


Thousand Palms Community Council Minutes
 Thousand Palms Community Center
 31189 Robert Rd, Thousand Palms, CA 92276
November 18, 2010
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In Attendance:	X	Karen Esposito, Chairman
	X	Greg Pinney, Vice Chairman
	X	Patricia Saleh, Secretary
	X	Roy Nokes, Council Member
	X	Bob Alcumbrac, Council Member
	X	Michael Gialdini, Liaison to 4 th District Supervisor John Benoit
Call to Order:		Chairman Karen Esposito called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. After the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance she called for the approval of the minutes. Minutes were approved as written for October 28, 2010. She then called for Staff Reports.
		Mike Gialdini – Nothing to report
STAFF REPORTS	A.	Riverside County Sheriff's Department
		Reporting: Lt. Bill Sullivan
		Good month. Crime rate is down.
	C.	Code Enforcement
		Reporting: Couldn't attend
	D.	CalFire/Roy Wilson Fire Station in Thousand Palms
		Reporting: Captain Gretchen Gonzales
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	A.	Architectural Theme for Thousand Palms
		Not in attendance.
	B.	Discussion on Cathedral City Sphere of Influence Over All of Thousand Palms
		Andy Hall, Leisa Luke of Cathedral City
		Hall reported that his staff has been given direction to prepare paperwork to take in all of Thousand Palms (TP), leaving out the multi-species habitat areas. Bob Alcumbrac asked what is the hurry and Hall said it's to give people in Cathedral City (CC) the assurance that they are serious about taking all of Thousand Palms and not just the 4,100 acres. Nokes said he doesn't have any questions except if Cathedral City does take all of TP in its sphere of influence, how active would CC be in this area subsequent to LAFCO granting the sphere? Hall said that CC would be pretty serious in trying to complete the fiscal analysis to determine when to file for annexation. If CC determines that this area is going to be part of CC they will start to market this area right away. During the last economic boom we had a lot more residential than commercial growth and their tax situation has gotten out of balance. TP offers some of the balance they need. Nokes reminded him that there has been input from Ivey Ranch, Shenandoah/Tri Palms and the TP Chamber but not outside from those in the other residential areas. Hall said that the Sphere

		<p>phase is the chance to find out if the citizens of TP want to be annexed and CC can't annex if the people don't want it.</p> <p>Julia Cofelt (sp) of Tri Palms/Shenandoah Springs said that she is new to this and wanted to know the exact boundaries that would be included in the sphere. Hall said that LAFCO had suggested that instead of cutting TP down in size it might be good to discuss the feasibility of taking all of Thousand Palms and now they are trying to decide exactly what the boundaries should be. Mike Gialdini explained the history to her. Cofelt wanted it to be clarified that CC originally wanted the commercial/industrial area west of Rio del Sol and Gialdini said that this remains in the original sphere request. Thomas Hughes got up and said that we have only two choices: join CC or remain unincorporated. Gialdini commented that the County is fine with managing TP. He said that TP would have fire and sheriff and that TP would not be without services, that TP has the option of staying unincorporated. He clarified that the Sphere would not give CC any additional vote over TP until it's annexed.</p> <p>Esposito said that she had the opportunity to look at some history and at some comments made by residents of TP and it appears to her that not all of TP is pro CC. Twenty years ago or so, she said, TP was working very hard to get the Thousand Palms park and community center built and during that time the people of TP were better able to communicate with the Supervisor. Tri Palms, she said, was very much against the Community Service Area because they didn't want their taxes to go up. They were promised that local property taxes would be capped at \$25 and since then the reason for the tax has changed form and now it's gone up to more than \$25. By that personal experience, she said, and once believing in that cap, over the last 20 years she has learned that there are promises that can be made but then they can change form. "What does stay true is history," she said. Cathedral City does not have a strong base, she said, and she thinks it's hard to grow if you don't have a strong base.</p> <p>Paula Williams asked when our zip code would change and Gialdini answered that nothing would change until we're annexed. Gialdini suggested that we ask the Berger Foundation if they would allow CC to take the land they own east of Cook Street.</p> <p>Cofelt asked how long it has taken in the past for a sphere area to be annexed, and has a sphere ever not been annexed? Gialdini used the Palm Desert sphere over Sun City Palm Desert and the Rancho Mirage sphere over the area CC now wants to put in its sphere as examples of areas with spheres over them that were never annexed. Lukes stated that people in a sphere area can petition LAFCO to become part of another city or to become their own city; a sphere doesn't stop that. Nokes said that he thinks it would be premature to vote on the sphere tonight because there hasn't been enough input from the rest of TP to determine what they want and that he will abstain if the Council wants to take a vote. Saleh moved to support the CC sphere as long as it is over all of TP. Pinney seconded. Motion carried with three in favor, one opposing and one abstaining.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	A.	Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Thousand Palms
		Reporting: Karen Esposito
		She said, over and above the three marijuana dispensaries currently doing business in Thousand Palms, she was approached by additional marijuana dispensaries that want to move into TP. She asked for an update on the marijuana ordinance and Gialdini said that the ordinance will not be forthcoming by Dec. 31,

