


**Thousand Palms Community Council Minutes**  
 Thousand Palms Community Center  
 31189 Robert Rd, Thousand Palms, CA 92276  
**February 24, 2011**  
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| <b>In Attendance:</b> |    | Karen Esposito, Chairman   |
|                       |    | Greg Pinney, Vice Chairman (Resigned as of this meeting)   |
|                       | X  | Patricia Saleh, Secretary  |
|                       | X  | Roy Nokes, Council Member  |
|                       | X  | Bob Alcumbrac, Council Member  |
|                       | X  | Michael Gialdini, Liaison to 4 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor John Benoit   |
| <b>Call to Order:</b> |    | Secretary Patricia Saleh called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She conducted the roll call and after the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of 1/20/2011 were approved as written.<br><br>Saleh called for Staff Reports.   |
| <b>STAFF REPORTS</b>  | A. | <b>Fourth District Supervisor Liaison Mike Gialdini</b>  |
|                       |    | <b>Street Light Repairs</b>  |
|                       |    | Lights on Ramon were out and are now back on. Transportation is working with IID to decide who is responsible for keeping the lights maintained. There are still a few more lights out and thanks to John Stephens and Councilman Roy Nokes who submitted a list of lights that are out to the Supervisor's office, they're being repaired.  |
|                       |    | <b>Thousand Palms Cleanup scheduled for March 12, 2011</b>   |
|                       |    | Gialdini didn't know if it will be a curbside pickup or not. Tri-Palms will have curbside pickup but people must make an appointment.  |
|                       |    | <b>Thousand Palms Community Council Term Limits</b>  |
|                       |    | Document showing five people on the Community Council shows their term limits. Three are expiring this year so people in the audience were asked if they would like to serve on the Council. Interviews will be given to applicants, and appointees will be announced in June. Gialdini explained that Council members give opinion to the Supervisor and serve two to four year terms.  |
|                       | B. | <b>Riverside County Sheriff's Department</b>   |
|                       |    | Reporting: Lt. Bill Sullivan   |
|                       |    | There were three petty thefts and one burglary and that's all for Thousand Palms this last month. The Special Enforcement Team has done 45 traffic stops, put four felons in jail, made one misdemeanor arrest, served a search warrant and recovered a stolen sawed-off shotgun. They are also helping the Gang Task Force to stop a gang that is starting in TP right now. He said the Sheriffs are going to stop it before it gets started. They recovered \$5,000 of stolen property.  |
|                       |    | <b>COPS Membership for Crossing Guards</b><br>Sullivan said he hasn't been able to touch bases as yet with Palm Springs Unified School District Security Department Director Roy Hill about the crossing guard situation, however he said that Tri-Palms United Owners Association has 100 COPS members and he hopes some of them will volunteer. Roy Nokes says that TP COPS is running out of volunteers. He is working with Tri-Palms to get some of their volunteers to work outside of Tri-Palms/Shenandoah and within the Thousand |

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|                            |           | <p>Palms community.</p> <p>Resident John Stephens asked Sullivan if he's having trouble getting Canadians to be part of COPS. Sullivan said that there is some hesitation on the part of Canadians to be fingerprinted and allow their criminal history to be researched. He doesn't think that criminal history should hurt their border crossing rights, however. Stephens said that the requirements to join and the application are too invasive. Sullivan said that from his perspective they're necessary. Saleh asked if there is a question on the background questionnaire that says, "Have you ever thought of committing a crime?" Sullivan said there is not.</p>  |
|                            | <b>C.</b> | <b>Code Enforcement</b>  |
|                            |           | Reporting: Riverside County Code Enforcement Senior Officer Eddie Delgado  |
|                            |           | <p>Delgado said that Code Enforcement has closed some of their cases. However, 20 cases are still open that have been in the system over a year. These go through the Planning Dept., etc. and they take a while. There are nine rubbish cases open that they know of, he said, and there are a lot of travel trailers off of Ramon. The majority of the 59 cases they're attending to concern outside storage. They're working on 15 abandoned and inoperable vehicles, defined as vehicles with two flat tires and the muffler is hanging off. If they're not registered that's something else that they look for, or if they can't be driven and are on a vacant lot. Parking in handicapped zones and no-parking zones have been resolved between January and now. Fifteen administration citations were issued today. "We do have medical marijuana dispensaries – five active and being ticketed in Riverside County now. We give them notices to cease and desist and if they don't comply the cases have to go to court for injunctions." Sullivan said he's letting Code Enforcement handle it for now and he's keeping up the contact too to . Gialdini said that nothing will probably be done in terms of issuing injunctions because the Supervisors are not sure how long this issue will be held up in court.</p> |
|                            | <b>D.</b> | <b>CalFire/Roy Wilson Fire Station in Thousand Palms</b>   |
|                            |           | Reporting: Fire Captain Gretchen Gonzales  |
|                            |           | <p>Last month there were 119 calls, 70% medical; two structure fires; agency assist to Cathedral City on medical calls; city of Palm Springs assist on medical calls. With the summer months coming up there will be an increase in fire problems. She said that the firemen have noticed an increase in tagging on Ramon Road mechanical and cable boxes, and Sullivan said that this is the Thousand Palms gang that is "not going to survive."</p>  |
|                            | <b>E.</b> | <b>Other County Departments</b>  |
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| <b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b> | <b>A.</b> | <b>Palm Desert Development Affordable Housing Update – Thomas Hodgin</b>   |
|                            |           | <p>Hodgin said that the project that he's brought to the Council is going to start being constructed about the second week of March. It will take approximately a year to build. El Centro will be turned into a cul de sac that will terminate at the Library, and Del Norte will continue across the property to create a second point of access to the site. April 15 there will be a groundbreaking. Someone else will be representing the company here next month. He thanked the Comm. Council and the Community as a whole in that "through a lot of knowledge and information sharing this project gained support and Supervisor Roy Wilson picked up on this project from the inception. We do what we say we're going to do and we mean what we say. It will be a project everyone will be proud of," he said. Saleh asked</p>   |

