


Thousand Palms Community Council Minutes
 Thousand Palms Community Center
 31189 Robert Rd, Thousand Palms, CA 92276
June 30, 2011
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In Attendance:	X	Karen Esposito, Chairman
	X	Christopher Mitchell, Council Member
	X	Patricia Saleh, Secretary
	X	Roy Nokes, Council Member
	X	Bob Alcumbrac, Council Member
	X	Joe Pradetto, Liaison to 4 th District Supervisor John Benoit
Call to Order:		<p>Chairman Esposito called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken and all were present.</p> <p>Nokes moved that the minutes of 5/26/2011 be approved as corrected to say that the fire department was not here because they were out on an emergency call as suggested by attendee Don Donnelly; Alcumbrac seconded. Minutes approved as corrected.</p> <p>Esposito took the podium to thank Bob Alcumbrac for his 20 years of service on the Thousand Palms Community Council and recounted how he helped with the zoning of the community as an architect and in the design of the Thousand Palms Community Park, Community Center and Library. He also tried to represent the point of view that Thousand Palms didn't want to be the dumping ground for projects that the cities didn't want. She personally thanked him for convincing her to join the Council and said that his colorful remarks would be missed.</p> <p>Pradetto presented Bob with a Proclamation from Supervisor John Benoit thanking him for so many years of service as a Community Council member, the only remaining councilman from those originally elected when unincorporated areas were allowed to elect their council members, He served under Supervisors Corky Larson, Roy Wilson and John Benoit.</p> <p>Esposito called for Staff Reports</p>
STAFF REPORTS	A.	Fourth District Supervisor Liaison Joe Pradetto
	a.	Fourth District Update
		<p>Gave his apologies that Mike Gialdini couldn't be at the meeting. Pradetto went on to say that the County budget adopted on June 13 doesn't compromise public safety, but rather cuts benefits and requires that the deputies pay more for their medical insurance and pensions. The final budget will be taken up in September. They are waiting to see what the revenue projections are so they can better ascertain what there is for fire and sheriffs' departments. This morning Gov. Brown signed a bill that will eliminate Redevelopment Agencies as we know them. It's been a very beneficial source of funds for community buildings, etc. RDAs will be reformed so that cities will have to pay back the RDA fund for their projects, which will delay projects by about one year.</p> <p>Concerning the franchise fee of 2% on solar projects in this county, Supervisor Benoit decided the County should extend its 2% franchise fee to the solar companies that are flooding into the 4th District to help protect the services needed such as fire and sheriff services in the unincorporated areas. Solar Millennium, the</p>

		world's largest solar farm, is being exempted from the fee. Roy Nokes commented that the \$2.3 billion dollars and land that solar projects will benefit from will take much that could be used for other needed projects.
	B.	Riverside County Sheriff's Department
		Reporting: Dave Smith
	a.	No one in attendance
	b.	Code Enforcement
		Reporting: Patricia Saleh
		The new Code Enforcement phone number is 760-393-3344. The department overseeing Thousand Palms is in the Palm Desert office now. No Code Enforcement officers were in attendance this evening.
	D.	CalFire/Roy Wilson Fire Station in Thousand Palms
		Reporting: Fire Captain Gretchen Gonzales
		Not in attendance
	E.	Other County Departments
		None reporting
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	A.	Redevelopment Agency Design Guidelines
		Delayed to next meeting
	B.	Crossing Guard Situation in front of Della Lindley School
	a.	"No Parking" zones in front of Della Lindley School – Patricia Saleh
		"No Parking" signs will be erected across from Della S. Lindley School to stop children from being called over to cars or running to cars before and after school.
	b.	Safe Routes to Schools Grant – Marcia Huling, speaker Safe Routes to Schools is applying for a grant to provide a "walking school bus" to help children stay safe on the way to and from school since 70% of students K-6 walk to and from Della S. Lindley Elementary School. They try to encourage children to walk or bike for physical and health benefits, and in this push they must make sure children are safe. Engineering, Education, and Encouragement are the three Es of the SRTS program. They have the support of the school district and the Riverside County Sheriff's and Transportation Departments. Huling requested a letter of support from the Council to apply for the grant. Saleh moved to sign the letter of support; Alcumbrac seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
NEW BUSINESS	A.	Ivey Ranch RV Park – Gary Engle presenter, Information Only
		Engle said this will be a 370-space RV park adjacent to Ivey Ranch. It has been approved by the Ivey Ranch HOA board and it will be configured as a 55+ community. It is a Park Model park in that the RVs will be temporary. Nokes asked where the exits and entrances will be. Engles said it will use Jack Ivey Drive as the entrance and Varner as the exit. Zoning has been approved by the Planning Department in that it is zoned for High Density Residential. Nokes said emergency evacuation has to be taken into consideration in that people living there would all have to exit by the one exit. Mobile units would be moving in and out of the park. The majority of the lots are 35 x 60 feet. Leasing the lots will be people with RV trailers of no more than 400 square feet. Nokes also said he counted 68 parking

