

North Valley Democratic Club Minutes
November 19, 2009
Jo Pascoe, Recording Secretary

Chairman, Rich Cherchio, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Officers in attendance were Richard Cherchio, Ken Kraft, Mike Pascoe, Jeff Kaiser, Jo Pascoe, and Planning Commissioner Joe DePhillips.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Mike Pascoe:

Ending Balance: \$1359.69

Report was approved and carried.

A motion was made to table reading of the minutes. Approved and seconded.

At 7:07 p.m., Rob Mrowka of the Center for Biological Diversity spoke to the attendees.

- It is a non-profit group aimed at protecting the habitat.
- Involvement in Tule Springs began in 2002.
- The Bureau of Land Management was preparing an Environmental Impact Statement.
- There was interesting resources; BLM didn't know they were there.
- Found mammoth remains in disposal boundary. BLM wasn't willing to take it out.
- A committee was formed
- A two-year process identified vision and goals.
- An environmental impact statement was drafted.
- Jill DeStefano and Helen Mortenson became active in advocating for protection of the area.
- Three species of poppies were identified.
- Ms. DeStefano and Mortenson became advocates for stronger protection.

Lynn Davis of the National Parks Conservation Association then took the floor. She said that getting a new national park is a rare opportunity. A very small percentage is considered. There is a huge criterion. It has to be worth saving for generations.

Ms. DeStefano and Mortenson acquired 10,000 signatures. Having a national park provides great economic opportunity.

This week, it was voted on unanimously to ask congress to make it a national park.

What's next:

- Resolutions
- Boundaries to be determined
- Congressional delegation needed to support it
- It should be called a national monument
- Need to pass legislation
- When it is designated, park service needs to be funded
- Brain trusts and groups need to come together to plan process to form park

At 7:30, questions were taken from the floor.

- About UNLV. UNLV signed a letter of support. Have taken people out to the wash to study.
- Can people see it: By permit; Protectors of Tule Springs will do public tours.
- Probable time line:
 - Heat is on to get it passed.
 - Have not been given a time.
 - Need to support Senator Reid to get it passed.
 - It could go very quickly.
 - Planning process has done a lot.
- Is there a web site: tulesprings.nlv.com. The North Valley Democratic Club web site also has a link.
- How is a park determined?
 - Two studies : reconnaissance study and a second involved study.
 - Neither has been done.
- How can we support?
 - Write legislatures; voice support; give them a nudge to start process.
 - Gather endorsement letters; letters of encouragement. We can put a sample letter on our web site.
- What is the difference between a park and a national monument?
 - Park has too many criteria.
 - National monument fits natural resources.
 - President can designate a national monument.
- Would this create jobs?
 - Yes

A motion was made and seconded to support and draft a letter of support.

The meeting reconvened at 8:05. Ken Kraft discussed next month's holiday party and announced that the United Blood bank cannot come until February.

Persons running for office introduced themselves:

- Susan Scann – Dept. 29 - District Court Judge
- Gloria Sturman – Dept – 26 - District Court Judge
- Phil Dabney – Dept 31 - District Court Judge
- Andrew Martin – Assembly District 13 – Assembly Person or State Senate Dist. 9
- Sam Cristos – Assembly District 42 – Assembly Person

Rich Cherchio spoke about council issues.

The 50/50 drawing was held with the winner splitting \$27.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.