, Jim Harvey to get musician.

HVCC volunteers needed at Gubler's Orchid Festival, Oct 2 & 3 to sell Wine & Cheese tickets, hand out flyers, collect for Marine Fund. Flyers with schedule distributed to members for Wine & Cheese Party. JVIA

Oktoberfest flyers distributed to members.

Boxes of frozen food can be ordered, to be delivered to St. Mary's for pickup. Big discount in cost. From www.thetreasurebox.com

-Advisory Committee: no meeting

-Public Outreach Committee:

Betty sent in HVCC resolution protesting the Chevron Lucerne Valley Solar Project; copied to BLM Barstow, various news media. Story appeared on websites, in Hi-Desert Star and Lucerne Valley Leader, with quotes of some parts of protest.

Betty read comment by one of the owners of Lucerne Valley Market and Hardware which appeared in their insert in the LV Leader. It was entitled "High Desert Neighbors" and showed the front page of the latest Johnson Valley Journal, the logo of the HVCC, and the logo of the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Assn (LVEDA). It praised the cooperation of these organizations in defending our rights and our desert way of life

from the encroachments of federal, state and county governments. His list of threats agrees with the HVCC list of projects.

Announcements of meetings were sent to news media, Code Enforcement, Fire Department.

All items about the sponsorship of the Marine unit are on www.hvccsite.org

-Community Services/ Improvements/Cooperation: Rick discussed Saturday movies at YMIA and the purchase of the projector. Need to be priced out.

Approved, unfunded grants discussed.

3. Homestead Valley Community Signs: Jim Harvey mock-up of CalTrans highway signs in agenda packet. 90"wx18"h. Double height 90"x36" also possible to have third piece.

(CalTrans to be at Joshua Tree MAC meeting to answer questions from public, on Thursday Oct 21.)

Cooperation through Advisory Committee to plan locations for these signs. Logo or art for signs discussed.

Need to find grants if possible.

Discussion of fatalities and wall built on downgrade into Yucca Valley. 10 killed last year by crossover accidents.

Guest comment, Mike Romage of Code Enforcement

As of Sept 10, a new County shooting ordinance. Map shows township and range. In this area only shotguns allowed for hunting and target, in unincorporated areas, 150 yards from any train, aircraft or domestic livestock; or within 150 yards of any building without having in possession written permission of the owner or tenant; or within 150 yards of any tent, motorhome or encampment of any persons without the permission of the occupants. Penalty, misdemeanor, up to one year sentence, \$500 fine. Mike will work on getting a copy of the map and more info for us.

4. Committee Wish List

The following is a suggestion list of goals for the HVCC standing committees during the 2010/2011 session.

Advisory

1) the 4 communities to determine appropriate locations for proposed community road signs

Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation

Community Services/Improvements/Cooperation

1) CERT program

2) Homestead Valley Community "Welcome" road signs

- develop sign message proposals

- determine size and style restrictions, and costs through communication with CalTrans and SB County

- pursue grant and other fund raising strategies

3) Point / Video projector for HVCC and member community center use

- pursue grant and other funding options; possibly at Sportsmans

4) Hwy 247 scenic and historic byway designation

- communicate with Morongo Basin Historical Society and other potential allies for collaboration, to sign on when we make our application. Olivia suggested contacting Barbara Harris if she becomes new president of MBHS. Also Lucerne Valley, and people like Claudia Sall.

- contact CalTrans, declare our intentions and establish a contact person/department, need contact person to give us some personal service. Caltrans office in San Bernardino.

- contact 34th and 65th District state assembly representatives for support; Paul Cook and Connie Conway up for re-election.

- bring this to the 2 + 2 committee with Yucca Valley, 2 town council members up for re-election

Fund Raising / Events

- continue to work with the JTNP 75th Anniversary committee, kickoff in January.

- develop a tentative 2011 HVCC events proposal, Poker Run etc.

Public Outreach

- develop HVCC Twitter and Facebook pages. Social media seem to be necessary. Get links to them onto the

HVCC site. Reach out to those who travel the Scenic Highway.

- establish separate email groups for email newsletters, meeting announcements, press releases, agendas, etc. Also develop a standardized database for each, save on disc.
- press invitations for every HVCC event, standardize invitation, comp the press? 2 or 3-week notice. RSVP from reporters?
- HVCC website Homestead Valley events calendar updating, including all association events.

At least one person from each community needs to be able to access and update the calendar.

Basin Wide Foundation puts out community calendar. Link to HVCC.

- Community member newsletter assistance. Increasing quality of newsletters; publishing workshop at Landers again.
- HVCC reports at every community member board and membership meeting

5. County update, Alan Rasmussen:

-new submission for grant requests coming up soon. Timing counts: stimulus money available.

Unfunded requests need to be resubmitted.

-Dept of Health Services; water hauling meeting Oct 4, no written policy until after this.

-Thoughts on sponsorship of Maj Val's unit, a "purple unit" all services. Number of Marines or servicemen from this are could maybe only be Val and a couple of others. We were very particular that all the money funded gifts to a unit deployed from 29 Palms. Rachel Sandlin has moved on, next 29 Palms unit leaving in 7 months.

Suggestion to send cigars in gift pack.

-Comment on Morongo Valley Fiesta Days, big event by a small community. BMX, skateboard, professional film company, Fred Lynn band, Casino Night. Betty heard there were crowds but the vendors did not do well.

-November 22 meeting about results of the OHV code change at Joshua Tree Community Center at 6:00. HVCC should have representative to express their views. Problems have been few, Code Enforcement is not seeing a pattern of increased abuse. Mike Romage will be there. JT MAC could not have a position on this, but held a public meeting.

6. President's Report:

- Copper Mountain Mesa, Bob DeLoyd, column in paper, SCE Bill July electric bill over \$400 about twice as much as it normally is. Same problem at JVIA and Maryan's.

- Basin Wide Foundation workshop for non-profit organizations, Oct. 9, 9am-3pm \$30. Venue to be announced. Breakfast and lunch. Approved reimbursement for 2 HVCC members to go.

- Google Calendar for non-profit scheduling, created by Sunset Rotary and High Desert Cultural Center. Training session Sep 29 at Blak Box at 1:00, how to tie in.

Alan reported County is having a procurement conference for those who hire and sell to the base in November. Details to come.

7. No items for next agenda-October 18 at 3:00 p.m at Landers Community Center:

Meeting adjourned 5:15 pm

Betty Munson, Secretary
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