

The Movie Colony

Neighborhood Organization

March 13, 2005

Annual Business Meeting

Advisors Present: Diane Ahlstrom, Warren Weber, Dick Mandell, Allen Keeney

Members Present: Approximately 45 members were present at the business meeting, along with seven speakers, for a head count of 52 attending.

Call to Order: Diane Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 1:09 a.m. She welcomed the members present and introduced the various speakers and agenda, highlighting the main concerns of residents. She outlined the activities of the advisors during the past year and the concerns that are still high on the list that advisors will address in the coming months. A number of the most needy streets were paved with more planned in the future, but unfortunately not under the 2005 budget, as indicated by David Barakian. The house on Alejo that had become a nuisance underwent a training burn, and the hotels on Indian Canyon have made progress toward renovation.

PRESENTATIONS

Gary Jeandron, Chief, Palm Springs Police Department. Chief Jeandron discussed the areas of staffing and crime. He introduced Lieutenant Al Franz, newly promoted, who was number one on the list for promotion. Crime, he indicated, tends to cluster on Palm Canyon Boulevard. They have a unit that goes to the south to the high-crime areas. Crime has gone south on Palm and is less to the north. When crime is driven from one area it tends to go to another. We displace crime rather than eradicating it. The schools have a pseudo-DARE program for drug prevention. Officers hold after-school programs emphasizing prevention.

Violent crime is down, property crime not down enough. Vehicle crime shows that auto theft is bad, but within the norm for the state. With Proposition 36, we don't put drug addicts in jail any more, so they are not as motivated to change. If they don't want to change, they won't. Gangs in Indio went to counseling to avoid jail, but didn't show their desire to really change. Drug Court has been successful because people who go there want to change.

Too many false alarms take up a lot of our time. Ninety-nine and 94/100 percent are false and we had over 5,000. Twenty man-hours a day are taken up on that alone. Traffic calming is outside the jurisdiction of the police. But, we have a lot of accidents.

We have the best officers we can get and use a lot of volunteers such as with the C. O. P. (Citizens On Patrol) program. They look for crime and call it in and also handle traffic. They bought us a command vehicle. The Police Advisory Board helps check out and spot problems. The Police Advisory Board has been established to improve communications between the department and members of the community, Volunteers involved in departmental programs undergo a 12-week training program. The department's website is located at <http://www.pspd.com/> and contains the details of all volunteer programs.

We are using the contingency budget to cover the low budget we have and to provide officers. It takes ten months to train a new person and we are short six people now.

Hotel Renovations. David Ready, City Manager, indicated that the Office of Neighborhood Involvement was on the agenda for Wednesday, March 16, and he anticipated that the new ordinance would pass. Our Mission Statement is very good. The city has laid off 17 positions since the Utility Tax failed on the ballot.

David Ready addressed the hotel renovations. He read the proposal from the Spanish Inn, which needs a variance for the condos and it will go back to the council to be matriculated. They do not yet have a plan approved by the City Council to get their permit to continue.

The Colony Palms went to the Council and their plans were approved with the condition that \$109,000 be committed for flashing traffic calming. Indian Manor is also expected to contribute to the traffic light. The Historic Preservation Board has approved the Palms.

The Spanish Inn was threatened with demolition and they got moving. But here we are, back to delay. Now back to court and say they must meet the milestones and demolition cost, taxes. If they were to sell, any subsequent buyer would have to comply with the court order. The Council wants it renovated, but if it can't be done, we have to proceed with the above process. After the Council meets on this again, I will have the demolition order and time frame. The Spanish Inn architect, Skip Goodell, indicated that they are on track and have submitted plans revised to meet the city's objections.

Wayne Soucy, CEO, Desert Health Care District. Mr. Soucy indicated that the Wellness Park was scheduled to begin construction during the coming week, after delays for a variety of reasons. The official opening will probably be in October when cooler weather is here and the school children can be involved in the ceremony. The Desert Water Agency is providing \$250,000 in low-water plants for the Park. The City of Palm Springs will take over maintenance when the project is completed.