		spaces but only 4 disabled parking spaces and none in the clubhouse area. Engle said that this is the basic plan but when it goes through the County Planning Department it will have to meet all specifications. Alcumbrac said that all of these requirements will have to be met through the Americans with Disabilities Act. Nokes said that there is more work to be done on the project. Nokes said he likes the design. He said he thinks these will be affordable housing. Engle said that these are vacation houses and not affordable residences. Barbara Smith, Ivey HOA president, said that she met with Dan Arthofer, the owner, and she was given a set of plans that show 270 homes. She also went to see Rancho Casablanca and she felt that this project would be very acceptable.
		Vote on Council Taking a Summer Recess : Christopher Mitchell moved to recess in July and August. Alcumbrac seconded. Motion carried.
		Flood Channel – Saleh asked if the Riverside County Planning Department would be refusing all new construction in flood zones until the new Flood Channel is built as suggested by a message she received from the Planning Department. She asked for input from the audience. Audience member Pam McKay said that she believes Supervisor Benoit should try to push to get this dike built so that development will not be stymied. Donnelly also thinks that the Council should vote to ask Supervisor Benoit to expedite the flood channel. Esposito said that we should get a presentation from CVWD on what this flood channel project will entail. Nokes said that Thousand Palms voted down the flood channel, so FEMA punished TP by requiring that buildings be built on pads raised up from the ground. Esposito tabled the discussion until the next meeting.
PUBLIC COMMENTS		Dan Arthofer said that he owns quite a bit of land in Thousand Palms and that his projects are pretty much dead in the water for residential construction until the dike is built. He suggested that perhaps the people of Thousand Palms would agree to pay into a fund instead of for flood insurance.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	A.	Thousand Palms Community Center Report
		Reporting: Rob Carson , Thousand Palms Community Center Coordinator
		There are no grants available for scholarships for summer camp this year, so it has seriously cut down on the summer attendance. Only 15 kids are signed up for the After School Club. This is Rob's 3 rd year as the coordinator here and the TP Community Center has the highest per capita usage of all the other centers in the Desert Recreation District. They will be getting landscaping help to make all of the DRD parks look fantastic. A Pet Parade will be a priority of his for this coming year.
	B.	Art Samson Thousand Palms Library
		Reporting: Patricia Saleh
		Sharon Ballard asked that everyone use the library during the summer months.
	C.	Thousand Palms Chamber News

		Reporting: Patricia Saleh and Roy Nokes
		Nokes said that the Ambassadors group is building up and more members will be helpful. This is the 50 th Anniversary of the Chamber.
COUNCIL MEMBER INSTALLATION		Pam McKay was installed for a two-year term by Joe Pradetto to the Thousand Palms Community Council. She will replace Bob Alcumbrac .
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Redevelopment Agency Design Guidelines report postponed to next meeting in September. b) CVWD report on Flood Channel c) Solar energy and how it will affect Thousand Palms as a permanent agenda item – per Roy Nokes d) Concerns regarding the green material along Varner and if they've been resolved.
ADJOURN MEETING		Nokes moved to adjourn. Mitchell seconded. Adjourned at 7:15 PM.
NEXT MEETING		September 24, 2011, 6:00 PM
		<p>Respectfully submitted,</p>  <p>Patricia Saleh, Thousand Palms Community Council Secretary, 760-343-2440</p>