

Minutes of the Beautification Committee
May 7, 2009 – 11:00am
California City – Police Department
21130 Hacienda Blvd, California City, Ca 93505

1. **Meeting called to order: Cecile Campbell – 11:04am**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call – Commissioner Sparks, Wheeler, Vice Chair Wilson, Chair Campbell 5-0**
4. **Adopt Agenda – Wheeler motioned, Weaver 2nd. All in favor 5-0.**
5. **Consent Calendar –**
CC1 Minutes from 4/02/09 meeting. All in favor 5-0.
6. **Staff Reports:**
 - **Master Plans for Parks** - Mayor Larry Adams reported that there is a parks commission being created, once developed one of the duties for the commission will be to establish a master plan for parks. Mayor Adams stated that currently the commission is in the formation stages, the next Parks Commission meeting is an informational workshop to get everyone's ideas together. The people who have been tasked to create the commission have expressed that they would not like to be on the commission. There will be an ad in the paper once the commission is created advising the public about the open position. We are looking at 5 board members plus one alternate.
 - **Written maintenance schedule for park** - Mike Garcia stated the schedule is tight because the city currently has only 1 fulltime park maintenance person, but we are in the process of hiring 2 part time employees for the summer.
 - **Trees around hill** – Cecile asked staff if there is a plan to remove the ribbon marked trees. Mike Bevins said currently there is no plan for the trees to be removed, as of last council meeting no major work is to be done on the hill. During today's meeting Mr. Bevins asked Chuck McGuire if it would be okay to remove the trees around hill, Chuck responded by saying yes since it is not considered major work. Mayor Adams hopes what gets done will satisfy many people, the park has been neglected for a really long time but something is happening now.

- **Dead Trees** – Chuck McQuire advised the commission that removing trees should be looked at carefully and each situation differently, by removing a tree, one is disturbing biding soil. Mr. Bevins added another issue we may face is the suspension of work for certain projects, when a person modifies the ground, California State Law requires California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) rules to be followed. Under CEQA a biology study must be requested before any work can be done, and although a tree may appear dead, a live animal may still choose to nest there.
- **Borax Bill** – Chief Steve Colerick presented the commission with a handout, which included the history, a site map, and future plans for Borax Bill Park. The park consist of 10 acres, up until the year 2000 the park was nothing more than a burned out 3 yard trash bin, through a vision of Tom Weil, Dan Allen, and myself the OHV phenomenon struck our city like the great flood. Since then we have pumped in through donations and OHV grants a wealth of money into Borax Bill to include showers, restrooms, 4 sub panels of electricity, water connections, and the finishing of the concrete. The theme is tailored around our OHV mission to allow for emergency helicopters to land right at the site. On our busy weekends we have many vendors making money in our city. We have the OHV tail going into the city also bringing in money to the city. In summary we are anticipating in revenue brought in from state parks and recreation and our OHV permit program three quarters of a million dollars, and it's all centered at Borax Bill Park. Don Weaver asked if the dump station was on sewer, Chief Colerick said yes it is on sewer thanks to the California City Prison. Mr. Weaver asked if there were any plans to expand the parking are at the dump station. Chief Colerick stated we just recently expanded it to 3 lanes. In addition we have been looking at doing something with the west bound 20 mule team traffic coming in, to get on the shoulder, we may put some grind in, but we haven't figure out what to do with that yet. Michelle Hornback asked Chief Colerick to explain to the commission the reasoning behind the parking design. Chief Colerick said before anything was constructed the setup was designed with the 100 year wash in mind that sits behind it, to resemble camping a type setup with the patios that are tied into the city's water system.
- **Blvd Renaissance Median Project** – Cecile asked Mike Garcia how the median going to be finished with a one man crew. Cecile said last year there was some money promise, of a total of \$15,000 but I can't seem to get anyone to tell me the status of this money, even if we can get some of this money in kind toward the median. I have a contract with the city that states this median will be completed in 2009. Mr. Garcia said in order to get the trenching done on this project I would have to barrow someone from another department. Mr. Bevins says the money should still be in the budget and I will confirm after the meeting. As far as the need for the trenching we probably can do the trenching internally, we just need to know what exactly the commission wants done.

- **Hacienda at Village Park Way** – Mr. Bevins stated the tree is down and the public works will be responsible to remove the stump.
- **Adopt a street program** – Serina Rodarte stated I am in the process of completed the informational flyer, registration form, policies and requirements to improve and expand the existing program. Currently there is no one in charge of monitoring this program. In improving the program we will have a record of streets adopted along with the organization or group name. They will be required to apply, and agree to the terms of the program. The program will be monitored by signing out a picking up kit prior to the event at city hall, and returning it along with a location of the trash bags. Through the work order system we will request for the street department to pick up the orange trash bags. Mrs. Rodarte mentioned there is a grant for recycling and liter abatement through the Department of Conservation Division of Recycling, the amount available is \$5,000. We can suggest the Adopt a Street program to Linda Lunsford as the project to apply. I will have more information for you regarding the grant at the next meeting. Chuck McGuire mentioned that if you are thinking of expanding the program, some type of training should be conducted to educate people on the safety issues.
- **Garden Club Tour** – The Beautification Commission has been working with the Desert Rose Garden Club to recognize those who have gone out of there way to have a nice garden. Tickets are available for that there are a total of 7 gardens. Only 3 gardens will be to be chosen, awards will be presented and the winners will be posted in the paper.

General Discussion

Chuck Flores as a member of and on behalf of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee would like to adopt a piece of the Blvd preferably the Blvd going into the park. Mr. Bevins said the public works department would get them a sign. Cecile asked Chuck to get permission from the Citizen’s Advisory Committee to adopt California City Blvd from Village Parkway to the Central Park, and come back to another meeting with their approval.

7. Commission Agenda

Commissioner Sparks –

Commissioner Weaver –

Commissioner Wheeler –

Vice Chair Wilson –

Chair Campbell –

8. Adjourn: 12:30pm