Helicopters. Mike Donovan, with Mercy Air, has been a pilot in this area for many years, working on projects such as the Tramway. He worked for the Fish & Game Department and is now with Mercy Air and works with the hospital. The regulation is that helicopters must be

300 feet above the ground, not the 700-1000 feet for winged aircraft. The helicopters serve Banning, 29 Palms, Blythe, and Imperial. The flight path is from the northâPalm Canyon, Indian Canyon and Vista Chino into the hospital. From Blythe, Idyllwild and the Imperial Valley, Tahquitz is followed.

Some pilots do not fly here very often and have to look for the hospital. Other companies, too, are involved, and they may not know the flight path to follow. Also, the winds bother many pilots who are not used to them. We also fly to JFK and Eisenhower.

Desert Regional Medical Center is the highest category hospitalâa trauma centerâand 99 percent of the trauma cases come here. We also transport from one hospital to another such as the transfer of children to Loma Linda.

Waiting lines can form and pilots are asked to fly up Indian and Palm rather than holding over the hospital. The Mercy Dispatch Office is (866) 281-4966 if problems seem to exist.

Office of Neighborhood Involvement. Lee Husfeldt, City of Palm Springs Liaison with neighborhoods, reported on upcoming activities such as the White Party and the April 16 Book Fair. She then went into the development of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), which formalized neighborhood involvement with organizations. It is online now at the Palm Springs web site at http://www.ci.palm-springs.ca.us/index_alt.html The various ways the City of Palm Springs communicates with neighborhoods is that the various groups are mailed new information which is forwarded to the members by neighborhood representatives. Another way we communicate is that the ONI meets once a month to take on new issues. A history of the various neighborhoods will be developed. Boundaries of neighborhoods exist when neighborhoods define their own, but the city will insure that there are no overlapping or other disputes.

A question was asked about the liability of neighborhood organizations. David Ready stated that the organizations are not Brown Act groups and that there is no liability. The groups are only advisory to the City Manager. A follow-up question asked what would happen if we were sued. The answer was that you are not official groups so are not someone to sue, but we will check the details with the City Attorney.

Lee indicated that they are working on new technology to improve communications between the city and groups and within groups. She asked if the members want to be part of the ONI, and a show of hands indicated YES with no objections.

Traffic Calming. Jerry Ogburn, Director, Village of Palm Springs Development Center (under contract to the City of Palm Springs) showed detailed drawings of the area around the three hotels on Indian Canyon. He provided details of the proposed changes for city streets that border on residential areas to the east. Three streets are affected and will have changes made to the traffic patterns to discourage entry into the neighborhood with the use of traffic

circles, landscaping, and signs. He asked for hands indicating support for the plans and received an overwhelming YES response. . A member asked about the status of a bike lane along Alejo from Palm to Indian; another asked about white lane markers between Indian and Palm, absent since the street was repaved, and Jerry indicated he would look into these things. Another member asked what the \$27 million from the sale of the water treatment plant would be able to be used for. David Ready stated that it could be used for capital improvements but not for operating costs.

Fire Chief Blake Goetz. Chief Goetz described the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and how it is implemented in Palm Springs. These teams have been active and include Palm Springs, Cathedral City, and Riverside and are funded by grants. The city hopes to get 75 percent reimbursement from the Federal Government and 25 percent from the State.

This year the fire danger will be high because of the near-record rains and significant growth of brush. This is the most brush in 27 years and is very likely to result in more fires. The status of the mountain areas as a new National Monument allows the city to use the Forest Service Air Tankers and Federal funds and services, which are a big help, and financial liability is less. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will cover the cost (five years of fires on reservation). The tribe maintains emergency supplies for earthquakes and other events. Supplies totaling \$50,000 are stored in various locations including Katherine Finchy School. Police Department vehicles have the keys to open this locker. CERT is needed and volunteers are needed to go to classes. The \$30 fee is waived and classes are in May and October. The Fire Department wants to have 15-20 people in the program.

A new Remote Command Vehicle is due in May or June. The new fire engine should arrive in June.

