

**County of San Diego**  
**BORREGO SPRINGS COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday February 5, 2015 at 4:30 P.M.**  
**Borrego Springs High School Community Room**  
**2281 Diegueno Road, Borrego Springs, California**

**Administrative Items**

- A. Chair R. Caldwell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
- B. Roll Call of Members. All members were present: Tom Beltran, Rich Caldwell, Dr. Sylvia Caldwell, Rebecca Falk, Judy Haldeman, Bonnie Petrach and Sam Webb.
- C. Approval of the Agenda. Falk moved to approve the agenda; Beltran seconded. All were in favor.
- D. Members' review of maps and other printed materials for meeting: Not applicable.
- E. Consideration and approval of Minutes from the meeting(s) of January 8, 2015: No corrections were noted. Dr. S. Caldwell moved to approve; Haldeman seconded; all were in favor.
- F. Public Comment: an opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Sponsor Group on any subject matter within the group's jurisdiction that is not already on today's agenda, with a time limit of three minutes (3:00) per speaker.

David Farley commented that various properties around Borrego Springs and Ocotillo Wells where people were camping on lots illegally. Also lots were used for dumping trash. He said that this should not be tolerated. R. Caldwell said that this Sponsor Group was responsible for Ocotillo Wells as well as Borrego Springs. Webb said that he had filed a report with the County regarding a tent and port a potty on Pecos Dr and people living in a boat and RV on Anzio Dr. The people staying on Pecos Dr had left but the people were still at Anzio Dr. Anybody can call the County to report a problem. The phone number is 855-732-6332. They will need an address, parcel number or specific location of the property. A request was made for the phone number to be in the Borrego Sun.

- G. Correspondence & Chair's report:

Chair reports receiving a letter from Mr. Wicha in Ocotillo Wells regarding a cell tower. We will be receiving further information from him in the future.

R. Caldwell attended the Borrego Village Association (BVA) January 30, 2015 meeting and there is no report.

- H. Committee reports

- a. Study Groups: **Economic Development/Christmas Circle** met on January 12, 2015 and will meet again on February 9, 2015. **Parklands Dedication/Parklands Priority List** met January 30, 2015.

**Non-Action Items**

- A. Jack Light Bighorn Minor Subdivision presentation by Jim Engelke. This Conservation Subdivision is at Big Horn and Borrego Springs Road. The plan is for 60 acres of land to be donated to BWD for flood control and aquifer recharge. In exchange for this the zoning would change from 8 acres plots to 2 acre lots. This will allow for a total of 38 units to be built along with a park and community center. Falk asked if all lots will be 2 acre lots and was told yes. There are currently a total of 151 acres and 60 acres will be donated to BWD. Webb said that the BWD will still have to do mitigation and the BWD will be responsible for any flooding. There is no liability if they do nothing with the land but, if needed, they will insure it. R. Caldwell said that this development is the first project in accordance with the Community Plan. Beltran said that it is difficult to build in a wash. The Salton EIR says that almost all washes are U.S. Waters. He's not sure if deeding the land gets the

community anything that it doesn't already have. Webb asked if it is economical for the BWD. Jerry Rowling from the BWD said there are no plans to develop and if they do then extensive studies will need to be done in the future. The Group will see this proposal formally in the future.

