

**SKY VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Sky Valley Chamber and Community Center  
October 14, 2008**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Robert Reeves called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by John Flanders.
3. **ROLL CALL:** Robert Reeves, Barbara Hall, Stephanie Greene, John Flanders and Julie Casserly.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the September 9, 2008 Community Council meeting were reviewed. With no corrections, a motion was made to approve the minutes. Casserly/Flanders. APPROVED.
5. **FINALIZATION OF MINUTES:** No action.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
7. **STAFF REPORTS:**
  - a. County Supervisor:
    - The Fall Newsletter has been mailed along with the Sunline Transit Survey. All Sky Valley residents are encouraged to respond to the Survey.
    - The Joint Council meeting is set for December 9.
    - Seismic Presentation to Community: set for October 24 & 25 in Palm Springs. A flyer was made available for interested persons.
  - b. Sheriff's Department: Erin Lopez attended with nothing to report.
  - c. California Highway Patrol: Noting to report.
  - d. Fire Department: Not in attendance due to their involvement fighting the LA fires.
  - e. Code Enforcement:
    - Betty Sanchez introduced new officers.
    - An updated report was presented for open and closed cases; 69 open cases closed 18 cases in December due to residence compliance.
    - Call (760) 343-4150 to report distressed or abandoned homes.
    - There are over 15,000 open cases in Riverside County, and there is a special Task Force being formed.
    - The Tire Event was very successful, with over 900 tires collected. 78 residents participated and there were lots of volunteers. Thanks to all who helped and participated.
    - Next Clean up day is in March
    - There is a Neighborhood Conference on 10/25, free to the public from 9 am to 2 pm. At UCR/Palm Desert.
    - The Clean Money fundraising program had the first event that collected 2.9 tons of trash by 85 volunteers. The next one is set for November 1. Call Betty for details.
  - f. Animal Services: Not in attendance.
  - g. Other County/State Departments: Nothing to report.
  - h. CSA 104: Meetings are canceled until January.
8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - a. Citizens on Patrol: John reiterated that this program needs more volunteer drivers.
  - b. Sky Valley Emergency Team (SVET): Barbara Hall reported that this team was established in 1994. Residents should know that the Community Center is the

designated hub during an emergency. A report was read, and materials were available for residents to take. Barbara reported that November 14 at 10 am is Duck, Cover and Hold awareness training; flyer provided.

#### 9. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. General Plan Amendments: The three that are most pertinent to Sky Valley are still in process. At the last meeting, the Sky Valley Council voted to oppose any change in the current zoning.
  - The developers involved with Amendment 993 attended the meeting and asked to present the plan for sub-dividing 59 acres into 1-acre lot development. Ed Shiller of Innovative Land Concepts showed a presentation of the energy-efficient homes and possible plot plans for the single-family homes. Copies were provided to attendees. He pointed out that the landowner wants to leave a legacy, and could have built a mobile home park of 340 units years ago. The new proposed development is set to be completely sustainable and energy efficient.
  - Paul Clarke from Riverside County reiterated that all amendments are still in the first step of a two-step process where the County staff reviews the submissions and gives their initial input. Step two includes other departmental reviews, public hearings, and community council input. Letters and emails should be received by 11/25. Interested residents can check the status of the proposed amendments on the County website for public hearing dates.
  - County staff seem to be recommending that Amendment 993 move forward pending the density issue, the environmental aspects, streets, lights, sidewalks, etc.
  - The Council opened the floor to attendees to address the proposed amendments. After much discussion, the overall consensus was to not revise the General Plan to change the 5-acre minimum requirement for development to keep the rural lifestyle for Sky Valley and neighboring communities. It was noted that Desert Edge also voted against this amendment. Over 20 emails and letters are being along to Supervisor Wilson, and residents are encouraged to send additional communications directly to Supervisor Wilson.
  - The Council again posted a motion to confirm the September vote to oppose any change to the 5-acre minimum density requirements.  
Approved.
  - This includes #899 and #938.
- b. Cell Phone Tower: Continued to next meeting.
- c. Sunline Transit Survey: placed in Newsletter. Residents are encouraged to fill it out and send back immediately.

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Windmills: to be continued to next meeting.
- b. Trash Service: Mike Veto from Burrtec attended.
  - Next community clean up day is March 21, 2009, and October 29, 2009.
  - There is also a new Materials Reclamation Center opening in Palm Springs that will help process the mixed recycled trash.
  - In order for residents to Opt Out of using Burrtec or other trash collection service, they must contact Burrtec and fill out the

appropriate forms. Those residents that Opt Out MUST take their trash weekly to the dump and keep dump receipts to prove annually that they have suitably handled their refuse.

- Residents can report trash dumping on main roads to Burrtec and they will pick up within 48 hours.
- c. Council Member to Monitor County Agendas: After discussion, it was determined that the County adequately advised the Council on matters relating to Sky Valley and that official monitoring of the various department agendas is not necessary.
- d. Discussion of Adjustment to Sky Valley Western Boundary: The western boundary to Sky Valley is formally recognized as Ford Road. The 60-acre parcel that is requesting a General Plan amendment is not technically in Desert Edge or Sky Valley, however CSA recognizes Bennett Road as the Sky Valley boundary. Supervisor Wilson wants both communities to comment on the development plans for this area, and is considering adding the area formally to Sky Valley.
- e. Report on Prospect Street Vacancy Issues: Julie Casserly reported that most of the animals from that property were adopted by nearby residents and thanks Lynda Gregory for her help. She also advised all residents to be on the look out for more abandoned animals due to the downturn economy.
- f. ADDED: Golden Lantern Market Liquor License: The prior ordinance that allowed this gas station/market to sell hard liquor has been changed to not allow gas stations to sell hard liquor, only beer and wine. The owner is seeking the community's support to get an amended use permit. To be placed on November agenda.

**11. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Community Comments: A resident asked about getting updates on hearing for the Pecker Plant in Desert hot springs and asked that they be asked to speak to the Council. Lynda advised that it is not in the sphere of Sky Valley's area and the topic is on a state level.

**12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- a. Cell Phone Tower
- b. CUP for Golden Lantern Market
- c. Status of the General Plan Amendments:

13. **ADJOURNMENT**: With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Flanders/Casserly. APPROVED. After discussion that the next meeting falls on Veterans Day, a motion was made to move the next meeting to Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 6 pm. Hall/Flanders. APPROVED,

**END**

*Respectfully Submitted by Stephanie Greene, Recording Secretary  
November 11, 2008*