The Dry Falls fire consumed 28,000 acres in 1980 and was caused by kids practicing building safe fires.

Neighborhood Watch. Chuck Brobeck, TMC resident and retired Chief of Police of Irvine, California, indicated that we are poised to start a Neighborhood Watch program. It is important to get all neighbors involved not only in curbing crime but in watching for things like water leaks or in carrying out plans should a major event occur. We have started an outline of Neighborhood Watch, but what is needed is for people to become involved and to get block captains assigned. He provided a handout showing how homes in a cluster can interact with each other and provide support. Some signs are already up from a previous TMC group, but the project has been pretty much inactive and needs attention. The back of the handout has a phone number for contacting the city in the case of non-threatening events (760-327-1441), while emergencies are handled through 911. There is also a Graffiti Hotline at (760) 778-8469 to call if anyone sees any vandalism. He asked members to call him at (760) 322-7303 to get more involved in Neighborhood Watch. Crime statistics for The Movie Colony (and adjacent areas not actually in the boundaries) are: commercial burglaries, 10; residential

burglaries, 8; thefts, 32; prowlers, 2; vehicle burglaries, 9; vandalism, 19; trespass, 7; suspicious persons, 14; suspicious vehicles, 6.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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Mission and Bylaws. Diane Ahlstrom presented the Mission Statement and asked for comments from the membership. There was agreement that the Mission Statement was a good reflection of what the organization stands for. She then presented the bylaws, with changes reflecting the need to stagger the terms of the advisors. Copies of the Mission Statement and Bylaws were provided to the attendees. The bylaws as amended were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Dick Mandell, serving as Acting Treasurer, gave a report of finances of the organization. He indicated that we have approximately \$3600 on hand. The members with a show of hands approved the report.

Communication. Warren Weber and Allen Keeney described the methods of communication of the organization. Newsletters, e-mail messages, meetings, and social events have been the means of communicating with the neighborhood and other constituencies. They asked whether a web page was of interest and some discussion ensued. Members agreed that it would be worth a try if the cost was not too great. Web pages would provide an ongoing means of communicating with members.

Adjournment. The business meeting ended at 2:45 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

MISSION STATEMENT (As amended, March 13, 2005)

The Movie Colony Neighborhood Organization (\geq TMC \leq) is a non-profit, neighborhood organization consisting of homeowners within the established boundaries, as defined in Article III of the TMC Bylaws, for the purpose of considering and acting upon a broad range of issues that are important to maintain and improve the quality of life within TMC, fostering open communication and partnership with the City of Palm Springs and organizing neighborhood social events.

This mission is accomplished by:

Neighborhood Communication and Involvement

TMC Newsletters

TMC Member Meetings

Social Events

Advisor participation in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and other City committees and/or ad hoc meetings

Lead by a group of volunteer advisors, as defined in Article VII of the TMC Bylaws.

March 2, 2005

BYLAWS

THE MOVIE COLONY

Neighborhood Organization

Bylaws, 3/2/05

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization is The Movie Colony located in the City of Palm Springs, California.

ARTICLE II - PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of the organization shall be The Movie Colony residence of the acting Secretary of the Organization.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE

The Movie Colony is a voluntary organization established for the purpose of acting on a broad

range of issues that are important to maintain and improve the quality of life within our neighborhood. The Movie Colony is for the benefit of all households whether or not they are members of the organization.

ARTICLE IV - NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES

Avenida Caballeros, Tachevah Drive, Alejo Road and Indian Canyon Drive bound the Movie Colony.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Homeowners of single-family dwellings located within the neighborhood boundaries as defined by Article IV are eligible for membership. Adults residing therein shall represent homeowners.

Section 2: The membership of each eligible household is activated by making an annual contribution in such minimum amount and by such date as designated by the Advisors. Once membership is activated, the adult resident(s) shall be deemed members and may serve as Advisors, as well as on committees of The Movie Colony. Notwithstanding the number of adult members, each household shall have one vote in matters relating to a vote by members of The Movie Colony.

