



**JUNIPER HILLS TOWN COUNCIL**

juniperhills-ca.org  
**General Meeting**  
**December 2, 2009**

**MINUTES**

<p>The <b>General Meeting</b> of the Juniper Hills Town Council was called to order at the Juniper Hills Community Building 31401 106<sup>th</sup> Street East, Juniper Hills, CA 93543, on <b>December 2, 2009, at 7:05 p.m.</b>, by President, Mr. Pomeroy</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p>		
<p>The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Reichel.</p>	<p><b>FLAG SALUTE</b></p>		
<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="82 470 548 709"> <p><b>PRESENT</b>  Vance Pomeroy  Suzanne Richter  Douglas DiJulio  Billie Dickey  Walt Grabe  David Reichel</p> </td> <td data-bbox="553 470 1084 709"> <p><b>ABSENT</b>  Don Pierce - excused</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>PRESENT</b>  Vance Pomeroy  Suzanne Richter  Douglas DiJulio  Billie Dickey  Walt Grabe  David Reichel</p>	<p><b>ABSENT</b>  Don Pierce - excused</p>	<p><b>BOARD MEMBER'S ATTENDANCE</b></p>
<p><b>PRESENT</b>  Vance Pomeroy  Suzanne Richter  Douglas DiJulio  Billie Dickey  Walt Grabe  David Reichel</p>	<p><b>ABSENT</b>  Don Pierce - excused</p>		
<p>Minutes of previous meetings will be brought to the February meeting for approval.</p>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p>		
<p>Mr. Norm Hickling presented David Reichel and Douglas DiJulio with Certificates of Appreciation from Supervisor Michael Antonovich, for their years of service to the Community of Juniper Hills. He then gave the Oath of Office to the new Board, consisting of Vance Pomeroy, Suzanne Richter, Walter Grabe, Billie Dickey, Larry Evans and Lori Weatherbie. Mr. Pierce will take the Oath of Office at the February meeting.</p>	<p><b>INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL</b></p>		
<p>The following were elected to office unanimously:  Vance Pomeroy, President  Walt Grabe, Vice President  Lori Weatherbie, Secretary  Don Pierce, Treasurer and Parliamentarian</p>	<p><b>ELECTION OF OFFICERS</b></p>		
<p>There was no report.</p>	<p><b>TREASURER</b></p>		
<p>A request for "Trail Angels" was received. These are people who will guide travelers using the Pacific Crest Trail from Burkhart Trail to Agua Dulce because the trail is closed behind Juniper Hills and Littlerock due to the Station Fire..</p>	<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p>		
<p>Mr. Pomeroy announced the Juniper Hills Community Association will hold their General Meeting on December 6 with dinner provided. They will have a Pancake Breakfast on February 6 and a Vegas Nite in March. A Cleanup Day is also scheduled for March when the Town Council has arranged for Waste Bins for the Community.  The Punch Bowl will have a Geminid Meteor Shower Program on December 13 and a Full Moon Hike on January 2.</p>	<p><b>ITEMS OF INTEREST</b></p>		
<p>Mr. Blount asked for questions. Mrs. Weatherbie asked to be able to read a statement she had prepared (see attached). Mrs. Avadian asked if the Forest Service had a policy of extinguishing every fire that was set by man. Mr. Bount was unable to respond. Diane Travis responded stating the Forest Service had a policy to aggressively extinguish fires that are started by man. Comment was made by Mr. Matson about Super Scoopers not being used. Comment was made regarding the non use of bulldozers. Mr. Blount stated the fire did not start in his district and he is not able to respond to questions as he was not at the decision making level. Mr. Cardile expressed his concern for the lack of knowledge of the Juniper Hills area by local Forest Service personnel. Mr. Reichel asked if there was any plan to do "fuel control" in the forest. Diane Travis stated there are no plans in the immediate future for Juniper Hills. She did state that the Forest Service would like to sit down with the County Fire Dept and the Juniper Hills</p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STATION FIRE INCLUDING RANGER BOB BLOUNT AND DIANE TRAVIS OF US FOREST SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>CHIEF KLAUS OF LA COUNTY FIRE,</b></p> <p><b>MARK CADDICK, LA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS</b></p> <p><b>LEW STULTS, DEPUTY FOR CONGRESSMAN BUCK MCKEON</b></p>		