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|                          |    | <p>how many acres will be donated to Desert Recreation District. He said, it will be more than 11 acres but less than 13. He said that deciding on what the land will be used for is high priority in that the infrastructure can be put in while the construction is going on so it's hopeful that DRD can come up with the project they'd conceive of being on the site soon. For further information, contact Thomas Hodgkin by e-mail at <a href="mailto:tahodgin@pddc.net">tahodgin@pddc.net</a>.</p> <p>Attendee <b>Sergio Nunez</b> said that he will not be happy if this project brings down his property values. Lt. Sullivan weighed in by saying that the quality of management for the project will matter a great deal. He said that the management of Desert Rose in Palm Desert is so superior to Mecca Vineyards that no one has to worry about kids playing in Desert Rose whereas they do in Mecca Vineyards. Hodgkin added that management is everything.</p> <p>Nunez asked if Palm Desert Development Company can sell this property in five years and can the new owners let it go downhill? Hodgkin said his company cannot do that. He said that typically the project can be recast in 55 years. He said that 36% of the project's renters have to make at least \$30,000 per year to live on site, and it must remain affordable for 55 years. The County must, by law, provide affordable housing for its residents, he said.</p> <p>Nunez asked if Hodgkin's company has done any economic evaluation to see what will happen to property values after this project is built. Hodgkin said it will definitely increase people's property values. There will be a buffer between the building and the other houses. It's kind of centered in the property. Saleh said that the Council visited two of this company's projects and they were pristine and very well managed, no graffiti and per the plans will be one of the most attractive projects in the area. Robert Road will be widened to its full width so people will have sidewalks all the way along it. Nokes made a point that if anyone has any problems in the community to bring them to the Council.</p> |
| <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>      |    | None   |
|                          |    |  |
| <b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>   |    | <p><b>Kevin Kalvin</b>, introduced himself as interim General Mgr for Desert Recreation District and he said he can be reached at the central office. Nokes asked if DRD is in charge of the street medians. He said they are and he's noticed that they need attention.</p> <p><b>Mark Weber</b>, manager of the Coachella Valley Enterprise Zone Authority, asked the Council to pass a resolution asking the Supervisors to pass a resolution of support to keep the Enterprise Zones. He explained that Gov. Brown is trying to push for an up or down vote on getting rid of these zones. He explained how Enterprise Zones help unemployed people find work through employers receiving tax credits for employing them. Gialdini said that this must go on the next agenda.</p> <p><b>John Stephens</b>, returning to the affordable housing question asked if local people are required to be used in constructing the project. Hodgkin said it's not economical for workers to come from L.A. Almost all of the contractors and workers will come from the Valley here, he said. Hodgkin said that anyone in the trades can call him and he'll tell them how to put in their bids.</p>   |
| <b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b> | A. | <b>Desert Recreation District Report</b>   |

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|                                      |           | Reporting: <b>Manny Rujo</b> , temporary Thousand Palms Community Center Coordinator   |
|                                      |           | Thousand Palms Community Center Coordinator Rob Carson is getting better each day, said Rujo, and he's getting back into his routine. He said that there is good news in that 35 participants are taking Zumba and 37 are taking karate, an increase in participation. Spring camp is coming up next month – cost \$9.00. They do have afterschool program scholarships. They have 22 participants now. There are some special events this week. There will be a Live Rock Concert at the Embassy Suites in La Quinta on Club Drive. Also, Sat and Sun across the Interstate 10 from Thousand Palms, behind Walmart, there will be Soap Box Derby Races. Nokes said that he's been questioning people in the TP area and they'd like baseball and basketball teams. Manny said he's trying to start weekend basketball tournaments as a starter, and then go to a real league as a result of the snowball effect. Youth baseball league is still interested in coming here but they can't do that this year. Rujo is trying to start it while he's at this community center. John Stephens said that many students here go to Cathedral City High School. His question is can TP kids compete with CCHS kids? Rujo will investigate and let us know. He would also like to see a men's league too. He thinks that if the kids see a men's league they might want to participate even more. Calvin asked if adult cars are going to be part of the Soap Box Derby. The adult races will probably be at the end of the day, Rujo said. |
|                                      | <b>B.</b> | <b>Thousand Palms Library</b>  |
|                                      |           | Reporting: Nancy Gentry, representing Friends of the Thousand Palms Library  |
|                                      |           | Gentry said that funds are being reduced to libraries so there are afterschool programs that are only possible to continue because people donate and the Library gets grants. The Library is a non-profit organization so they can accept donations. She also reported that the Library sign was tagged but she thinks it's been repaired. Adult program is coming on Thursday, March 10, 2011 to the Cabot Museum.  |
| <b>PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>          |           | Nokes said to Lt. Bill Sullivan that his deputies are really doing a good job and he found that he had tagging at his home as well but he is taking care of that.  |
| <b>AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</b> |           | Enterprise Zone Resolution of Support, Palm Desert Development Affordable Housing, TP Cleanup, Cathedral City  |
| <b>ADJOURN MEETING</b>               |           | Nokes moved to adjourn. Alcumbrac seconded. Adjourned at 7:15 PM.  |
| <b>NEXT MEETING</b>                  |           | March 31, 2011, 6:00 PM  |
|                                      |           | Respectfully submitted,<br><br>Patricia Saleh, Thousand Palms Community Council<br>Secretary, 760-343-2440  |
|                                      |           | <b>Thousand Palms Design Guidelines Workshop</b> after the meeting.  |