Section 3: Associate membership may be available from time to time as may be determined by the Advisors. Associate members shall not be entitled to vote on matters relative to The Movie Colony. Associate members will be otherwise subject to the provisions of Section 1 and 2 of Article V.

ARTICLE VI ≠ Annual Contribution

Homeowners within the boundaries of The Movie Colony will be invited on an annual basis to make a certain minimum contribution to support the purposes and objectives of The Movie Colony. This contribution may be made annually in an amount and date selected each year by the Advisors.

ARTICLE VII - ADVISORS

Section 1: The entire direction and management of the affairs of the organization shall be vested in seven (7) Advisors, who shall have complete discretion to determine all expenditures to be made in carrying out the purpose of the organization.

Section 2: Decisions shall be determined by majority vote.

Section 3: The terms of office of all Advisors shall be staggered , with three terms expiring in even-numbered years and four terms expiring in odd-numbered years. To initiate the staggered terms, at the first annual meeting following the adoption of these restated bylaws, the three Advisors elected with the most votes will serve a two-year term and the other four Advisors so elected will each serve a one-year term. Thereafter, all terms shall be two years. There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms to which an Advisor may be reelected. Each Advisor shall hold office until the election of his or her successor or until the Advisor's death, resignation or removal.

Section 4: The Advisors shall be members of The Movie Colony.

Section 5: In case of any vacancy in the number of Advisors, the remaining Advisors may elect a successor to hold office for the term that has not expired of the Advisor whose position shall be vacant.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS

Section 1: The annually elected officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Section 2: The officers are elected from and by the Advisors following the Annual Meeting.

Section 3: No compensation shall be paid to elected officers.

Section 4: The President shall preside at the Board meetings and carry out all policies:

a. Assure that the Bylaws are enforced

b. Coordinate meeting dates

c. Have signatory authority with the Treasurer.

d. Approve reimbursements of Officers and Advisors for organization related expenses. Maintain communications with all members, prepare an annual budget and annual report on status of the organization.

Section 5: The Vice-President shall:

- a. Shall preside over the meetings in the absence of the President
- b. Carry out assignments given by the Advisors

Have signatory authority with the Treasurer

Section 6: The Treasurer shall:

- a. Receive monies
- b. Pay expenses
- c. Maintain on-going bank records
- d. Make available a detailed financial statement to Board members at the Board's request and at the Annual Meeting.
- e. Turn over to a successor, all records, funds and assets

Section 7: The Secretary shall:

- a. Maintain accurate minutes of Advisors, Membership and Annual meetings.
- b. Transmit such minutes to all appropriate parties
- c. Prepare official correspondence and newsletters as directed by the Advisors. (The newsletter shall be made available to all households and businesses within the boundaries of The Movie Colony regardless of membership).

Shall have signatory authority with the Treasurer.

ARTICLE IX - ELECTION OF ADVISORS

Section 1: A nominating committee of three (3) members selected by the Advisors shall propose a slate of candidates.

Section 2: At the membership's Annual Meeting, Advisors shall be elected to fill

such vacancies as may exist and otherwise in accordance with Article VII, Section 3.

ARTICLE X ≠ MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Meetings of the membership shall be held in March and November of each year at a specific date and time to be selected by the Advisors. The March meetings shall be deemed the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE XI - NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of the place, day and hour of each meeting of members whether annual or special, shall be made available by e-mail, newsletter or by mailing a notice, postage-prepaid, to each household within the boundaries of The Movie Colony, at least ten (10) and not more than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XII - COMMITTEES

The Advisors may appoint any committee and prescribe its duties.

ARTICLE VIII - BOOKS

There shall be kept at the principal office of the organization books and records of the activities and transactions of the organization, including a minute book, which shall contain a copy of such bylaws and all amendments thereto, and all minutes of meetings of the members and of the Advisors.

ARTICLE XIV - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the organization shall be the same as the calendar year.

ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a vote of the majority of those members present at any meeting of the membership.

Amended: March 13, 2005 (Article VII, Section 3)

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