Community to make a plan. Mr. Pomeroy stated the recently approved Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness Bill was supposed to include the "Bono language" which, as part of the Fire Plan, provides that the Forest Service can turn over firefighting to the County. The language, as the Bill is now, is not included. Mr. Pomeroy noted that had the weather been typical for Juniper Hills, the winds would have brought the fire toward the community and we would be cinders. Forest Service pre-approval is required. The community's concern is that pre-approval be in place NOW. Mr. Blount stated that the Forest Service will attempt to protect an endangered specie, but he stated they would also protect people and property. Mr. DiJulio reaffirmed the concern that the Community wants to work with the Forest Service to protect our forest area. Mr. Grabe pointed out that the Forest Service had a difficult time performing prescribed burns because of the AQMD. Mr. Small indicated he had driven up into the Forest on Hwy 2 and he noted large amounts of dead trees in Big Rock Creek area. Mrs. Avadian felt that "Base Camp" should provide adequate information for dissemination to all parts of the community. Mrs. Dickey asked why, after the Bark Beetle has killed a tree, is it left standing like a "match stick?" Mr. Blount explained there are limited resources. He stated that if we found a particular area that is detrimental to our community, he would be glad to meet with us and determine a plan of action. Mrs. Wylly questioned what the policy is for communication of the situation to the Community. Mr. Bount said he did not know. Mr. Blount provided his phone number for further questions, 661-337-8284.

Division Chief Klaus of the Los Angeles County Fire Department was introduced. He stated that L.A. County Fire Department and the USFS of Angeles Forest are partners. He commented that the Station fire simply got away from some of the best firefighters in the Country. He stated that the fire started on August 26 and at that time it was not determined whether it was started by man or otherwise so they did not know how to fight the fire. Unified command, which was started the second day, occurs when the fire is in two different areas, the Forest and a community (La Cañada and La Crescenta). Not all firefighting equipment is appropriate at all times. The DC-10 drops retardant, which is not appropriate for deep canyons. Helicopters are best in these situations, and firefighters need to be in place on the ground before any drop is made.. Comment was made that the InciWeb Site was excellent. Several residents addressed the lack of information, again, stating the most frustrating thing to them was not knowing. Chief Klaus stated that one of the days, the Incident Command did not know where the fire was because the smoke was so thick in Juniper Hills. He stated the Station Fire was in the top 1% of Forest Fires in numbers of acres burned in a day. He stated that "Reverse 911" has failed numerous times. A statement was made that the News Media should be blamed for not covering the fire adequately.

Question was asked about whether the center of the loop was considered indefensible. Chief Klaus referred the community to the Brochure and the information on the Web Site, called "Ready-Set-Go." Question was asked why the Base Camp was set up in Valencia. It was stated that the efficiency of the fire fighting efforts would go up 200 percent if they would place one man from a local station on each mutual aide engine. It was suggested that firefighting teams should be informed that Juniper Hills residents have wells and a source of water that they are willing to share. It was stated, by a resident, that evacuation was called for inconsistently. Billie Dickey asked if there isn't a policy that when a fire starts, you go in and "smash it? Chief Klaus stated that when there is an alarm in the "Mutual Aide area, it's a full alarm response (7 engine companies, 3 helicopters, 2 chiefs, 4 camp crews). He said the Forest Service probably puts out an equivalent amount.

Mr. Caddick began by stating that this winter is going to be really bad. He spoke of the C.A.R.E. program (Coordinated Agency Repair Effort) so that people can get information including roads, flood and mudflow. He recommended that residents check [www.dpwcare.org](http://www.dpwcare.org) (800-214-4020) for road closures. He suggested that people sign up for e-notify. He stated the Crest will not be a dependable route during the winter. All roads in the forest would be open at 5:00 am Monday. For

