

**SKY VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Sky Valley Chamber and Community Center
April 8, 2008**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Barbara Hall called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll call was taken and all Board members were present; Barbara Hall, Stephanie Greene, Robert Reeves, John Flanders and Julie Casserly.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by John Flanders. Followed by group introductions.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the March 11, 2008 Community Council meeting were reviewed. With no corrections, a motion was made to approve the minutes. Flanders/Reeves. APPROVED.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Sky Valley resident, Cheyenne Hepler, read a personal statement regarding her opinions of the new County guidelines for accessory buildings discussed at the last meeting. To paraphrase, she finds the new guidelines not out of line with the character of the area. She objects to the provision regarding input from neighbors and feels that if the project satisfies County code and guidelines, then the opinions of neighbors should not be required. She feels that if these opinions result in modifications being demanded, then the cost of said modifications should be split among the dissenting neighbors. The council thanked her for taking the time to express her opinion.
6. **STAFF REPORTS:**
 - a. County Supervisor: Lynda Gregory gave an update on the following items:
 - *OHV Signage:* The transportation department is installing the new signs currently and the sign has been replaced at Bennett Road. Councilperson Julie commented that she liked the look of the signs.
 - *OHV Patrols:* Lynda advised that another day is planned for May, and that the officers feel they have been reasonable in educating, rather than citing many riders to date, and will begin actively citing offenders at this time.
 - b. Sheriff's Department: Lori Hardcastle reported 19 calls in Sky Valley in March 2008 versus 9 calls in March 2007. She went on to give an overview of the types of calls. This does not include calls to CHP.
 - c. Fire Department: There were 101 calls in March, with 74 medical and 4 traffic accidents.
 - d. Code Enforcement: Frank reiterated that the Clean Up day is set for 4/12 at Wide Canyon location and that volunteers are needed. There will be 8 bins, and no special passes to the dump at this time. Stephanie asked if Code Enforcement can independently open cases, or if they have to wait for a resident to make a report, and confirmed that Code Enforcement is actively opening cases each month on their own as of the last year. Code Enforcement issue and that someone from Permits and Buildings will be asked to attend the next meeting for clarification.
 - e. Other County Departments: None.
 - f. CSA 104: The next meeting is set for 4/19 at 9 am at the Chamber building. There is still one vacancy.
7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a. Citizens on Patrol: There was a stolen vehicle at the end of Bennett and CHP and COPs responded. John reiterated that this program needs more volunteer drivers. Funds are OK at this time thanks to the recent grant.
8. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Fruit and Vegetable Growing Regulations: Ron Bray, the Riverside County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, gave a very concise overview of the department that started in the 1870s to set up programs to stop pests. Over the years, this department has been put in charge of the quality and maturity, movement, pest control and weights and measures of fruits and vegetables. He confirmed that a local producer can sell direct to consumers and are exempt from rules if they sell at or near the point of production. If they sell at a certified Farmer's Market, the grower is required to get a certificate of compliance. They do not monitor the roadside individual sellers as they do not have the staff. If a resident has concerns about an individual seller, they should call **Doc** or the Sheriff's department as they can cite for various infractions. Ron brought some info and is available to answer questions at any time.
- b. Request to Divide 43 acres on Hilltop: Mr. Alibaba Farazaneh was in attendance to review his request to the County to subdivide his 43-acre parcel into 2 equal parcels of 21 acres, each with a 10,000 sq.ft. pad for a house and casita. He has started the permit process with the County, and is submitting the additional reports that are being requested. At this time, he wanted the Council to review the request and submit their opinions to the County. Residents in attendance were concerned about the access road, wondering if there was adequate space by the water tank and the BLM land, and about the large-scale grading that will be required for the pads. Jim Sullivan stated that a permit from BLM would be required for the proposed access route and that the proposed access route included a streambed and so required a streambed alteration agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Farazaneh stated that he already had a permit for access from BLM. Mr. Sullivan stated that he had checked with BLM and while BLM said Mr. Farazaneh had applied for an access permit it would be many months before BLM even processed the application. Mr. Farazaneh repeatedly stated that he already had the BLM permit for access. After much heated discussion about access and grading, and the reading of a letter that was received by a resident who could not attend who was opposed to the matter, a motion was made to wait for the County to review the requested reports and information from the landowner and the engineer, and revisit this issue at the May meeting; Casserly/Reeves. Approved with one nay. Paul advised that the County will review, and it will go to the Directors Hearing that will be noticed to the public for attendance. It should be noted that the landowner has the right to build one house on the land without public notice as long as County requirements are met.
- c. Commercial Land on Northwest Corner of Wide Canyon and Dillon Rd: Property owner Tim McClure and architect Lance O'Donnell presented a plan to develop a 5-acre parcel, currently zoned commercial in the Village Overlay of Sky Valley, for a small retail commercial project. According to this team, there is only one such parcel in Sky Valley, however Paul Clark from County Planning countered there are others. This team has not officially filed any plans with the County, and came to the Council for consultation on the type of retail that the community would like to fill the proposed 35,000 of space, the overall architectural design and any other input. They stated that they thought a mercantile store would be a good use, small retail establishments that provided needed services and possibly a gas station and small artist studios. The building would be built to withstand the winds and the elements. Those present were overwhelmingly opposed to any commercial development in Sky Valley with the exception of a few residents. They are concerned about light pollution, traffic at the site, and the lack of residents to support most types of retail that may end up in a constantly vacant center. Though the development team stated they wanted Sky Valley resident opinions, after this negative reception of the planned land

