

JUNIPER HILLS TOWN COUNCIL

juniperhills-ca.org
General Meeting
December 6, 2006
MINUTES

The **General Meeting** of the Juniper Hills Town Council was called to order at the Juniper Hills Community Building 31401 106th St East, Juniper Hills, CA 93543 on **December 6, 2006, 7:06 P.M.** by the President, Mr. Pomeroy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Weatherbie.

BOARD MEMBER'S ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

ABSENT

Vance Pomeroy
Suzanne Richter
Don Pierce
Dave Reichel
Douglas DiJulio
Michael Weatherbie

Valerie Zera (excused)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for October 4, 2006, were approved as presented.

TREASURER

The report was presented and accepted without comment. No bills were presented at this time. The \$300 donation from Randall and Billie Dickey was acknowledged. It was requested that Ms. Zera send them a letter of thanks.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Pomeroy mentioned the press release from the County about graffiti removal. He also mentioned the Emil discussion about the Devil's Punchbowl sign that was the Eagle Scout project of Kenny Lewis, and Kenny and his father were thanks for the work done. Mr. Pomeroy also commented on the email discussion about the proposed religious retreat project on Piani Road. Norm Hickling reported that the very latest information is that it may now be a housing tract of 80 -100 homes, on about 160 acres. He said there will be a "one-stop" meeting of all County parties involved in the project. It is essentially a pre-application meeting, and is not open to the public. He emphasized that no permits have been applied for at this point in time. Considerable discussion ensued on this topic

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Juniper Hills Community Association (<http://www.juniperhills-ca.org/jhca/index.htm>) -
December 16 Santa's Visit

Devil's Punchbowl County Park (<http://www.devils-punchbowl.com>) -
December 14 Geminid Meteor Shower viewing

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

None

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Norm Hickling, representative for the 5th District Supervisor's office, reported that work is being done on Hwy. 138. He also talked about a team approach toward contacting all Town Councils, as a part of wanting to clean up/spruce up the area. All Town Councils will be contacted individually.

From the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Ferrell talked about the impounding of a lot of junk-type items that had been reported to them. He talked about the Emil from Valerie Zera (which had been sent to all members of the Town Council) and the follow-up about illegal burns in certain areas near Juniper Hills. He also explained in detail, what led up to the recent arrest of one of the residents of Juniper Hills. He passed out to all Town Council members, and to those in the audience, a folder containing the "Citizens Guide to County Services" - which contains the phone numbers, Emil addresses and other information about the many, many services offered by the county - plus three other multi-page informational brochures about the County and the Board of Supervisors.

Laura Walters, Community Services Representative of the L.A. County Fire Department told us about a new fire station (#193), which will also have a paramedic squad. It will be located Avenue R and 56th Street, near Dominic Masari Park, and will be operative in mid-2008. It was verified that burn permits for locations south of the aqueduct are given only for ceremonial reasons. She was asked for verification of firefighting tactics as they apply to wilderness area fires.

Discussion ensued about the requirement for shooting permits, since shooting has been heard in the Juniper Hills area. The question centered on whether or not the property was private or public. Norm Hickling requested that the probable address of the shooting - perhaps just an APN - be sent to him, for further investigation.

Deputy Ferrell reported that the Department is increasing the staffing of unincorporated areas to the same amount as contractual cities. There was a long discussion about sheriff deputy staffing and response time. One suggestion/consideration is to have substations at areas remote from Palmdale, to improve the response times.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

Speakers have still not been arranged for the next two meetings (February 7, April 4) It was suggested that representatives of various water drilling companies be present and give a brief talk at a meeting, so as to not endorse a particular person. The topic was left open. Ms. Richter reminded the Town Council that Mr. Negron has agreed to be the speaker to the June meeting. She also stated she would like to have a repeat presentation about earthquakes. Douglas said he would continue his work on getting a speaker on bighorn sheep. Norm Hickling was suggested by the JHCA to be a speaker, and he said he would be willing to do so. Mr. Pomeroy will continue to make contact with the Forest Service. Discussion will continue via Emil.

Comment was made that the Juniper Hills in not receiving the proper reportage in the Valley Press, in comparison with Littlerock. Norm Hickling suggested that Veronica Lopez, at the A. V. Press be contacted. Mr. Pierce agreed to contact her.

REPORTS

Election Committee

The search continues for volunteers to serve on the committee. Jack Milburn was mentioned as a possibility. **"Time is fleeting - we need to do something."**

Resource Development Committee

Lori Weatherbie gave an extensive report about results and feedback comments about the Wine Tasting event on November 4, which included recommended changes if the event is held again. A copy of her report is included with the minutes of this meeting. Lori expressed her willingness to serve as chairperson if the event is held again.

