

Mecca Community Council



Minutes of Meeting for January 12, 2011

Mecca Community Library

Celia Garcia, reporting

1. **Meeting called to order at 6pm**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by A. Ureste
3. **Roll Call**-All members present
4. **Approval of Minutes** – December 8, 2010

Ureste moves to approve the minutes, Gonzalez seconds the motion. All in favor 5-0, motion passes.

5. **STAFF REPORTS:**

A. **Sheriff Department**

Deputy Edwin Romero reviewed the Monthly Activity Report.

B. **Environmental Health**

Jim Ray, Community Health Agency Program Chief, to provide report on recent air quality issues.

Reported on the odors detected at Saul Martinez Elementary School.

- December 15th, 2010 was the first time that the department of Environmental Health was called to Saul Martinez Elementary School.
- There is an ongoing investigation on the origins of the odors.
- Multiple sources are being investigated.
- There is an office in Indio that we could contact for rapid response to any future incidents.

Leticia Delara has stated the county has not taken the lead in this investigation; they are helping coordinate all agency to make as much information known.

A special community meeting is being organized to address this issue with the community.

Ricardo Medina, CVUSD Superintendent, expressed the district's concern with the issue of questionable air quality. They are working with multiple agencies to help alleviate and deal with the situation.

C. **Fire Department**

Chief Mata reported on the Monthly Emergency Statistics and invited the community to the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new Fire Station. The ceremony will take place on 1/20/2011 at 10:30pm.

D. EDA – Mobile Home Park Development Standard and Design Criteria feedback and comments – Emilio Ramirez.

Maria Machuca asked if already existing parks would be made to adhere to these new guidelines. Emilio Ramirez stated that the new guidelines would only pertain to new parks and/or existing parks that seek funding from EDA. No parks will be grandfathered in AS IS.

Leticia DeLara clarified that these guidelines will only apply to parks seeking EDA funding. However, it would be a good idea for community council members to become familiar with the guidelines in case another park is proposed. Manuel Montes would like for more residents who live in trailer/mobile homes be present or have a chance to make suggestions for the new guidelines. The document can be found on the county website. A Spanish translation should be available soon. We would like to revisit this issue in March. This will allow enough time to provide the community a Spanish version of the guidelines.

Emilio also answered questions regarding the Second Unit Dwelling Ordinance. The ordinance has been adopted. A pilot property has been identified. A new design consultant is currently being procured. FRP should be issued later this month.

E. CV Mosquito and Vector Control District update – Maria C. Kylis

69 Positive cases of WNV was detected in mosquitoes. There were no human related cases making

us one of the only counties that had no human cases reported. CV Mosquito and Vector Control had 60 calls from residents of Mecca.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

-Rudy Gutierrez with YSO. Operations in Mecca will be started. Manuel Montes will be the town liaison. Outreach for children 4-18. There is also a new division for children with physical and cognitive delays. For more information residents can go to www.cysalittleleague.com or call 760-406-3227. This is preseason and they would like to get children ready with basic skills/fundamentals. They are working with DRD.

-Patty with DRD. Distributed invitation to the North Shore Yacht Club Teen Center. Other upcoming events are as follow: Soap Box Derby and Musica Latina on March 19th, 2011. Flag football and indoor basketball are being looked into. Operation Splash grant was submitted but we have not had a response as of yet.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Fee-land Mobile Home Loan Program – Emilio Ramirez, Program gives owners a new units when they are living in an unpermitted land and older units are destroyed. Funds have not been able to use on Indian Land. We now have a grant for 1.5 Mil to use in Indian land. We have not had success on these particular units. After a year the County still has 1.2 of the 1.5 Million in funds. The county is now addressing the community council to seek suggestions for how to use the funds.

The county has a little less than 2 years before the funds are to be spent. If within the next year there is no interest in the program, Emilio will seek a change in targeted applicants.

Emilio is hoping that the community council can get the word out and raise interest within the community. He will be providing an flyer in Spanish. For direct information, please call 760-863-2552 and ask for Lorena Rodriguez or Monica Telles. Emilio's direct line is 951-955-3422.

The following are some of the criteria one must meet to participate in this home loan program: Potential tenants must be of very low income. Must be in situation that is in need of replacement. Must be going to a permitted and good space. Must be accepted and credit qualified by new park owner. They cannot assist undocumented individuals but if their children are documented the project can be prorated.

B. Animal Services- Sgt. Luis Rosa. Discussion on picking up stray dogs. In the last 6 month Animal Services has lost 4 employees. They are trying to set up a sweep once per month. When available they will still come to the community to pick up strays. In case of an emergency, or if there is an aggressive animal, they will come out to the site. Manuel Montes asked what the procedure for acquiring a trap is. The resident will have to pick up the trap, at the Thousand Palms facility, and bait it themselves. There is not a cost for borrowing a trap for dogs, however there is a fee for cats. There is also a fee if the trap is stolen or damaged.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

DRD is proposing to have a joint meeting with the Mecca Community Council in an effort to address some of our community's concerns and needs.

9. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Ground Breaking Ceremony will take place on January 20th at 10:30am.

Maria Machuca will be attending a meeting with multiple agencies to address the unidentified odors. This meeting will take place at Saul Martinez Elementary School on January 20th at 1pm.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

J. Gonzalez makes a motion to have a special agenda for next months meeting. This agenda is to consist of areas of interest/concern of both DRD and Mecca. Maria and Leticia will create the agenda together.

A. Ureste seconds the motion. All members in favor, motion passes 5-0.

11. Location of next meeting/Adjournment

J. Gonzales makes a motion to have a joint meeting with DRD on February 23, 2011 that will take place at Saul Martinez Elementary School. A. Ureste seconds the motion. All members in favor, motion passes 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm