

**Ocotillo Community Park**  
266 Imperial Hwy.  
Ocotillo, CA 92259  
*Monday, April, 8 2024*  
*6:00 P.M.*



**Committee Members:**  
*Vacant, Michael Cuff*  
*Darren A. Apedaile, Vice Chair*  
*Ava M. Mead, Secretary*  
*Frank Vrettas*  
*Patricia Thompson*

## **March 4, 2024, meeting minutes**

### **Ocotillo Area Community Advisory Committee**

The meeting was called to order by Michael Cuff, Chair, at 6:05pm.

Roll call, members present: Michael Cuff, Darren Apedaile, Ava Mead, Patricia Thompson. (A) Frank Vrettas, quorum was met.

Michael Cuff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting open for public comment: 3 minutes per speaker**

No public comments at the immediate time.

Michael Cuff made introductions of Sheriffs present Lt. Murad Masad.

Michael Cuff also made note of Luis Plancarte's absence.

Michael Cuff addressed.

Michael Cuff asks; do we have anyone for public comment?

Michael Cuff explains the 3-minute rule for speakers; however, we will permit longer depending on topic.

- James Clevenger, he is requesting the trucks who park up and down Evan Hewes Highway and Imperial Highway be redirected from the Ocotillo area and park closer to the Chevron Gas Station.

Michael Cuff explains that a redirection would need to be done by Caltrans and the ICSO.

Ava Mead suggested the trucks park in the open dirt lot north of the Chevron Gas Station; if the wind is not too strong.

**POSTING LOCATIONS: This meeting was legally noticed and posted at the following locations:**

<https://board.imperialcounty.org/ocotillo-advisory-committee/>

- Ocotillo Community Center
- Imperial Valley Desert Museum
- Ocotillo Post Office
- Fire House Bulletin Board

James Clevenger also wanted to address the Baby Drop at the Fire Station. He says the Firemen and or ladies do not answer the call button at the Baby Drop so a child could freeze or something bad could happen to it before it is noticed.

James Clevenger says the Fire Department have cleaned around a few fire hydrants but need to locate and clean around the rest of them. He feels them being hidden behind brush and weeds could cause a safety hazard.

- Patricia Thompson would like The Parks and Receptions staff to lower the swings to a safe height as well as question the status of the slide. Last we heard it was on order. Blanca Acosta will get us the contact information for the Parks and Recreation.
- Tracey Raybon spoke next asking for clarification from the ICSO when we have a call into the ICSO? She stated that one of our neighbors had been robbed. They called the ICSO and were told they would receive a call back but three days later, they still had not received a call back. Lt. Musad has a printout and stated that in the last 30 days there were no calls reporting robbery or burglary. Ava Mead suggested that when anyone calls in to report in incident that they ask for the incident report number which will be generated at the time of the report. Lt. Musah says, just as with all calls, if it's an emergency call 911 and for all other calls, to call their non-emergency number which is (442) 265-2021.
- Patricia Thompson showed the community members present; the neighbor watch signs purchased by Frank Vrettas. The neighbors liked the signs and asked if we could get more and larger signs. They also suggested we put the ICSO non-emergency number on them. Blanca Acosta; Clerk to the Board of Supervisors said if we can get her an estimate price for more and larger, there may be access to a discretionary fund for the purchase.

#### **Approval of the order of the agenda.**

Patricia Thompson made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Ava Mead seconded; we will continue with the agenda as presented.

#### **Approval of the February 4, 2024, meeting minutes.**

Patricia Thompson makes a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Daren Apedaile seconded, the motion passes. Minutes will be filed as presented.

#### **Discussion and Action items**

John Gay discussed the Parks and Receptions; we have a new Interim Deputy for the department.

John Gay says there has been positive action toward the Evan Hewes Highway and the Coyote Wash Bridge.

He also addressed the difficulty inspecting the Sand Bar Bridge as expressed by Greg Hallack. The artifacts need to be temporarily removed.

Michael Cuff says the although the suggested ribbon bypass at the Coyote Wash Bridge is a good idea, it will not help during flooding.

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John Gay says they are considering the low water crossing and also wrapping the piles. He says wrapping would help.

James Clevenger asked about the drainage issues and why does Public Works not change the water routes?

John Gay says it is ill advised to change any of the natural routes as any changes would affect private properties.

John Caloesa would like to know what do we do during flooding until the bridge is fixed?

John Gay suggested evacuation or shelter in place.

Michael Cuff asked for the fees for the .9<sup>th</sup> of a mile which was repaired of Evan Hewes Highway.

Ava Mead shared the printout provided by John Gay; fees were \$300,000. John Gay reports that the amount did not include labor as the labor was donated.

Michael Cuff suggested Public Works at a minimum should fix the potholes to show the community good faith. He says for the OCAC to be successful we need to be effective.

Tiffany (no last name) reports that she sees the ICSO in town often and expressed her appreciation.

Patricia Thompson asked Lt Masad if we could have more meetings, Coffee with a Cop.

Ava Mead asked if we could put the neighborhood watch signs under the stop signs. Lt Masad said no, that can not be done but suggested we put them under the OHV Crossing signs as a double up.

Member reports
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- I. There will not be an Easter Egg hunt this year. Desert Volunteers of Ocotillo will give the families \$100 gift cards.
- II. The Imperial Valley Desert Museum continues to ask for volunteers. Contact the IVDM for more information. Reminder to local kids; volunteer hours at the museum count towards your graduation incentive.

Next Meeting Date: April 8, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm
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Recorded and submitted by: Ava Mead, Secretary

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