

JUNIPER HILLS TOWN COUNCIL

juniperhills-ca.org

General Meeting

April 5, 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 **April 5, 2006, 7:02 P.M.** by the President, Mr. Pomeroy

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. DiJulio

BOARD MEMBER'S ATTENDANCE

PRESENT	ABSENT
Vance Pomeroy	Suzanne Richter (excused)
Don Pierce	
Dave Reichel	
Douglas DiJulio	
Michael Weatherbie	
Valerie Zera	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of March 1, 2006, were unanimously approved with a single correction: Mr. Pomeroy said that on Page 3, under **PWD**, he used he word "opined" and not the word "suggested".

TREASURER

Mr. Reichel reported that the balance in the Treasury is "the same as last month", and no donations had been received. Mr. Weatherbie presented two bills, one from the USPO for P.O. Box rental and one for usage of the Web Site. Ms. Zera moved that we accept the bills, Mr. DiJulio seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Pomeroy thanked the Weatherbies for having supported the Town Council by paying for the Web Site in the past.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Juniper Hills Community Association (<http://www.juniperhills-ca.org/jhca/index.htm>) -
April 8 Work Day (and Trash removal day)
April 15 Easter Egg Hunt
April 16 Easter Sunrise Service
May 13 Pancake Breakfast
Devil's Punchbowl County Park (<http://www.devils-punchbowl.com>) -
April 15 Moonlight Hike
April 22 Lyrid Meteor Shower viewing

Guests and Speakers

Chief Joey Reed, Battalion #17, introduced some of the other firemen present, including the captains of Station 79 (Pearblossom), and Station #92 (Littlerock) - the stations that respond to our needs and also the stations that do brush inspections. Chief Reed explained that we are in a hazardous area, and we need to have our land cleared by a certain date. He spoke about the items we as residents of the Hill need to know and do to assist in the prevention and control of fires and what to do to assist during a time of fire. Chief Reed pointed out that when there is a major fire, engines will be responding from all over the state and country.

Rudy Turk, a fireman/paramedic with the Los Angeles Fire Department, and a resident of Juniper Hills spoke on the topic of what we can do to reduce the hazards on our property that assist in the spread of fire once it has started. He said that the density and volume of the "materials" is the primary concern. He showed us a video that demonstrated the flammability of some of the types of bushes and trees that we have on our property, and how a fire creates its own wind. Rudy offered to inspect any properties and let the owner know what to do to make it safe.

Next came representatives for bicycle races that occur in the Juniper Hills area - Bob Baggeley and Chris Stapleton - Santa Clarita Velo (Chris is the president and Bob is race director, Devil's Punchbowl Road Race) and Tommy Nelson - California Bicycle Racing. Bob talked first - about upcoming races planned to occur in the Juniper Hills Loop Road. Mr. Pomeroy and visitors in the audience expressed concern that bicycle racers do not always follow the "rules of the road" - for example, they cross double yellow lines. Knowledge of the fact that a race is in effect is evident, when someone is entering the community area (coming up the hill), but is not necessarily evident if a person enters a "main road" from a dirt road, when already in the Juniper Hills area. It was pointed out by Deputy Engles that bicycle riders have equal right to the use of the traffic lane, and they do indeed have the right to travel two or more abreast, as long as they stay in the one lane. Bob Baggeley pointed out that if any rider at any time breaks a rule of the road, the rider is immediately disqualified from the race.

Mr. Pomeroy mentioned that it would be a good idea to post notice of the race several days in advance, so that the "locals" would be aware in advance of the event. The Velo agreed that they would be doing this, and the Town Council said it would also post notice on its reader-boards.

Deputy Engles pointed out that a bicycle group has the right to obtain a permit right down to the last minute prior to the deadline, and we, the Town Council, have no right to complain. It was mentioned by the Velo that a bicycle race is "dynamic" and it might be a problem when a pack of bicycles going about 50 mph come upon a horse-trailer-pulling truck, which is going much slower.

For the next race, which will occur on April 29, it will begin on Longview Road at Pallet Creek road, with a rest stop at the intersection of Longview and Juniper Hills Roads. Members of the community are encouraged to participate by assisting in the race. It was suggested by the Town Council that corner marshals, at such places as Cima Mesa Road and Tumbleweed Road might be helpful.

A major complaint of local residents is that the people who come from "down below" don't realize that where they are parking is in actually someone's driveway. This needs to be pointed out and the actions rectified. This not just desert; it is a residential area.

COMMUNICATION

Nothing received in the mail, but the Council did receive information about a person willing to provide drawing and art lessons - the daughter of a person in the community.

REPORTS

Future Speakers - Confirmation and Suggestions for future

May 3 Officer Henry Ross, CHP
June 7 Dr. Andrea Donnellon on Earthquakes

Resource Development Committee

Juniper Hills T-Shirts are available for \$14 each - some of the Council members are taking several. Lori W. and the committee will deal with the accounting.

