


Thousand Palms Community Council Minutes
 Thousand Palms Community Center
 31189 Robert Rd, Thousand Palms, CA 92276
January 26, 2012
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In Attendance:		Karen Esposito, Vice Chairman
	X	Christopher Mitchell, Chairman
	X	Patricia Saleh, Secretary
	X	Roy Nokes, Council Member
		Pam McKay, Council Member
	X	Mike Gialdini, Liaison to 4 th District Supervisor John Benoit
Call to Order:		<p>Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken and all Council members were present except for Pam McKay and Karen Esposito.</p> <p>Nokes moved to approve the minutes as written. Saleh seconded.</p> <p>Mitchell called for Staff Reports</p>
STAFF REPORTS	A.	Fourth District Update - Supervisor Liaison Mike Gialdini
		<p>Gialdini said that no solar companies have left that the County has contracts with, contrary to what some might think from The Desert Sun article.</p> <p>Gialdini said that Barbara Smith, Ivey Ranch HOA President, wrote asking him and the County Transportation Department about the K-rail and glare shield installation on Varner Road in front of Ivey Ranch. She wanted to know when it is scheduled to happen, and Giladini checked into it and found that it is not off the books and will happen soon.</p> <p>Gialdini said that Burrtec will hold a community Cleanup Day on March 3, 2012 at Della S. Lindley Elementary School on Robert Road in Thousand Palms. It will include a shredding event too if Gialdini can arrange it.</p> <p>Saleh asked if there is any news about the marijuana dispensaries. He reiterated that the County is now prosecuting the dispensaries through building owners.</p>
	B.	Riverside County Sheriff's Department
		Reporting: Lt. Coby Webb
		<p>Webb said that she is the new supervisor for the Thousand Palms Sheriff's department. She said that she worked in Thousand Palms from 1997 to 2005 and she went to Palm Springs High School, so she's very local. She has her doctor's degree and was formerly in charge of the canine unit. She was in a near fatal auto accident, so she is still recuperating and must walk with a cane. Her mother lives in Thousand Palms.</p> <p>Plain car deputies arrested two main burglary suspects so she expects that burglaries will in Thousand Palms will be lower now.</p> <p>Overcrowding in the jail is being researched by the Sheriff right now. Indio jail will be expanding and they're studying ankle bracelets and other forms of house monitoring to reduce overcrowding.</p>

		Her phone number is 760-836-1600 at the Palm Desert Station. Nokes said that she is “unbelievably tough” to have made it through the accident, paralysis, etc. and he is glad to have her working with us.
	C.	Code Enforcement
		Reporting: Officer Eddie Delgado
		<p>Degado said that nothing much has changed between this and last month, but they are down one case. There are 10 abatements, 68 outside land use cases, 10 vehicle abatement cases and 25 foreclosed homes. They’ve been getting good cooperation from the banks to keep them maintained. There have been two parking citations given and they’ve tried to resolve cases where commercial vehicles are being parked illegally by talking to the violators. He said he tries to talk before he issues a citation. Any semi truck or truck over 12,000 pounds, tow trucks, etc. cannot be parked in general residential areas. There were also 10 administrative citations issued due to non-compliance. Not only do people get citations but the County is looking to recoup money for the hours they’ve spent on getting violators to comply. Those cases go back to 2005 in some cases.</p> <p>Delgado researched which home occupations are currently allowed in residential areas. Allowed home businesses include beauty shops, landscaping, day care, kennels, etc. Nokes said that people should be allowed more flexibility to work in their homes, particularly in these hard economic times. Delgado said that they are really considering what to allow in light of the economy, but particularly if it’s a hazardous or noise nuisance they won’t allow it.</p> <p>Gialdini said that the County is not aggressively prosecuting the homes businesses but if someone complains then they might have to do so. In the Thermal, Oasis and Mecca areas there are more businesses that operate illegally, but not so many in Thousand Palms.</p> <p>Attendee John Stevens asked about the big close-down on a house on Desert Moon. Stevens thanked Code Enforcement for its help.</p> <p>Saleh alerted Delgado to the graffiti on the Shenandoah Springs homes on Varner Road. Delgado said it would be taken care of. He restated the Graffiti Hotline phone number: 866-732-1444. Gialdini asked that it go on the next agenda.</p>
	D.	CalFire/Roy Wilson Fire Station in Thousand Palms
		Reporting: Captain Gretchen Gonzales
		Not Present
	E.	Other County Departments:
		Not present
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	A.	Affordable Housing Update – Tom Hodgkin
		Hodgin reported on the Desert Recreation District Town Hall Workshop that was organized by the District on land being donated by Palm Communities to the District. The workshop gave the people a chance to say what they would like to see the 11 buildable acres used for. He said it was lots of fun and that people who attended got to brainstorm about what they’d like to see on the land. Additionally, he said that there will be an 11-foot wide sidewalk on the east side of the development.