- B. Park Lands Dedication Ordinance Priority List Committee Report presentation and first reading, for consideration for adoption March 5, 2015. Committee members are Judy Haldeman, Rich Caldwell, Bob Blum and Richard Orne. Rich Caldwell and Richard Orne made the presentation. County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) requested the plan for a park be reviewed and updated. The committee prepared the report and met with DPR to share their thoughts and learn if they were on the right track. DPR was enthusiastic and requested future collaboration. The original plan was a 16 acre site that was set aside in 2001 near the churches with a budget of \$4 million. The population forecast was for 45,000 residents but was actually 8,000. Because of this decrease the estimated amount available is \$250,000. Borrego Springs offers unique challenges such as wind, heat, solar radiation, lack of water, demographics, scatter sprawl of homes and no new developments or HOAs. There is no one responsible to sponsor or pay for the park and ongoing maintenance. The committee considered what kind of park Borrego Springs needs. They recommend an "In The Village" park. This would be a compact park, densely-planned, for all-ages, low water use, well-shaded, and wind-protected Park with unduplicated, year-round uses appropriate to area demographics, sited within and connected to the Village Core and scaled to the likely funds available. They inventoried the current recreational uses already in Borrego Springs and developed a list of other uses for this park. They include a picnic area, performance amphitheater. Board games, gardening, bocce, horseshoes, activity slab, shuffleboard, waterplay feature, basketball backboard and children play structure. Then they included the criteria for the suggested sites. They are location near to Village Core, close or on Palm Canyon Dr, existing/planned pedestrian areas, public parking, public safety, leveraging existing community investments and currently undeveloped. The Management Entity responsibility for the Park should be assumed by DPR because they have the resources necessary. The original 16 acre site was elaborate and more than the community can afford. Six sites were recommended. Site 1-1 is on Palm Canyon Drive between The Mall and Jilberto's. Site 1-2 is on Palm Canyon Dr between Hacienda Del Sol and Regales de Borrego. Site 1-3 is NW of Christmas Circle. Site 1-4 is SW of Christmas Circle. Site 1-5 is NE of Christmas Circle. And site 1-6 is SE of Christmas Circle. Sites 1-1 and 1-2 were discussed in length because they were considered best because they are on Palm Canyon Dr and already have some existing shade trees. Both areas are .75 acre. Haldeman said the original 16 acre park was too much and would cost too much so we could never move forward with it. They liked the idea of a small urban park and hopes everyone is excited. Bob Blum said that the Village Foundation had looked at the 16 acre site project and the maintenance cost was a barrier and there aren't a lot of resources. Dr. Caldwell asked about the 16 acres already set aside for a park. R. Caldwell said that County General Services could sell the land. Falk was concerned that .75 acre seemed small but understood cost was part of the decision. She was also worried that 85 feet deep that close to Palm Canyon Dr could be too shallow for a park. Falk asked how the funding would work and felt we needed more information. R. Caldwell said that DPR would run the process and the cost. It would all be subject to vote because it would be included on the property tax bills. Falk asked when a decision will be made on the location for the new library and we were told they are hoping for March. Falk asked why we are considering the report again in March 2015 and not waiting until the library decision is announced. R. Caldwell explained that it could be considered later. The recommendation is just to give DPR what the Community Group thinks would work considering the money restraints. David Farley commented that the 16 acre park wouldn't be so densely packed and there would be room for more activities. Bob Blum said that if we do a maintenance district for the new park then maybe Christmas Circle can be combined in it for more efficiency. Once the Community Group approves it then DPR will put it on the County's website for anyone to review.

### **Action Items**

Review of applications and possible recommendation to Board of Supervisors for a replacement for open seat #10, term 1/5/15 to 1/5/19. Only one application was received and approved by the County for consideration and it was submitted by David Farley. R. Caldwell asked Mr. Farley what his intention was

with serving on the Group. Mr. Farley responded that he wanted more say with the County and he is concerned about Borrego Springs. His intension is to keep this town nice. He feels there is a need for concerned citizens to become involved. When asked about his background, he said he worked as a contract employee for the City of El Monte for 30 years. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of the City of El Monte and was a Board Member for Hope House so he has experience with outreach and committees. Petrach how long he had been a resident of Borrego Springs and he said since 2008. Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to appoint David Farley for seat #10. Six ayes. Dr. Caldwell abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m. after Dr. Caldwell so moved, R. Caldwell seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Bonnie Petrach, Secretary

The next regular meeting will be held March 5, 2015 at 4:30 P.M. at the Borrego Springs High School Community Room, 2281 Diegueno Road, Borrego Springs, CA 92004. **If this Agenda is revised, a revised copy will be posted 72 or more hours prior to the meeting. The final Agenda may include additional Administrative or Non-Action items.** For further information contact the Chair at [Rich@BorregoValleyInn.com](mailto:Rich@BorregoValleyInn.com) or (760) 767-3319. Address all U.S. Mail to: Rich Caldwell, Chair, Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group, P.O. Box 1371, Borrego Springs, CA 92004-1371.

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