		<p>2011 as the Supervisors had originally thought. He said it won't be finished until the end of January or even February. Roy Nokes said that he doesn't think we can stop the sale of marijuana but he thinks we can control the number of marijuana businesses that we have in this community. He's not against certain businesses and whether or not they locate here but that there should not be more than one marijuana dispensary per 10,000 people. Lt. Sullivan said that in his line of work these dispensaries are regarded as very dangerous businesses. His office is now investigating the dispensaries currently in Thousand Palms to mitigate the public safety issues. "We can't afford any violence," Sullivan said. "We want the patients to be safe and the owners to be safe. I don't want little children influenced by this or anyone hurt in a parking lot, transportation of cash issues, etc." Brad Sedo spoke from the audience to say that he's on the Parish Council of St. Raphael Church on Ramon Road and he said that when they came back from summer break they found a marijuana dispensary located next to the church. He said that he was told that they had filed for a business license that did not state it was for marijuana. The church's concern is that people are not being up front about their businesses. Audience member Hughes stated that it's like prohibition; it will eventually be legal. He asked Sullivan to elaborate on the dangerous situation he'd reported. Sullivan said that they have a unit that works with marijuana and there have been robberies and murders at dispensaries in other parts of the Valley. He said that he and his officers are being very thorough in Thousand Palms because this is a commodity that is very sought-after and it used to be worth its weight in gold. He said that there are three on Ramon Road in TP right now. TP Councilman Greg Pinney said that he thinks that when it gets to the point where the Supervisors are ready to decide how to construct the marijuana dispensary ordinance that the Council would like to have the right to give input on how the ordinance is composed. He said that one day he went to work [at Rabobank on Ramon Road] and there was no marijuana business next door; the next day he found that there was. He didn't like being blind-sided. Hughes asked Gialdini that if he wanted to open a storefront what requirements would he have to meet to do it? Gialdini said that along Ramon you can just rent a store and open it, that there is an ordinance regulating adult businesses but nothing else. One year ago the County asked businesses in TP to get licenses but didn't make it mandatory. Nokes asked if the Council could have the demographics for TP. Gialdini said that he has some from 2006 but that the 2010 census is not available yet.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS		Crossing Guard for Della Lindley School
		Reporting: Patricia Saleh
		No action has been taken. PTG says the problem still exists. Gialdini said it's up to the parents to do something.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	A.	Desert Recreation District Report
		Reporting: Manny Rujo , temporary Thousand Palms Community Center Coordinator
		Zumba has 21 enrolled and the afterschool program has 22 enrolled; and youth soccer has 41 enrolled. In the next month DRD will be having a Holiday Pet Parade and Adoption Day on Dec. 18, from 10 AM to 2 PM in Thousand Palms Park . People can bring their pets and dress them up in costumes to win prizes. Pets are being brought from animal shelters and pet stores throughout the

		Coachella Valley to be adopted.
	B.	Thousand Palms Library
		Reporting: Not in attendance
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING		Report on CC Council Meeting
ADJOURN MEETING		Nokes moved to adjourn. Alcumbrac seconded. Adjourned at 7:10 PM.
NEXT MEETING		December 16, 2010, 6:00 PM
		Respectfully submitted,  Patricia Saleh, Thousand Palms Community Council Secretary, 760-343-2440