		<p>Three people have reported that trucks are racing pretty fast up and down Robert Road, and if any citizen sees a truck speeding to please take down their license number and report it to Palm Communities. The crosswalks are in now. His cell phone number is 951-232-9358. One of the exciting things coming up, he said is that they're starting to lease the condos. His associate Lindsay is taking the leasing requests. Rents are going to range from \$377 to \$394 a month, depending on people's needs. Thousand Palms residents have preference. The trailer is open Monday to Friday, 8 to 5 PM. If there's a demand for Saturdays she'll be there on Saturdays too. They have 14 one bedrooms, 36 two bedrooms and all the others are three bedrooms for a total of 80 units. Those who are interested can contact her at 855-343-4200 and a permanent number will be given next month. The trailer is located on El Centro, right off Robert Road.</p>
	B.	<p>Desert Recreation District Town Hall Meeting – Patricia Saleh</p>
		<p>Christopher Mitchell thanked DRD for the meeting as it was well attended. Saleh thanked Palm Communities for going beyond what they had to give to benefit the community. Saleh explained that the meeting was for people to give input on what they would like to see in the community park and 44 people attended.</p>
		<p>Cathedral City Annexation Update – Greg Pettis and Bud England</p>
		<p>Pettis said that Cathedral City Council voted to get cost estimates on doing a feasibility study to annex all of Thousand Palms. He reported that Palm Desert did a feasibility study to see if it could annex Sun City Palm Desert and the Classic Club. Pettis said that the CC Council has agreed to expand its city commissions to young adults under 18 and it will be open to Thousand Palms youth as well. For the adults, non-Cathedral City residents can be on the architectural review board and the arts commission. Those applications will be offered in May.</p> <p>Nokes commented that the Berger Foundation should stay in Thousand Palms. Pettis said that Berger land is currently in the CC sphere and the Cathedral City study will include all of Thousand Palms. Don Donnelly asked if the feasibility study will be done by March. There are many estimates, Pettis said, so they have to contract with a company according to the price, etc. Attendee Don Donnelly asked when the report will be done. Lukes said that it's difficult to count on a time line until they get the bids from a company doing the study. Pettis said that he is hopeful to get as many kids as possible to get involved in the Cal State learning programs. Donnelly said that there is quite a concern in Tri-Palms/Shenandoah about the use of golf carts on the streets within the complex if Cathedral City annexes. He said that he talked to someone in the Cathedral City transportation department and was told that Tri-Palms golf carts will not be treated in the same way as they would be on other public streets. Lukes said that there is no regulation that can apply to all areas of a community. That's why there's zoning and parking regulations, etc. she said. As CC and TP begin to work together they will look at each area and work together to decide what works for Thousand Palms. Stevens said that he spoke to CHP Office Craig Rentle and was told that golf cart drivers must have a driver's license to drive on any public road.</p> <p>Lukes said that CC doesn't currently allow golf carts on public streets, but they are allowed in country clubs. Bobby Lee asked about walking on the streets in Thousand Palms. She is wondering about sidewalks along Ramon Road, etc. She said that it's spooky to walk at night when the lighting is so bad. Lukes said that Ramon Road is slated for improvements that should start in May. Lee said that she's glad that they're getting improved in CC but Gialdini will have to see that Ramon is fixed in Thousand Palms. Gialdini said that as far as Thousand Palms' part of Ramon Road there will be no sidewalks unless the property owners get a project going and then they will be required to put in the sidewalks. He said that if</p>