<p>State Highways you must check out the Cal Trans Web Site. Mr. Caddick stated there are 4500 trips a day on Angeles Forest Hwy. The Edison Company still has a lot of cleanup to do. Mr. Reichel expressed concern about mudflow and debris over Mt. Emma by Littlerock Creek. Mr. Caddick stated it is a high priority but funds just are not available.</p> <p>Mr. Stults had no comment. He is just in attendance taking notes for Bob Haueter.</p> <p>Mr. Hickling stated Mr. Antonovich has the highest degree of respect for both the Forest Service and the LA County Fire Department, and the Sheriff's Department. He also feels there should have been more aggressive moves at the beginning of the fire. He is calling for a full investigation of the Reverse 911 system. He has been very vocal about the lack of coverage by the local news media. He credited the local Cable Company with excellent coverage.</p> <p>Mr. Blount referred the council to the maps that he brought out showing where the wilderness is and where the mutual aide area is. He also asked that we work together to make Fire Protection better.</p>	
<p>Deputy Ferrell asked that if you <b>see something suspicious, call the Palmdale Station, 272-2400</b>. He asked that people err on the side of caution by calling immediately. If it is an emergency, call 911.</p>	<p><b>Sheriff Department</b></p>
<p><b>REPORTS</b></p>	
<p>Future speakers include Katie Zieman from the Fire Safe Council. Perhaps someone from the Fire Department could speak regarding Ready-Set-Go.</p>	<p><b>Future Speakers</b></p>
<p>Mrs. Sakemiller asked how the requests from the Community become action items. Mr. Pomeroy briefly explained.</p>	
<p>Mrs. Weatherbie stated the Winetasting will be November 6, 2010.</p> <p>Mrs. Richter stated the extra shipment has been received. Sales have been going well. Linda Meiers will sell them in her Littlerock Home and Ranch Store. Lori Weatherbie has the Invoice for the latest shipment. Mrs. Richter prepared a large picture to back the sales, which she will donate for a raffle, perhaps at the Winetasting.</p>	<p><b>Resource Development Committee</b></p>
<p>Nancy Grabe had the Mission Statement of the YO-YO Committee read. She explained the committee has reviewed numerous documents. She stated the committee is developing materials to help with earthquake and fire. Places for large animals; places to take your RV to stay; motels that will allow you to take your small animals are being researched. Each completed document will be included in the newsletter. Ultimately, all documents will be compiled into a booklet for distribution.</p>	<p><b>YO-YO Committee</b></p>
<p>In Mr. Pierce's absence, Mrs. Weatherbie stated the Calendar is complete and ready for distribution in the Newsletter. She indicated the Association will have its General Meeting on December 5. The Town Council wants two sheet faces of the Newsletter and will pay their share. The YO-YO Committee "List" will be one.</p>	<p><b>JHCA Liaison Report</b></p>
<p>Billie Dickey discussed the Water Group. Vance explained the Water Adjudication taking place. The initial letter was sent, establishing the Juniper Hills Water Group, not a part of the Town Council. Billie stated that in the Water Group we need to elect a Treasurer. Billie has investigated how to set up the account. Money will be sent to the JHWG and they, in turn, will send one large check to the Attorneys. The law suit has been going on for ten years. The fee collected by the JHWG is for the Attorneys to represent us and is a flat amount. Mr. Pomeroy advised the Water Group to hold a meeting. The settlement intent is to remain as a Status Quo.</p>	<p><b>Juniper Hills Water Group</b></p>

<b><u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u></b>		
Lists are being compiled and pre-invitations developed for a Town Council Breakfast. It will be a time to meet your Government representatives.		<b>Meet the Town Council Breakfast</b>
Mr. Caddick advised that he is available to assist Don Pierce.		<b>Signage</b>
The light at Ft. Tejon and 106 <sup>th</sup> is still being worked on.		<b>Lighting</b>
<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>		
Mrs. Weatherbie made a motion that the Council implore the Board of Supervisors to cause Congress to take Firefighting out of the hands of the Forest Service and into the Fire Department. Second by Mrs. Richter. Motion passed unanimously. Vance offered to draft the letter and circulate it. Further discussion determined it is still necessary to make the Bono Language work for the Pleasant View Wilderness. Motion was made by Mrs. Richter for the Council to arrange a meeting with members of the Forest Service, the Fire Department, and the Congressman's Office to sit down and review the Firefighting procedures for the Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness. Second by Mr. Evans. Motion passed unanimously.		<b>Firefighting in the Wilderness</b>
Mrs. Richter submitted her resignation from the Council. She advised that she had asked Brenda Avadian to serve the balance of her term, ending December of 2010. Motion was made to accept Suzanne's resignation and appoint Mrs. Avadian to complete her term starting immediately. Second by Mrs. Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.		<b>Resignation of Suzanne Richter</b>
Meeting adjourned at 10:55 pm.  Lori Weatherbie		