It was moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Ms. Richter, that the event be held again next year, and that Lori be the chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. DiJulio, seconded by Ms. Richter, that the Town Council thank Lori and her committee on behalf of the Town Council. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. DiJulio, seconded by Ms. Richter, that the Town Council pay all invoices relating to the Wine Tasting event. The motion passed unanimously.

As a part of the discussion about the Wine Tasting event, it was agreed that more tables are needed. It was moved by Ms. Richter, seconded by Mr. Weatherbie, that two card tables be purchased and donated to the Association. The tables are to match the present tables, and the motion authorizes an expenditure of \$25 - \$30 per table. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Pomeroy agreed to purchase the tables.

Community Standards Committee

Mr. Pomeroy reported that the county-chaired meeting (presentation of the Community Standards document to the community) appeared to be a great success. The overall consensus of those present tonight, who were at the meeting held by the County on November 16 - was that the meeting went well. The County presenter accepted recognized shortcomings in the Document, and will have them included in the Document. The next meeting, with the Regional Planning Commission, will probably occur in February, followed by the presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Pomeroy will keep us advised of the exact date as planning for the meeting becomes firm. Mr. Weatherbie commented that he had been told that the Town Council "ran" the meeting, and he explained to the person that the meeting was run by the County, not the Town Council. Some members of the Town Council did speak briefly, as did others in the audience.

Also discussed at this Town Council meeting was the meaning and usage of the words "public road" and "private road". If it is a public road, it means that a public entity is in charge of its maintenance. If it is a private road, it is taken care of by local owners, and any disagreements are civil matters. Use of a private road by the public is permitted by right-of-way granted by the owner. There was considerable discussion on this topic.

Multi-Use Trail Committee

Since Ms. Zera knew in advance that she would not be present, she sent a report by Emil to all members of the Town Council, plus printed copies of the report were available at the meeting. The report is attached to these minutes.

JHCA Liaison Report

Mr. Pierce reported that new members were elected to the Board of Directors at the Association's semi-annual General Meeting, which was held this past Saturday. Officers for 2007 will be elected at the Board's meeting this coming Wednesday. No events are planned for the month of January, but event planning for 2007 will be a part of the next Board meeting.

When the Association produces its next Newsletter, the Town council would like to include certain topics in the Newsletter: the upcoming Town Council election, speakers for future meetings, and the proposed Community Standards Document. Mr. Pierce agreed to produce a draft of the news articles and circulate them among the Town Council members by Emil - prior to the articles being printed in the Newsletter. It was moved by Mr. DiJulio, second by Ms. Richter that the Town Council pay an appropriate and proportional cost of the printing and postage. The motion passed unanimously.

ARTC Report

Mr. Pomeroy reported that two ARTC meetings have occurred since we last met, but he did not attend the most recent meeting. There was considerable discussion, at the October ARTC meeting and at this meeting of the Town Council, about the effect of the Brown Act. Mr. Pomeroy insists that the Act does not apply to the Juniper Hills Town Council, but it apparently does apply, due to the County's response to the situation at Agua Dulce. Since we need to abide by the Brown Act, it will hinder communication, and we need to be careful as to what is said or done by Emil. Norm Hickling gave several examples of how the Act hinders casual meetings of members of various elected Boards. His comments led to discussion as to what can and cannot be done when members of a Board are at the same location at the same time.

As to hauled water, no decision has been made yet, but it appears that it will be decided that the law as it presently exists will not apply to single-families, after proving that drilling had been unsuccessfully attempted. There was considerable discussion on this topic .

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Street Sign Program

Mr. DiJulio still has not been able to make contact with the proper people, and as a result cannot give a complete report.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

No one has been found who is willing to be chair of the committee. It was mentioned that one person may be interested in filling the chair position, after the beginning of the new year. This item will remain under Unfinished Business.

Adopt-A-Highway

Mr. Pierce reported that the Town Council now has received all paperwork, including the permit to trespass on the county rights-of-way along the roads. Norm Hickling asked that an Emil be sent to him - stating all the details of what has transpired to date.

NEW BUSINESS

JHTC Signage

As a part of the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that the proposed sign telling about Town Council events could be made a part of the signs that might be provided by the County - the signs that announce arrival in the Juniper Hills area. Discussion about design and construction of a Town Council sign centered on the speed at which a vehicle travels when passing the sign. The topic (size, type, location of signs) remains open.

Littlerock TC Elections

Lori Weatherbie reported that no advertising of their election is required, since they feel they receive sufficient coverage of the event via articles in the local newspapers, eliminating the need to advise everyone of the upcoming Town Council elections. The Littlerock TC holds its elections in November (at the time of major elections) at one of the schools within Town Council's boundaries. She suggested the Juniper Hills Town Council consider changing its bylaws to allow the election to be in November.

AV Press TC News

It was suggested the the Town Council provide regular articles and information to the AV Press to "keep our name in the news". It was suggested that certain AV Press personnel be invited to next year's Wine Tasting event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Pierce - Recording Secretary