		the lights are currently out, please report them to him and he'll see that they get fixed.
NEW BUSINESS	A.	None
PUBLIC COMMENTS		John Stevens thanked Joey Acuna and the staff at the Thousand Palms Community Center for putting all the chairs out and the flags in the right places.
COUNCIL REPORTS		Council Member Activities on behalf of Thousand Palms – Patricia Saleh
	A.	<p>a) Imperial Irrigation Energy Consumers Advisory Committee – Patricia Saleh Saleh reported that IID is forming an Energy Consumers Advisory Committee Public Benefits subcommittee to study to the application of Public Benefits programs IID currently offers.</p> <p>b) TALA Enterprise Grand opening – Patricia Saleh TALA Enterprises Grand Opening was well attended with many high ranking city and County officials on hand to celebrate the job-producing clothing business.</p> <p>c) Update on Riverside County Department on Aging – Patricia Saleh The RCDA is now located in La Quinta and they have many programs that can help the aging.</p> <p>d) Pop Mixer for SafeHouse of the Desert with TP Chamber and DHS Chamber A mixer will be held on February 8 at the Safe House of the Desert POP Boutique in Desert Hot Springs on Pierson Boulevard just east of Palm.</p> <p>e) Environmental Sustainability Conference at Cal State San Bernardino – Patricia Saleh Cal State San Bernardino held an environmental sustainability conference at the Palm Desert campus involving representatives from all over the Coachella Valley. It was organized by Greg Pettis and associates and included a representative from the Federal EPA who said that many people doubt the credibility of human activities causing the increase in greenhouse gases that is causing the polar icecaps to melt, etc., but that if human beings could curb the methane gases produced by the disintegration of paper waste alone they would remove 40% of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Eddie Delgado commented that one of his pet interests is environmental issues. He said that there is a rise in illegal dumping in the north area of Thousand Palms and in Tri-Palms. He would like residents to report any illegal dumping they see. Lots of times it's landscapers dumping green waste, etc. Much of it is generated by businesses so he is especially interested in getting people to report it when they see it. 760-393-3344.</p> <p>John Stevens said that pertaining to the cleanup, he would like to see Thousand Palms have a garage sale throughout TP the week before the cleanup day so people can put what's left over in the trash.</p>
COMMITTEE REPORTS	A.	Thousand Palms Community Center Report
		Reporting: Joey Acuna , Desert Recreation Supervisor over Thousand Palms

		<p>Acuna thanked John Stevens and Pauline Pearson for the donation of the wireless mikes for use at the Community Center. The Center also has new mics for all of the Council members and a new one for the audience to speak through. Afterschool programs are going great, he said. They are looking to expand the Zumba program and the karate classes are going well as well. Palm Desert Community Center does the signups for these. Mitchell asked when the next movies in the park will be organized. Acuna said that during Easter Break they will be holding a four-day program and the movies in the park will be held there too. He is looking for a sponsor for the event - \$250 to \$500 to get the license for the movie. DRD provides the staff. There will be one in around late September. Frank DeWitt is in charge of facility maintenance and during the high winds last week there were some damages but not many.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS		No others
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING		Communication tower for cell phones.
ADJOURN MEETING		Nokes moved to adjourn. Saleh seconded. Adjourned at 7:14 PM.
NEXT MEETING		February 23, 2012, 6:00 PM
		<p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p> Patricia Saleh, Thousand Palms Community Council Secretary, 760-343-2440</p>