



Recap of Meeting June 16, 2011

HOA Members Represented

Aldea – The Vistas	Cathedral Canyon #18
Candelwood Villas II	Desert Shadows RV Resort
Canyon Shores	La Pasada
Cathedral Canyon #2	Montage at Mission Hills
Cathedral Canyon #17	Rio del Sol – Las Casitas
Legal Counsel: Jennifer James, Attorney at Law – Epstein, Grinnell & Howell	

Speakers Present

Chief Kevin Conner – Chief of Police, Cathedral City
Lee Macey – Southwest Boulder & Stone
Charlie Honsberger – Cathedral Canyon Country Club # 2

Welcome: Al Hallinan, Co-Chair

Treasurer's Report – To be distributed

Guest Speaker – Chief Kevin Conner – Chief of Police, Cathedral City

Chief Conner told the group he came to the City Police Department at midnight, July 1, 1984 to form the Department. He was a Sergeant in charge of recruiting police officers.

The new department had its first shooting incident at 1:00 AM that night – there was miscommunication in the location of the shooting (and knowledge of the City streets) resulting in police cars going back and forth through the City looking for the crime scene – like Keystone Cops. At 2:00 AM they had their 2nd shooting incident in the Dream Homes area – they caught the perpetrator.

When he returned home the next morning his wife asked “How did you fist night go?” He replied, “Maybe I’ve bitten off more than I can chew.”

The environment and professional abilities of the new Police Department have steadily improved since.

He was appointed Chief of Police in December 2010. Since then he has been going around to the Chamber of Commerce and Community partners giving presentations with a prepared talk – he would like to come back in the future to present that.

Today Cathedral City has the lowest per capita crime rate in the valley. All police Departments provide a uniform crime report to the FBI monthly. On an annual basis, Cathedral City has a crime rate of 28 -33 crimes per 1,000 population. They have



had spikes like in the 90's they initiated their Gang Team because they had 21 drive-by shootings in one month.

He is trying to provide the community with a feeling of safety and a commitment to security.

He believes life is all about people, what can be done to help others.

The public has a higher expectation of Police personnel. They must be professional, above reproach and maintain a good attitude at all times.

He has weekly staff meetings in which he emphasizes service with professionalism and compassion.

He is trying to reach deeper into the community with presentations to Rotary, HOA's, etc. The message is "What we can do for you".

They cannot any longer be the initiator of events due to staff cuts. They still want to be a source for participation in those events with a presence. If you organize it, they will come. The Rotary Club is providing the Healing Field function. The Police Department will be providing an honor guard. And in the past they have participated with providing the invocation and other speeches.

If you do not see a patrol car on your street, it is not necessarily bad. They deploy officers to where the crime is.

Palm Springs has 90 to 110 police personnel.

Indio has 70 to 90 personnel.

Cathedral City's best year had 60 personnel, they currently have 51. They have funding for 57.

Officers patrol 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 6:00AM shifts. They have 6 officers in the field at all times. They must focus on where the crimes are occurring. They do not have much time available for driving through other communities to show a "presence".

They are having problems finding good quality people. They want people that meet a high standard already. Since January they have conducted 70 oral examinations to candidates, they have hired 3. In the mean time they are asking current personnel to work harder with less support.

They cannot enforce the vehicle code on private streets e. g. parking, speeding, etc. If there is an accident, they will assist in the exchange of insurance information between the parties. They will do more if there is an injury. They cannot make traffic stop or write a citation unless they witness the infraction. Citizens may



restrain a perpetrator until police arrive, but he suggests not doing that. You open yourself up to all the criteria of “appropriate restraint” that police are governed by.

Motor officers are primarily responsible for traffic enforcement. If they stop you they will normally write you a citation. Patrol officers do not consider traffic enforcement as part of their job. If they stop you have a better than even chance they will let you go with a warning. Especially, if you are not combative or in denial of wrong doing.

Fines from traffic citations all go to a fund and then are distributed to about 20 different funds. Cities typically receive about \$20 from a \$150 fine. Quotas are illegal. He directs officer to “work an area” for traffic violation, not to write tickets.

He wants officers to have a positive attitude, wants them to have a positive environment to work in. He also want them to be happy in their personal lives, problems there will be reflected in their attitude on the job.

Guest Speaker – Lee Macey – Southwest Boulder & Stone

Lee said he was there to offer discount opportunities for HOAs.

Over the past few years there has been a shift in their customers. Not many developers any more. Homeowner’s who once sent their gardeners in to pick out stone and are now coming in themselves. – to save money. They are converting from turf to desert landscaping.

His business is primarily trucking. He has to buy trucks, pay drivers, pay for fuel plus a full time mechanic to keep everything working properly.

The only way to save HOAs money is to provide full 25 ton loads directly from the quarry.

A full 25 ton load will provide:
2,000 square feet of decomposed granite
2,900 square feet of 3/8” stone
3,000 square feet of 3/4” stone

Conversion to desert landscaping is good for saving water. Conversion is expensive, but pays back in reduced water costs and is good for the environment.

He has talked to Coachella Valley Water District about how people are doing in meeting the 2020 target for reduction in water usage. They told him that 70% are on or above target to meet that goal. It started being saving money. Now it is about aesthetics – they like desert landscaping with its sweeps and curves in addition to being drought tolerant.



He recommends HOAs not to think of 50,000 or 100,000 SF of landscaping, but in terms of 25 ton chunks.

Guest Speaker – “Refining Your HOA Budget – Part 2” Charlie Honsberger – Cathedral Canyon Country Club # 2

He is trying to get more dialogue with other associations. We are all in the same boat as far as the mix of owners (% full time vs. % seasonal vs. % weekenders). We need to share challenges and successes.

He would like the group to have a workshop comparing HOAs challenges and successes. Have members bring examples of each to discuss.

HOAs need Boards that participate – be concerned in what they are paying for, investigate details of invoices, etc. They need to recognize their fiduciary responsibility, not just fill seats.

He suggests conducting a blind survey of our member HOA's budgets on a per door basis to start. He will try to develop a “normalized” survey form.

A suggestion was made that we initiate having a question box that people can drop in questions before the meeting. The questions would be read by a moderator and answered by the group during a special segment of each meeting,

Community Forum

None

Handouts – in addition to those mentioned above:

None

Website – <http://hoapresidentscouncil.com> , Click on “Cathedral City”

Next Meeting – Thursday, July 21, 2011 at the Cathedral City – City Hall

Tom Tousignant, Recorder