

**SKY VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Sky Valley Chamber and Community Center
September 9, 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, Stephanie Greene, John Flanders and Julie Casserly present. Barbara Hall was absent and excused.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the June 10, 2008 Community Council meeting were reviewed. With noted corrections, a motion was made to approve the minutes. Reeves/Flanders. APPROVED.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
6. **STAFF REPORTS:**
 - a. County Supervisor: Nothing to report.
 - b. Sheriff's Department: Lt. McManus reviewed the crime reports for July and August, noting a decrease in violent crimes of 38% and a 20% reduction in property crimes. He also discussed that there were more patrol cars on the streets. Specific statistics will be reported at the October meeting. Julie C. commented on noticing the increase in patrol cars.
 - c. Fire Department: Absent.
 - d. Code Enforcement:
 - Dave Lawson reported that there are 69 open cases, and that 43 cases have been closed based on compliance over the summer. A written report was provided.
 - As for the open case regarding the illegal grading on Holman Road, this has passed on to the DA's office and Code Dept had no further comment.
 - Regarding Vehicles for Sale parked along the road, any vehicles must be on the registered owner's private property only. All others are illegal.
 - Tire Amnesty: set for October 11 from 8 am to 12 noon at the Wide Canyon location. Residents may bring up to 9 tires, and require a letter of exemption from Betty Sanchez for more than that.
 - New Graffiti Hotline: There is a new truck with a paint-matching machine that can now respond to graffiti calls, new number is (866)732-1444 for the unincorporated areas.
 - Fundraising Opportunity: Funds up to \$2,000 are available for local youth groups who help clean up hard to reach areas. Call Betty Sanchez for more details.
 - Neighborhood Conference: set for October 25, 9 am to 2 pm. A flier was handed out on the event, which includes workshops and other pertinent information.
 - e. Animal Control Services: Update on the following cases by Captain Betsy Ritchie.
 - The open case of equine abuse on Vee Bee is under control, however several residents reported that the lot is vacant. Animal Control to verify.
 - New Committee for Emergency Hay: Meeting set for 9/10, to determine where hay can be stored and how to set up a hotline of

residents who can donate hay, funds and/or time. Update at next meeting.

- Horse Impound Report: There were 20 horses impounded in 2005, 28 in 2006 and 83 in 2007, showing an alarming rate of increase.
- Wild/Loose Dogs: Residents can call for traps, however they will need to sign a release for them and help monitor the traps, and work closely with Animal Control.

f. Other Departments:

- Highway Patrol: The officer read a report on citations; 451 in 2007, 1,384 so far in 2008 for the area of Dillon Road to Thousand Palms Rd. 26 traffic accidents in 2007, 36 in 2008 so far.

- g. CSA 104: A special meeting is set for 9/13 at 9 am at the Chamber building. Need to determine new meeting dates, and review changes to policies on how dollars are spent per Riverside County. Roads must now be surveyed before resurfacing. There is also one open Board position, interested applicants should talk with Lynda Gregory.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. Citizens on Patrol: John reiterated that this program needs more volunteer drivers.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. General Plan Amendments: Mike Harrod, Principal Planner for County of Riverside gave an overview of pending amendments. He reiterated that these are still in the review stage, and Sky Valley Council and residents should send comments to Supervisor Roy Wilson. The Council has received many letters and emails, all in opposition of these amendments, and any amendments that change the lot sizes to less than 5-acres, bring in any commercial development, and any amendments that seek to change the rural nature of Sky Valley. This correspondence will be forwarded to Supervisor Wilson.

- *899/Dillon Road and Ford Ave.* Amendment is for 32 acres of commercial retail. County staff recommended declining this on July 9, and suggested approving only 5 acres. Goes for Board approval in October. A motion was made for the SVCC to decline approval of this amendment; Casserly/Flanders. APPROVED. Council to send a letter to Supervisor Wilson.
- *938/Sky Ridge and 20th Ave.* Amendment is for 39 acres to be sub-divided into 2-acre sites. County staff recommended declining this, and the Planning Commission has continued it until 10/1. A motion was made for the SVCC to decline approval of this amendment; Casserly/Flanders. APPROVED. Council to send a letter to Supervisor Wilson.
- *993/Bennett Rd and 19th.* Amendment is for 59 acres to be sub-divided into 1-acre lots (currently the sites are zoned for 10-acre lots). County staff recommended declining this, and it goes back to the Planning Commission on 9/17. The public is welcome to attend the session and make comments. A motion was made for the SVCC to decline approval of this amendment; Casserly/Flanders. APPROVED. Council to send a letter to Supervisor Wilson.
- The council discussed the need to be more watchful during the amendment phase of the General Planning, by checking the county

website at rctlma.org. It was suggested that one Council person be put in charge of this, no one volunteered, and a comment was made that it is the County' responsibility to inform the Council. To be discussed at a later date.

- b. Rural Village Overlay: John Lee from the Riverside County Planning Commission presented a slideshow of how the County assesses and review amendments for the Rural Village Overlay. A handout was available for review. There is a new review software being used, Spatial Analysis, that allows the Planning Commission to better assess changes and the impact of suggested amendments. Interested residents are encouraged to contact the Planning Commission, attend open meetings, and review the handout for more info. A motion was made for the Council to send a letter to Supervisor Wilson and the Planning Commission to indicate that the Council and residents at the meeting are not in favor of any major changes to the current overlay, specifically as it relates to keeping lot sizes at no less than 5 acres, little or no commercial development, and maintaining the rural nature of Sky Valley. Casserly/Flanders. APPROVED.
- c. Bus Service To Sky Valley: Mikel Oglesby, General Manager of Sunline addressed the group about the possibility of reinstating bus service to Sky Valley. He noted that it was cancelled over 2 years ago due to lack of ridership (there must be 20 or more riders per line per day to make it feasible). He is interested in hearing from residents and possibly fielding a survey to residents about their interest in bus service. He (and his colleague Eunice) agreed to work with Lynda and Supervisor Wilson's office to send out a survey, possibly in the next newsletter. There was a question about securing grants, and he advised that the community has to initiate the process, and they are for a limited timeframe, so ridership must grow to keep the service. There may also be other pilot programs that can be directed to this are, provided there is interest and riders. To be discussed at the next meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. IID Presentation on Copper Theft: Marion Champion and Tony DeZago presented a slideshow on this topic, showcasing the need for more community vigilance as it ends up costing residents in increased rates. 1 in every 3 crimes is metal theft. It is a federal offence, and anyone seeing a crime in process should call 800)303-7756 or the police.
- b. Proposed Cell Tower/PP23328: This proposal is on hold currently and will be addressed at the October meeting.
- c. Dillon Road Communities Fall Newsletter: Articles are due to Lynda by 9/19. Suggestions include Disaster Preparedness, Info on the new Hay Program and Volunteers for the Emergency Team. A question was asked if USGS could come present at a Council meeting regarding seismic activity; Lynda to set up.

10. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Sky Valley Road Database: A report was made available along with a map. Project is in process.
- b. Whitewater/Dillon Corridor Regional Trails: Julie Casserly is the representative for this, and had nothing new to report. A public hearing is in the planning phase, possibly set for mid-October.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- a. Trash Service: Burrtec to come to the next meeting for open discussion.
- b. Proposed Cell Tower
- c. BLM Update on Windmills.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**: With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Flanders/Casserly. APPROVED. The next meeting is set for October 14 at 6 pm.

END

DRAFT #1

*Respectfully Submitted by Stephanie Greene, Recording Secretary
September 30, 2008*