

**DESERT EDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, October 14, 2008 4:30 PM**

1. **Call to Order 4:30 p.m.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:** Susan Lombardi absent, with four members in attendance there was a quorum.
4. **Approval of the previous meetings' Minutes:** Approved without revisions.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
6. **STAFF REPORTS:**

A. County Supervisor or Representative – Lynda Gregory, announced the County Household hazardous waste Collection Program, July through December 2008 at ABOP centers. She provided a box of Tri-Council newsletters which were mailed to property owners only – contains Sunline Bus survey which can be copied and distributed to Park residents to send in their responses.

B. Sheriff's Department – Lieutenant McManus is no longer assigned to this area. Deputy Lopez announced new Lieutenant will be George Pinyon, who will attend our next meeting and provide statistics for the area. He fended public questions regarding assignment of officers, 1.2 sheriffs per 1000 persons and there are app. 10,000 persons in Desert Edge, therefore we should have 8 officers – currently 3-4 sheriffs are assigned per shift to cover Desert Edge. Leroy Pace asked for phone numbers to update Desert Crest phone directory – 911 calls from cell phones go to CHP dispatch, call 836-1600 during normal business hours for Palm Desert dispatch.

C. Fire Department – None

D. Code Enforcement – New Senior Officer, Michelle Cervantes introduced (next meeting Officer Fogh who is assigned to our area will provide statistics). They have a program for distressed or abandoned homes, a special team dedicated to act on app. 14-15,000 homes in bad condition. Questions about recently stripped and bulldozed home on Dillon Road, will be answered at next meeting. Homes on Dillon Road that are run down and mobile homes with mold will be checked into, call them and they will follow up or refer to the appropriate agency.

Betty Sanchez, also from Community Improvement, summarized the tire event (909 tires deposited, 78 residents participated, collected 4 bins). Winter/Spring Clean Up days will be scheduled for next year. Neighborhood Conference announced and everyone invited to participate this first annual event. Clean money campaign a success with 30 organizations signed up to earn money for uniforms etc. for their teams – will be cleaning up Desert Edge along Dillon Road between Long Canyon and Bennett Roads.

E. Other County Departments - None

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Design Guidelines update - Joe Marsh spoke with Jerry Jolliffe and everything is on track to be presented at the Planning Commission November 19, at La Quinta. Staff issues concern trail and road design details along Dillon Road.

B. County General Plan Amendments and potential density changes – regarding Sky Valley request for no density changes in there area will be heard under item 8(B).

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Rainbow Spa CUP 03605 extending life of existing 156 Space RV Mobile Home Park (north of 18th/west of Langlois) – requested life time permit. Board Member presented request for lifetime permit of a well maintained park that has been operating for 24 years, it is self sufficient as a nonprofit co-op, a year-round RV Park (not a mobile home park as the application states). **Motion was made to recommend to County Planning that a 20 year use permit be granted with the conditions that right-of-ways for Langlois Road and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue which currently have curbing and landscaping inside the easement be cleared when the road improvements are made, the Park hook up to sewer when it becomes available, and future improvements conform with design guidelines. 3 members voted affirmative, 1 abstained (resides in Park).**

B. Innovative Land Concepts, Inc. GPA 993, Change from Rural Desert (10 acre minimum) to Very Low Density Residential (1 unit per acre), and proposal to annex into Hot Springs Policy Area, east of Bennett Road / north of 19th, presentation by Ed Shiller and Paul Quill. An approximate 60 acre lot with proposed 40-60 units, with a green sustainable community design for low density and alternative energy (“off the grid”), including wind turbines, solar, geothermal and underground heat pumps, dual system septic until sewer, grey water and anaerobic system. Requesting initiation to proceed with GPA, proposed concept only until have approval of General Plan Amendment. Joe Marsh expressed Hot Water

well usage concerns and that roads and washes had already been graded. Cindy Nance expressed concerns over flood area, not inside Desert Edge, liked the design concept but would prefer to see it to the north of Desert Crest inside Desert Edge. Ellea also expressed concerns, and Jim Sullivan requested the council's support as Sky Valley's Home Owners' Association, Council and Chamber had already opposed the project. **Council voted unanimously to not support this general plan amendment and not include it in the Desert Edge Community Council boundaries.**

C. Extension of Desert Edge Community Council boundaries – **Council voted unanimously to not extend the Desert Edge boundaries east of Bennett Road.**

D. Golden Lantern Grocery Store/Gas Station Conditional Use Permit renewal CUP 03355R1. Southeast corner of Dillon / Corkill. Request to extend life of existing small shopping center containing a convenience store with fuel sales and off-premises consumption sale of liquor and retail shops / restaurants. Applicant: Bhatti Enterprise Inc., presentation by Mr. Singh. Grocery and liquor store, restaurant and shops have been at this commercial corner for decades. A 7 year grandfathered extension of uses for 7 years expired. New CUP request is for lifetime, liquor and gas sales on the same premises are not in compliance with an ordinance passed in the 1990s. There was some opposition to the sale of liquor due to crime potential while others prefer to not have persons driving up and down Dillon Road to Desert Hot Springs to obtain their liquor. Traffic concerns that could be controlled with curbing for entrance to the store and restaurant/shop parking areas, and potential for a traffic light were discussed. **Motion was made to renew the CUP for 10 years (including a liquor license) given that curbing is installed prior to the renewal of the permit - such that there is one entrance from Corkill and Dillon Roads to the gas pumps, grocery and liquor store and one entrance to the restaurant/shop parking area. Also, if warranted by transportation department traffic study, a traffic light will be installed at Corkill and Dillon Roads. And Design Guidelines will be complied with for trails and other amenities. Council voted unanimously to approve.**

E. November meeting date: Council to decide if Nov. 11 regular meeting will be held, due to Veteran's Day holiday and thus county staff not available – given that Lynda Gregory will be present at the next meeting, **Council voted unanimously to hold the next meeting November 11.**

#### **9. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Dillon Road and other trail meetings summary report by Cindy Nance, attended meeting last week presented by Dangermond group for Coachella Valley, Dillon Road trails part of transportation plan for which there is an existing easement. Other trail meetings ongoing, including one Thursday, 6:30-8:30 October 17 at CVAG. Students currently working on advanced GIS project involving trails and will keep everyone posted on upcoming meetings.

B. Land Development Committee Meeting Work Agendas, developer applications and recent hearings – items heard today on agendas, as well as many cell tower permit requests.

C. School bus locations and property damage update by Ellie Dullea – successful in getting school bus stops moved to the entrance of the Parks children are coming from. Property damage due to vandalism is being abated with surveillance cameras and increased presence of police officers.

#### **10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Code Enforcement Neighborhood Conference October 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. UCR Palm Desert Campus

B. Thermal Sheriff Station and Aviation Facility groundbreaking, October 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m. 86625 Airport Blvd, Thermal

C. Community Action Partnership Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program – contact Lynda Gregory for more information

D. "Sign in" if you wish to receive meeting notices via email – first page of sign in sheet returned.

E. Add Emergency Preparedness under Council Member Reports and announce Desert Edge Design Guideline hearing November 19 at Planning Commission meeting in La Quinta.

E. Next meeting: Tuesday, **November 11, 2008** at 4:30 p.m.

**11. ADJOURNED MEETING at 5:55 p.m.**