Wine Tasting Event - Purchasing of various items has begun and local artists are being contacted.

Community Standards Committee

A meeting will be held on Monday, April 17th, assuming that Community Building is available on that date. This hopefully will be the last meeting before the County takes over in holding meetings with the community.

Fire Safe Committee

This topic was sufficiently covered during the talks by the guest speakers.

Ms. Zera mentioned we had received the resignation of Lori Zink as Chair of the Fire Safe Committee, since she is moving to Arizona. Ms. Zera moved, Mr. DiJulio seconded and it was unanimously approved to accept the resignation. When the question came up as to who would write a letter of thanks for her service, Ms. Zera offered to fulfill the position of Corresponding Secretary and send the letter. Since there was no objection to Ms. Zera's offer, it was accepted.

Multi-Use Trail Investigation Ad Hoc Committee

No report

JHCA Liaison Report

This item will be covered later in the meeting during the topic, "Trash Clean-up Day".

ARTC Report

Douglas DiJuilo attended the most recent ARTC meeting. The discussion at the ARTC meeting centered around the concern of some citizens who reported that a county employee, Richard Wagner, is enforcing an old EPA policy about arsenic in the water, but the rule applies to municipal water systems. This person has gone so far as to deny building permits until the well has been drilled and tested for arsenic level; if the water coming out of the water does not meet standards, the permit will be denied, even denying the possibility of treating the water so that it meets standards. Mr. Pomeroy wants to check into the problem further, checking on the source of this person's authority.

Separately, Mr. Argo said the ARTC is looking for people who have been "damaged" by the hauled water issue, e.g., people who were not told about the policy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Potable Water and Hauling

This topic has been on the agenda for many months. In the future it will appear only as necessary in the ARTC Report. It was moved by Ms. Zera, seconded by Mr. DiJuilo, and carried unanimously that it be removed and appear only as needed.

Non-Profit Status

No report

Meeting Schedule Change

On the subject of a possible change of meeting dates, Mr. Weatherbie. moved and Mr. Pierce seconded the motion that January and July be deleted from the meeting schedule, because a meeting can always be called whenever needed. The motion was modified by Mr. Weatherbie, with the same person seconding, to delete all odd-numbered months. Mr. Weatherbie further pointed out the meeting can, per the Bylaws, be called at any time. Reports from Committees can be sent and discussed via e-mail and then any necessary action can be taken during public meetings. The process could function something like a consent calendar. Mr. DiJuilo wants the community to be aware that we are here to "do whatever we are to do". The odd month dates could be available for non-speaker meetings in which committee reports are considered. The motion was carried unanimously. Since a speaker has already been arranged for the May meeting, Mr. Pierce moved, Mr. DiJulio seconded that a meeting be held in May this year. The motion was carried unanimously.

Change meeting day of month

It was moved by Ms. Zera, seconded by Mr. DiJuilo, to keep the meeting dates as they presently are - the second Wednesday of the month. After lengthy discussion, in which Mr. Pomeroy and Mr. DiJulio expressed their reasons why they preferred a day other than Wednesday, it was moved by Mr. Reichel, seconded by Mr. DiJuilo to table the discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trash Clean-up Day

Mr. Pierce discussed the coordination with the JHCA Work Day on April 8. An article appeared in the Community Association newsletter, outlining what can and cannot be placed in the dumpsters. In addition, a sign-up sheet was passed among members of the Town Council to have someone at the dumpsters, in two hour segments for Saturday and Sunday, assuring that the correct (and not incorrect, e.g. tires and hazardous materials) items are placed in the dumpsters.

As a separate topic, Mr. Pierce pointed out that he had received a letter from the County Dept. of Public Works, which mentioned that trash pickup will become mandatory, via franchise operation. Therefore we should respond to the postcard and let them know what we want. It appears that some members of the Town Council, and some people in the audience had not received the letter and postcard. A phone number was given out to everyone so they could call and get the card, if desired.

Adopt-A-Highway

Mr. Pierce is coordinating with Frank Cook, of the County Roads Department, to set up the program. Mr. Cook said that it is up to the Town Council to decide on what segment of the road which they want to "adopt". Ms. Zera moved, Mr. DiJuilo seconded, and it was passed unanimously that we adopt the segment of Longview Road - from Ft. Tejon Road to Tumbleweed Road.

NEW BUSINESS

ABC licenses

A meeting was held in the Antelope Valley in reference to the topic. Discussion was tabled, and the item will remain under New Business.

Agenda Distribution

Agendas are placed in the boxes in front of the Community Association and at the sign location on Longview Road. There is no other need for distribution.

Request to Speak

Rob Ferrell was asked by the Sheriff's patrol to pass out a handout sheet explaining the reason for the requested sales tax increase.

Ms. Zera mentioned the results from a phone call relating to an altercation. Apparently there were several misunderstandings that were involved. It was pointed out that any resident can contact the county directly if and when they have a concern, and do not need to go through the Town Council.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.