use, they asked Paul from County what their next steps would be to begin the process without the support of the community members in attendance. Since they are not in process at this time, there was no need for a motion. Overall the majority of the residents in attendance are opposed, and Jim Sullivan noted that he believes that a project like this will open the door and begin the downfall of the rural appeal of Sky Valley and urged residents and the Council to continue to advise Supervisor Roy Wilson to block these projects unilaterally. After the team left the meeting, residents expressed concern that the team still seemed determine to move forward with the project even though the residents are opposed.

- d. Refurbishment of the Sky Valley Sign Westbound: Barbara was under the impression that the remaining sign was not in compliance, however Paul Clark advised that it is OK,. Lynda and Paul will discuss the best solution to this and present something for consideration at the next meeting.
- e. Review Three Applications for Amendment to the General Plan within Sky Valley: There are three applications for sites within Sky Valley at this time. Two are commercial projects and one is seeking to split 60 acres into 60 lots. There are 150 requests countywide, currently in the screening process. They will go before the Board of Supervisors in July to be accepted or rejected for continuing through the approval process. Sky Valley residents may forward any comments to the Supervisor, via an email or phone call directly to Lynda. It is too early for the Council to make official comments. A resident asked if it was appropriate to start a petition and was advised by Lynda that this was fine, however she will report directly to the Supervisor that the residents in attendance are overwhelming opposed to these types of projects and wish to keep Sky Valley rural with the 5-acre lot minimums, no more commercial, etc.

10. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Update on Sky Valley Road Mapping: Robert Reeves and Jim Sullivan updated the Council on their efforts to map and photograph all of the streets in Sky Valley in order to produce a true map for emergency teams and residents. Draft #2 of the map was presented for review by the Council and residents. They hope to present a final version to CSA 104 board on 4/19 for review.
- b. Reminder: Sky Valley Clean-Up Day is Saturday, April 12..
- c. Reminder: The Sky Valley Homeowners Association meeting is Thursday, April 17 at 7 pm.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- a. Peaker Plant: A resident expressed concern about the new proposed energy plant in Desert Hot Springs as it will need significant amounts of aquifer water, from the same source that supplies Sky Valley. They are concerned that our rates will go up even though the plant does not serve Sky Valley, and it will drain needed resources. Lynda will discuss with Supervisor Wilson and report back.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**: With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Greene/Casserly. APPROVED. The next meeting is set for May 13, 2008 at 6 pm.

END

*DRAFT #2
Respectfully Submitted by Stephanie Greene, Secretary
May 7, 2008*