

Indio Hills Community Council Minutes

6 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Indio Hills Community Center 80-400 Dillon Road, Indio Hills, CA 92241

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Indio Hills Community Council members Marcy Chapman, Ron Feiro and Edward Box were present.

3. Approval of the Minutes – November 15, 2022

The minutes of the November 15, 2022 meeting were approved (these minutes had been read during the January 24th meeting but had not been adopted).

4. New Business: Presenters must direct their report to the council. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair may allow questions. Each speaker must first be recognized by the Chair.

A. Presentation of Updated Road Report for Indio Hills CSA 105

Road Report Committee: Ron Feiro and Jill Mervine

David Alvarez, Riverside County Office of Economic Development, 951-955-3313, dalvarez@rivco.org

- i. Survey of Road Conditions and Recommendations for Next Series of Maintenance Projects
- ii. Overview of CSA 105 Fund Balance and Presentation of Any Available Cost Estimates and Construction Schedule Information
- iii. Discussion of Recommendations and Advisory Vote, if ready

Council member Feiro briefly explained the current road report including:

- An explanation of the county's decision of a signage solution on Western Avenue;
- The proposed chip seal of 30th Avenue due to an unsafe condition at the hill;
- Maintenance needs for two of the most populated roads, Sunnyslope and Desert Rock.

Darin Schemmer from Supervisor V. Manuel Perez's office, working with the Indio Hills Community Council, called a special meeting for April 18, 2023 to round out the recommendations, review cost estimates, and provide notice to the community on the proposed roadwork item. He informed the community that the current fund contains \$236,000 with expected revenue of \$60,000 this year (April 2023), for a total of approximately \$290,000. The next roads (grindings roads) prioritized for paving are Happy Valley South (past the curves), Happy Valley North, Desert Charm North and Hot Well North. A motion was made by Council member Feiro, seconded by Council member Chapman to direct Mr. Schemmer to request CSA staff to provide cost estimates from the Transportation Department to pave Happy Valley South and Happy Valley North. The motion was passed unanimously, 3-0.

5. Staff Reports: Presenters must direct their report to the council. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair may allow questions. Each speaker must first be recognized by the Chair.

A. Office of Supervisor V. Manuel Perez – Darin Schemmer, 760-863-8211, DSchemmer@rivco.org

Mr. Schemmer welcomed the community back to the Community Center and announced that all community councils have resumed meeting in person. Council member Chapman thanked Mr. Schemmer for all his help and work for our community. Mr. Schemmer and council members thanked Desert Recreation District for allowing us the use of the building for our meetings and other community events.

B. Sheriff's Department – Sergeant Porfirio Rubio, 760-863-8990, prubio@riversidesheriff.org

No report.

- C. California Highway Patrol – Officer Rafael Espinosa, 760-772-5300, Rafael.Espinosa@chp.ca.gov
Officer Espinosa reported:
- Only one incident since last meeting, one hit and run accident involving property damage.
 - CHP is continuing patrolling Dillon Road for speeding drivers.
 - There are only four CHP officers available for the entire Coachella Valley.
 - CHP continues to remove abandoned vehicles, however abandoned RVs are difficult to remove because they must be deconstructed prior to disposal.
 - A motorhome was dragged from a property on Happy Valley to Dillon Road and abandoned. CHP notified Code Enforcement and a case is anticipated to be opened.
 - Acrisure Arena in Palm Desert is open and CHP continues to improve traffic flow on Varner Road, Washington Street and Cook Street.
 - The annual Coachella and Stagecoach events are coming up and residents should be aware of the increased traffic.
 - CHP will setup a DUI checkpoint next month.
 - Car seats are available through CHP.
 - Construction has begun on Interstate 10 East of Indio and will continue for the next four years.
 - A CHP program called Smart Start to prepare young drivers to drive responsibly.
 - A CHP program called Age Well, Drive Well to assist senior drivers to continue to drive safely.
- D. CAL Fire – Captain Ray Richardson, 760-329-1700, Raymon.Richardson@fire.ca.gov
No report.
- E. Emergency Management Department – Michael Ornelas, 760-578-2088, Michael.ornelas@RIVCO.ORG
Maricarmen Aguirre introduced herself to the community as our new liaison with EMD. She announced CERT training on April 14-16.
- F. Code Enforcement – Brenda Velez, 760-393-3344, BVelez@Rivco.org
Officer Velez reported:
- Fargo Canyon rubbish is being cleaned up;
 - Two RVs were removed from the community;
 - There are 43 open cases in the unincorporated area of Desert Hot Springs:
 - Three for Accumulated Rubbish,
 - Three for Abatement,
 - Two Neighborhood Enforcement,
 - Six Construction without permit,
 - One Other,
 - 10 Zoning Violation,
 - One Substandard Structure,
 - 17 Vehicle Abatements.
 - A resident reported the dumping of about 200 tires on 30th Avenue between Dillon Road and Sunny Rock.
 - A resident reported that the “junk yard” on Dillon and Pushawalla has been moving items across Pushawalla to another property.
- G. Desert Recreation District – Ana Velasquez, 760-343-3595, avelasquez@drd.us.com
Ms. Velasquez announced dates for upcoming community events:
- March 22, 2023 Loteria Night, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 - March 24, 2023 Annual Chili Cook-off, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 - April 6, 2023 Easter Egg Hunt, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Council member Box thanked Desert Recreation District, especially Ana Velasquez and Linda Harmon for the work and assistance with community events. Ms. Velasquez reminded the community that the Community Center is available for community events.
- H. Department of Animal Services – Lt. Luis Rosa, 760-343-3644, lrosa@rivco.org
Lieutenant Rosa announced that Animal Services had received 17 calls for roaming dogs but only three were found. Their department is very short-staffed.

I. Other Departments and Public Agencies

Daisy Ramirez and Luis Garcia from Riverside County Department of Public Health explained that DPH connects people with programs for public health including a vaccination clinic, COVID tests and a car seat program.

6. Public comments:

All persons wishing to address the Council on items not specifically on the agenda or on matters of general interest should do so at this time. Please limit your remarks to 3 minutes.

Ed Houston offered suggestions to reduce tire dumping within our community including forming a program to solicit grant monies to pay individuals for tires and to then take tires to a proper disposal site. A brief discussion about tires ensued. Mr. Schemmer announced that the Riverside County Waste Resources Department recently collected over 1,000 tires in one week that had been dumped within the county. He will contact the department about the tires on 30th Avenue.

Council member Box reported on the Tour De Palm Springs cycling event that was held on February 10, 2023. He had set up an awning and helped provide water to riders and noted that the portable toilets were very welcomed by the riders. Some riders donate money for water in advance of next year's event.

7. Agenda Items for next meeting

No new agenda items were requested.

8. Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. to April 18th at 6 p.m.

2023 meeting schedule: Jan. 24, Mar. 21, May 16, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 (no Sept.)

(Additional meetings may be added if an urgent issue warrants input from the community council and/or community.)

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Please visit Supervisor Perez's Web site to access more information: www.RivCo4.org

If you would like to get agendas and other important meeting information for the Indio Hills Community Council, please send your email address to Darin Schemmer at DSchemmer@rivco.org.