

THOUSAND PALMS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Thousand Palms Community Center
31189 Robert Road, Thousand Palms, CA 92276
Find these minutes on line at www.rivco4.org
3-24-2022


	In Attendance:	X	Christopher Mitchell , Chairman
		X	Bill Senso , Vice Chairman
		X	Patricia Saleh , Secretary
		X	Alice Tibbets , Council Member—In attendance but incommunicado
		X	Samantha Wright-Watts , Council Member
		X	Alexis Perez , Liaison to 4th District Supervisor Perez, 760-863-8211
	Call to Order:		Chairman Christopher Mitchell opened the meeting at 6:04 PM. The Pledge of Alligiance was recited. Secretary Patricia Saleh-Swaim called the roll. Mitchell asked for a vote to approve the minutes. Minutes accepted as written.
	Council Reports:		<p>Bill Senso The Chamber had a successful mixer last month, and next month there will be a mixer on April 13 at the Spaghetti Factory. Joint mixer will be May 11 at the PS Air Museum. 5:30 to 7:30—At the door it will be \$20 a head. If purchased in advance it will be at a reduced price.</p> <p>Mitchell said that a resident presented him with concern about the fringe-toed lizard.</p>
	Staff Reports:		<p>Alexis Perez reporting : Updates: DRD property on Robert Road. Property was acquired under ordinance 360 in conjunction with the approval to construct the Workforce Development affordable housing on Robert Road. Mitchell said that if funding is the problem impeding the maintenance of the project, he is hoping that the Supervisor’s Office can help with the funding. Ana Velasquez responded that she did not know about the maintenance problem. Mitchell said that there are funds to maintain the property.</p> <p>Element 7 cannabis manufacturing and distribution was denied. Alexis said that regarding the tour that the Council was supposed to get of the project when it was started has not occurred because it was denied. Alexis did not have further information on it.</p> <p>Cathedral City sphere of influence update. Perez reported that there is nothing happening with the project. Stone Philips has not updated her on the sphere.</p>
	Sheriff’s Dept.		<p>Sargeant Gelinis reporting Gelinis said that he did not get the notification soon enough so he could not get the stats requested from year to year for this meeting. She will get the update for next meeting. Senso asked if the Sheriff’s Dept. or Code Enforcement is in charge of homelessness on Monterey. Gelinis said it is Code Enforcement. Senso remembers that the homeless camp was cleaned up and now they’re back. Gelinis said that people got sick from the food at the barbecue at the gas station on Ramon and Varner, so it was checked out. It was discovered that there was bacteria in the food but they’ve cleaned it up and right now they’re following the ordinances. Fire Dept said the barbecue is in compliance. Mitchell said that Highway Patrol would have to handle people lining up in the street.</p>

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	Hwy Patrol		NA
	Sheriff's Dept.		Sgt. Rick Dominguez not in attendance
	CHP		NA
	Fire Dept:		Division Co-Chief Timothy Bingham reporting:
			Fire Department had over 500 cases so far this year and response time is up. He confirmed that Code Enforcement is in charge of the problem of the Taco stands.
	Code Enforcement:		NA
	Desert Recreation Department:		<p>Ana Velasquez reporting: Community Safety Program going well. How to report crime and more must include address. Easter event will be held on April 16 from 10 am to 1 pm. Day of the Child (Dia de los Ninos) will be presented with the Library from 10 to 12 April 20 from 10 am to 12 pm with Ballet Folklorico at about 10 am. Homeless encampments are being discovered out in the park. There were about 5 people sleeping around the snack room area. They moved but came back into the Pavilion area.</p> <p>New fiscal year budget is underway. She is pushing that lighting around the walking trail be increased. The way DRD plans her events 4 to 6 months in advance, she was expecting a better turnout. There were about 300 people using the park on Tuesday evening. She said it shows they were back at work etc.</p>
	Cathedral City Econ Develop.		NA
	New Business:		<p>Acrasure Arena and Firebird Hockey representative Shannon Miller reporting: Miller offered a video but it would not present. They believe they will be the crown jewel of the Coachella Valley. They will provide live concerts, hockey and basketball, wrestling, Disney on Ice. They will have a professional men's hockey team, the farm team for the NHL Seattle Kraken. A good percentage will head into the professional arena.</p> <p>Oakview Group is the largest group producing sports events in the country. The Seattle Kraken, Live Nation and Berger Foundation are joining to help produce this stadium. Oakview Group presents the most sustainable and workable stadiums in the world. Their retail store is on El Paseo in Palm Desert. Miller is a former hockey coach in Canada and moved here 7 years ago. She has begun to teach as many children in the Coachella Valley as possible, 2500 students. It's a simple game to teach, she said, and she is working on the grassroots level. The teachers are going into the schools to help kids understand hockey. Varner and Cook were built to handle 4 times the traffic that the arena will produce, as much as 50,000 people at a time. Mitchell asked if there are plans for hotels or housing around the arena. She said there are housing developments being discussed but it is not the purview of Oakview Group.</p>

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NEW BUSINESS (Continued)		<p>Acrasure Arena and Firebird Hockey representative Shannon Miller reporting (Continued): There will be a December 2022 opening of the arena. Saleh asked how Varner can handle 50,000 attendees now. Miller said that there are three entrances on Varner Road. Their events are in non-peak hours, not at 5 or 5:30 but later on at night. Saleh asked how the traffic is to be routed so people going into Ivey or Tri-Palms after a performance at the McCallum or dinner with friends can get into their residences. She said that they did a presentation at Ivey last week. Oakview Group is not going to be responsible to redirect the traffic flow. It would be fair to have the Transportation Department explain to the Council how the traffic will be routed. To avoid the residential areas. Mitchell further inquired about the Portola Overpass news, and he asked Alexis to bring the Transportation Department to the Council for the next meeting so these questions can be asked.</p> <p>Ana Velasquez of DRD said they had a hockey clinic and it was well received. Miller said they also donated a lot of hockey equipment to Mecca children, etc.</p> <p>Mitchell said that he'd like to see the Highway Patrol and Sheriff's Department at the meeting as well. And, law enforcement may have to patrol the parking lot, etc. There is a nightmare of traffic of Indian Wells Tennis Gardens, and he would like to have a report of how the traffic will be controlled. Miller said they are not responsible for the routing of transportation. There are 12 people involved in organizing the arena events. Mitchell said that the operator of the event usually works with the Hwy Patrol and Sheriff's Department. Contact email for Oakview Group: smiller@oakviewgroup.com</p>
	Meet. Schd. 2022:	May 26, September 22, November 17.
	Public Comments:	<p>Leti of Pete's Automotive spoke to thank the Council for help with the homeless problem near her business and an abandoned RV off Monterey nextdoor to her business. Code Enforcement was very responsive she said, and she wanted to thank Officer Raphael Espinosa. He was out with a tow truck to tow away the RV. It looks so much cleaner and safer, she said.</p> <p>Audience member Sandra asked about the off-road survey taken last week. Mitchell asked if Alexis knows whether the results of the survey are known. She said they are not. He said that he'd like them on the next agenda.</p>
	Agenda Items for Next Meeting:	<p>Results of the Off Road participation survey. IID Community Solar report Dispensaries in the business park areas of Thousand Palms previously approved. Traffic Plan for the Arena being line item Number 9 as a permanent addition to the agenda for the next year. Portola Overpass progress and negotiation with Union Pacific Railroad.</p>
	Adjournment	<p>Saleh-Swaim moved to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Mitchell seconded. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: May 26, 2022</p>
		<p>Respectfully Submitted,</p> <p> Patricia Saleh, Thousand Palms Community Council Secretary</p>