County of San Diego
BORREGO SPRINGS COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday May 1, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.
Borrego Springs High School Community Room
2281 Diegueno Road, Borrego Springs, California

Administrative Items

A. The meeting was called to order by R Caldwell at 4:30 p.m.

B. Members present: Tom Beltran, Rich Caldwell, Dr. Sylvia Caldwell, Rebecca Falk, Judy Haldeman, Sam Webb and Bonnie Petrach.

C. Approval of the Agenda. J. Haldeman moved to approve the agenda; R. Falk seconded. Motion to approve: six yes, one abstained (Bonnie Petrach is not voting until her Sponsor Group training is completed).

D. Members’ review of maps and other printed materials for meeting: Frank Arebalo, San Diego County Department of Public Works, reviewed the “ROADWAY MAINTENANCE PRIORITIES”, and reviewed the grading system for repair/resurfacing of roads in Borrego.

E. Consideration and approval of Minutes from the meetings of February 6, 2014, and April 3, 2014. Haldeman moved to approve both sets of minutes, Dr. S Caldwell seconded, including corrections suggested by R. Falk. Motion passed with six votes, B.Petrach abstained.

F. Public Comment: Several concerned citizens voiced their objection about a “Mobile Home/Manufactured Home” being built at 408 Verbena Drive, and stated that the home did not meet the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, (CCR’s) for that community. The Sponsor Group suggested they call Code Enforcement. This matter will be placed on next month’s agenda to consider the request that the Sponsor Group take action.

G. Correspondence: April 1, information received from Mr. Arebalo and Mr. Long from DPW about the roadway and capital improvements project. Chair Rich Caldwell met with the Borrego Village Association, the Ad-Hoc Committee to review Roadway Maintenance, and the Economic Vitalization Committee. He received correspondence on April 24, 2014 from Mr. Berkley and Jerry Rowland on April 25 and 28, 2014, regarding a water credits issue affecting fallowing farmland in Borrego.

H. Committee reports: Park Buffer Zone, Mark Jorgenson is preparing a report for the Park Buffer Zone Special Study Area Study Group to review at next month’s meeting. J. Haldeman stated they have a good group of about six members on the Christmas Circle and Economic Vitalization Study Group and will meet next week. Farmlands Study Group didn’t meet since receiving a reply from the County on questions that were submitted about county policies.
Action Items

A. Beltran/R. Caldwell committee report and recommendations: The Ad-Hoc Committee reviewed County Roadway Maintenance Priority Plans and the Department of Public Works (DPW) Capital Improvements Projects Priority List. County suggestions for future work include curbs and sidewalks on the North and South side of Palm Canyon and Christmas Circle; a merging lane circle at Palm Canyon, Country Club and Ocotillo; and improved bicycle paths and an island on Palm Canyon with accessibility.

Falk moved to approve both the DPW capital improvements projects priority list as prepared and submitted by the Ad-Hoc Committee and also the County maintenance priority list of pavement and roadway repairs as submitted by DPW with no changes. Haldeman seconded. Six ayes, with Petrach abstaining, passed the motion to approve both recommendations.

B. Review and action on PDS2014-MUP-14-011 Major Use Permit | ATT cell project at 4875 Highway 78: A representative from ATT presented maps and charts. The proposed seventy foot cell tower will look like a “water tower” and be located on the back side of the Ironwood R.V. Park. ATT still needs to comply with a few more requirements before the major use permit is issued. There is no known visual disturbance at this location. Dr. S. Caldwell moved to approve as submitted, J. Haldeman seconded. The motion passed with six votes approving and one abstention (Petrach).

C. Discussion: Mr. Berkley requested that the Sponsor Group send a letter to the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Development Services supporting his request that the County be more lenient in interpreting their water credits policy for fallowing farmland to allow credits for a farm that had its crop growth interrupted but which has been farmed for many years, and is still being farmed. Chair R. Caldwell drafted a 3 page letter in support of Mr. Berkley’s request, addressed to Mr. Mark Wardlaw, Director of PDS, as it would result in fallowing a farm that is actively cultivated, thereby reducing water use in the Valley. A motion was brought to the table to accept the letter written by R. Caldwell. J. Haldeman moved, S. Webb seconded the motion. R Falk recused herself from the discussion and vote. The motion passed with R. Caldwell, S. Caldwell, Webb and Haldeman approving, Beltran disapproving, and Petrach abstaining.

Non-Action Items

A. None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. after R Falk so moved, seconded by T Beltran, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be held June 5, 2014 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 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.