

THOUSAND PALMS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Thousand Palms Community Center
31189 Robert Road, Thousand Palms, CA 92276
January 28, 2016
Find these minutes on line at www.rivco4.org

	In Attendance:	X	Christopher Mitchell , Chairman
			No one has yet filled the vacancy
		X	Patricia Saleh , Secretary
		X	Roy Nokes , Council Member
		X	Pam McKay , Council Member
		X	Joe Pradetto , Liaison to 4th District Supervisor John Benoit, 760-863-7160,
			Community cleanup this Saturday. There are designs for the DRD park in the property next door. It will be a weight room and flexible use land for the park. Audience member asked why this is taking so long and what we can do to get money faster to develop the park.
1-4	Call to Order:		Secretary Saleh called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and McKay led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mitchell asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of September 24, 2015. There were none, so Mitchell accepted them as approved.
5.	STAFF REPORTS	A.	CAL FIRE/ROY WILSON FIRE STATION IN THOUSAND PALMS Station #35 Eddie Moore—Deputy Fire Captain or
		B.	Sheriff's Department, Sergeant Gaunt , reporting for Sergeant Devinny. Tel: 760- 836-1742 ddevinny@riversidesheriff.org
			Did not have statistics but he said thefts are down, and they have three deputies working in the area. They are asking that the community be their eyes and ears. Open to suggestions. Anthony Valor is at the PD station and is working to help keep down the crime in this area. He asked that we report all crimes. Audience member asked if it is the policy of the Sheriffs Dept to get back to people when a crime has been committed. Both representatives said they are dedicated to getting back to people. Audience member Sergio Nunez said that burglaries occur between three and five in the morning when thieves check the doors and see if they can get in. He came to express this to the deputies. Locally, he said, it is referred to as "backpackers" He feels it has to do with the jail realignment.
	CALFire		Dan Talbot is the new division chief for the West Desert Division. Worked in valley for 40 years. Since last meeting, they've had 135 calls and most were emergency medical assistance. Three major incidents: 18th of Nov. there was a golf cart and vehicle collision. Nov. 22 there was a traffic collision on the freeway involving hazardous materials; jaws of life were used. Jan. 2 there was a mobile home fire in Tri-Palms. Working with Insurance company investigators to determine the cause. Make sure that your alarms work. Change batteries the first of the year whether they need it or not.
	Code		Not in Attendance

Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD)
State of the District Report
Shari Stewart, President of the Board of Education

PSUSD covers up to Washington Street. There are 28 schools in PSUSD including 4 high schools, They have 24,000 students in the district. 75% of the students are Hispanic. 33.5% are English language learners, English being their second language. PSUSD is the largest employer in the west valley. Will be highering teachers and are recruiting from all over the U.S. They don't have to have a teacher's credential—only a bachelor's degree. In 2008 they passed a bond that will keep serving the schools for many years. Always looking to purchase land to alleviate overcrowding. Constantly upgrading facilities. Can only be used to upgrade facilities. Solar panels are placed in parking lots now. For the next 20 years they will be saving \$8 to \$10 million dollars by using them. The general fund is over \$200 million. 80% goes to teachers salaries and benefits. CA has different funding formulas. The Superintendent will be retiring and they will be asking the community what qualities they think a superintendent should have. Feb. 8-22 there will be input surveys at Rancho Mirage High and elsewhere. Also on line.

New Parent Resource Center. People are welcome to come in and volunteer or look for help there.

Full-day kindergarten was started this year and next year the rest of the schools will go onto full-day. They are hoping it will improve the schools' test scores. There are two bi-lingual kindergartens.

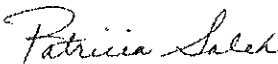
Common core standards will be the same throughout the U.S. Our standards were higher so our students didn't do as well, but from now on the testing will be fairer. They have invested a lot of money in laptops and computers for all of the kids. From 2nd grade up almost every student works on a computer in the classroom.

They also have career pathways and studies for kids who are interested in pursuing a career, starting in Middle School: Money Management and Accounting: Medical; Arts Institute for all arts-oriented students; manufacturing and welding. When our kids graduate from high school they should be career or college ready. At Cathedral City High School they have a health academy and digital academy; at Palm Springs High School they have a public safety academy to go into fire or law enforcement. These are high quality classes. They are college ready classes. They are learning a marketable skill.

Solar energy training is available and they compete with other high schools. Culinary institute is available. They have a kitchen at Ranch Mirage (RM) High School. Thousand Palms goes to RM High School and PSHS. Performing Arts Center at RM High School. Kids go to New York and put on plays. Tickets are \$15 to go to show at Performing Arts High School. Mechanical school.

There is now an online curriculum for kids who don't fit the school system. Donations and grants go directly into the school. We got a \$1 million donation from Helen Galen to build Performing Arts Center.

THOUSAND PALMS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 28, 2016 Pg.3

		PSUSD State of the District Report (Continued)
		<p>McKay asked if kids in other areas can go to the school where they're featuring the courses they'd like to learn. La Quinta kids are going to RM High School. Musical Theatre University is funded by PSHS</p> <p>Safety a high priority and they have an active shooter conference to establish active shooter strategy. A policeman on every high school campus now and security officers at every middle school.</p> <p>Nokes asked how much support law enforcement is getting. They believe they have support. Nokes said it hasn't changed since he was a firefighter at station 35.</p>
	Additional :	Imperial Irrigation
		Maritza Nunez and Diane Fonces.
		<p>Solar incentive program available. 2016 will be the last year they offer incentives for One Million Roofs program. 50 cents per watt for residential, and 5 cents per watt for commercial. Feb. 5 will end reservation period. 30% is reserved for residential and energy efficiency programs.</p> <p>Lots of rebates for attic insulation, refrigerators, etc. \$100 per unit. Windows for \$2 per square foot. Must meet energy efficient standards. Evaporative coolers have incentives. Even renters can get rebates. Old refrigerators can be removed. Free home energy efficiency audits. Ascani asked if swamp coolers will be replaced with a new one. No answer.</p> <p>Mobile homes, if they are master-metered, cannot qualify for net metering program. Individually metered mobile homes. Would have to be approved by county to be placed on roof. IID has nothing to do with financing. Nokes asked why IID isn't more invested in solar energy. PD had a plan to finance solar energy. IID doesn't finance anything. CVWD carried the 20 year note on the sewer installation. County has PACE program to attach cost to county property tax. No answer.</p>
	Adjournment:	McKay voted to adjourn. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:40 PM.
	PUBLIC COMMENTS:	Carolyn Huth lives on Las Palmas, received a letter from CVWD that they are going to put in a back-flow device and charge owners a \$12 per month fee but they used to have one and it was taken out because it wasn't effective. It reduces water pressure. Pradetto suggested that she go to a CVWD board meeting. Saleh asked that she report back.
	AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:	Update from CVWD on back-flow device additions. Roy Nokes asked for report on are we prepared for disasters. Active Shooter presentation by Sheriff's office.
	NEXT MEETING:	March 24, 2016
		<p>Respectfully Submitted,</p> <p></p> <p>Patricia Saleh, Thousand Palms Community Council Secretary</p>