

## DESERT EDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

TUESDAY, April 14, 2009 4:30 PM

**1. Call to Order 4:30 p.m.**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call:** Susan Lombardi absent, with four members present there was a quorum.

**4. Approval of the previous meetings' Minutes:** Minutes for March 10, 2009 were approved.

**5. STAFF REPORTS:**

A. County Supervisor or Representative – Lynda Gregory had no announcements. Joe Marsh inquired about the damaged Long Canyon sign. Cindy Nance read Supervisor Wilson's letter commending the council for their hard work.

B. Sheriff's Department – Lori Hardcastle reported 1,280 calls for service (last year 1,261). Calls that were specifically Desert Edge 151 (96 in 2008), 42 written reports, 109 not written. Calls included stolen property, mentally disturbed person, trespass, 7 assist for another department, 7 warrants, 1 burglary, 3 grand thefts, 1 auto stolen and 2 recovered, restraining order and vandalism. 33 warrants were served, 51 written arrests as part of Desert Hot Springs recent effort to target criminals which had an apparent affect on Desert Edge. Lori recommended that everyone participate in "McGruff", a program for photographing your stuff, inventorying it and engraving it. Sheriff's department will provide engraving tool.

C. Fire Department - None

D. Code Enforcement – Jackie Fogh reported 13 cases open and 30 cases closed this past month. Joe Marsh inquired about blocked washes east of Bennett Road and proposed development – they were given 90 days to restore property. Fish and Game are in charge of protecting washes, it is their jurisdiction. Heavy rain will probably blow out blocked washes; grading will release the property once the problem is fixed. Ellie Dullea stated that Burrtec did not follow through with curb side pick up, she went to great effort to notify residents of mobile home parks inviting them to participate. Apparently there was a break in communication between Code Enforcement and Waste Management on the planned event. Cindy Nance commented that Monday morning her curbside trash was apparently taken by the regular service but she had concerns about being "ticketed" by code enforcement and had made arrangements for it to be hauled to the dump.

E. Other County Departments - None

**6. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Cathedral City North Specific Plan – Discussion and questions – Leisa Lukes, Cathedral City Planner, and Keith Scott, Redevelopment Planner, presented a follow up to Sky Valley's meeting last month regarding concern over planned development and potential light pollution, north of Interstate 10 between Date Palm and Palm Drives, north to Edom Hill and Varner Roads. December 2007 Cathedral City annexed 1300 acres including portions of the Multiple Species Habitat and Conservation Plan which will be protected under this proposed plan. The purpose of the project is to generate economic development, provide services and protect species. Land uses that are flexible were decided on, such as mixed use residential and commercial, and light industrial on Edom Hill as a future employment center. Light pollution should not be an issue from the light industrial area as it is at a lower elevation on the hill and "North City" lights will be kept at a minimum to prevent spill over. Joe Marsh inquired about acreage north of the annexed area and potential increase of Cathedral City's Sphere of Influence – response, no intention of expanding further north. The development will provide access to Big Box stores, expedite interchange improvements and make road improvements to Varner Road and south portion of Mountain View up to the new boundary. Steve Pendergast inquired about reservoir, well sites and sewer systems – no sewer is available in the area, businesses at Palm Drive are on well and septic currently. The plan is designed for orderly development and infrastructure improvements will be made in stages. Ellie Dullea inquired about CVWD's water tanks and Varner road as a highway. Cindy Nance inquired about transportation, infrastructure and types of development on Edom Hill, i.e. would detonation of arsenal stop or a heliport be built which would be useful for emergency evacuation. There will be a roads mitigation measure in place prior to construction, CVAG holds funding for Devall and Landau interstate overpasses (without onramps, but including pedestrian and bike trails). Both

Date Palm and Palm Drive overpass improvements will be in 24 months. Heliport is a land use that would be acceptable and would require a Conditional Use Permit. No one was certain who was responsible for detonation of arsenal that rocks this valley of many faults.

B. Proposed Groundwater replenishment assessment fee increase for Mission Creek sub basin area for all ground water (well) sites using 25 acre-feet of water per year - - Ivory Stark, Water Services Coordinator and Steve Bigley represented Coachella Valley Water District. Currently, there are only 5 well sites participating in self-reporting of groundwater usage - Palm Drive golf course, 3 fish farms and the water district's well. Parcels with more than 5 acres were sent notices and should submit petition in opposition by April 28, 2009 to the \$86/acre foot charge for those pumping 25 acre feet or more per year. Leroy Pace inquired if that included hot water wells - response, no it is only relative to fresh water basin. Cindy Nance questioned if CVWD knows where the well locations are why need to establish an area rather than well sites. Response, producers pumping more than 25 acre feet are required by the water act to comply and this can be seen on aerials today. Steve Pendergast inquired about revision of plan during drought, at which time smaller producers would be required to pay. Response, water code protects smaller consumers from being charged. Currently, CVWD's customers are paying for the water that is recharging the area. Ellie Dullea asked when the replenishment basin at Highway 62 and Indian Avenue was established - answer, 2002.

C. Proposed emergency Ham Radio frequency dedicated to Desert Edge through RACES (statewide organization) - Joe Marsh made the motion for Desert Edge Community Council's support for a request from it's citizens involved in emergency preparedness efforts (the Desert Emergency Coalition) for a designation of a primary and secondary radio frequency on 2 meter band for the community of Desert Edge to be recognized by the California state Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Services (RACES). Ellie Dullea seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

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

A. Coachella Valley Trails Alliance and General Plan 2009 Summary Report - None

B. Land Development Committee Meeting Work Agendas, developer applications and recent hearings - Joe Marsh received the report today which includes Vista Grande's permit renewal already approved by the council and Pulte Homes application for development between 20<sup>th</sup> and Dillon Roads, Bubbling Wells and Palm Drive. On April 29<sup>th</sup> the Planning Commission hearing includes the Golden Lantern's request for a variance, already recommended by council, with the condition that curbs be installed prior to approval, which according to the owner should be July 2009.

C. Desert Emergency Coalition (DEC) - Emergency Preparedness Report - Joe Marsh announced that they meet three times per year, the next meeting is the first Tuesday in June at Corkill Palms Mobile Home Park. There will be a radio drill in May. Citizens in some parks are not participating on DEC, he asked that a letter be written providing a status report. Lynda Gregory said she would ask Supervisor Wilson if there's anything he can do. Joe will follow up with a letter to each park requesting that they participate.

D. Western Coachella Valley Regional Multi-Service Center Rollout reported by Ellie Dullea, Homeless shelter has been built and is in process of being utilized.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dillon Estates representative announced that their office was ransacked, locked cabinets broken into, and that they need to rekey. It is possible that the Sky Valley Resort was also robbed.

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

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Inspiration Awards Luncheon April 16, 2009, 11:30-1:30 at Westin Mission Hills, Rancho Mirage, \$25 per person.

Report on Dark Skies Ordinance by Bob Lyman, County Transportation and Land Management Agency cancelled as Cathedral City planners answered community's concerns regarding development north of Interstate 10.

Desert Edge Community Council will vote on whether to go dark June, July, and August.

Everyone invited to sign in and sign in sheet was returned.

Next meeting will be May 12, 2009, 4:30 p.m., at Desert Crest Country Club Library.

## **11. MEETING ADJOURNED 5:45 p.m.**

Joe Marsh	Ellie Dullea	Cindy Nance, Secretary	Susan Lombardi, Chair	Walter Hadley
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