

MINUTES

LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

Monday, August 26, 2024 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge

Meeting called to order at 5 PM at Moose Lodge.

Minutes approved. Moved by Debbie Schultz. Seconded by Chelsea.

Treasurer report. Collection June 24 was \$71. \$20 to Moose. Balance \$4819.39.

Presentations, Center for Family Health & Education: Shahram Kosari, Center serves 20,000 unique patients in six geographical areas in 10 Clinics. Provide care for patients regardless of ability to pay. Deliver evidence-based medicine and state-of-the-art care. Most of their numbers reported to regulatory agencies are better than the national and the state numbers. National Ass'n of Free and Charitable Clinics awarded them a gold medal. Have to recertify every year. High score from National Health Service. Can bring in top notch providers because of their high scores. Every dollar that goes into the clinic goes back out to the community. They believe there are 3700 people in LV that have limited access to healthcare. The need in LV is such that a provider needs to have infrastructure that can handle the demand. Propose to be here Mon-Friday. 8-5 or 10-7. Hope to provide transportation.

What makes Center qualified to do this complex job? They have done it in 10 other clinics. Need to work with leaders of the community. Need to collaborate with county agencies, and with medical organizations. Want to bring the grant money to make this work. Need our support. How can we support each other and work together to accomplish this?

What is here (clinic, Melvani, and Big Bear van) is not enough to elevate the medical care available in LV. Once they get the grant, they have 120 days to be up and running.

MDApex Community Health Center: Armine Haratyunyan, CEO). Chief Medical Officer has long history in California and the High Desert. No promises about 5 days/week. Already in escrow to buy old NAPA Auto Parts building. Any other organization affiliated with Apex to provide funding to the operation in case they don't get the grant? To serve all residents – legal or not. Bring in doctors from Loma Linda, etc.

We brought up issues such as parking, permitting, possible road improvements, etc., that could be costly and burdensome for them. Be good to have local snake anti-venom treatment.

H clinic. Dr. Nguyen. Existing clinic in town for 7 years. FQHC Federal Qualified Health Center. Now can apply for a grant with that designation. Applying for same grant as the other two. Only one grant per community, so only one of the three will get the grant. Business has finally grown because IEHP has assigned people to him. Serving 2000-3000 patients now. Can expand more with FQHC grant money and offer more services and be open more time. Grant is \$650,000 per year until funding runs out.

Big Bear Community Health Care District. 9 months ago, asked for permission to come to LV. Not here to get a grant. Important to collaborate. Question: why all of a sudden all of this attention to LV? The grants. Work together?

Dr. Melvani said a few words about his practice which has been here 28 years, two days per week.

Chuck asked for Angie Miller, himself, a few others, to get together and review all of this so we get a better idea how this will work. We stressed the importance for collaboration, not competition, with the existing H Clinic, Big Bear Health Van, Lutheran Behavioral Health, and Dr. Melvani's practice.

Sheriff, CHP, Code Enforcement all unable to attend meeting. LVEDA had sent out a response from Code Enforcement re its operation and the difficulty of providing information on all the closed cases, etc. Now easier to get old vehicles removed along roads working with Sheriff's Office and SCE.

Third District by Steve Reyes. Inaugural event at Observatory at Library is Sept 7. Virtual Town Hall about California handling of homeowners insurance.

Sheriff's Report Here are stats are from July 30, 2024, through August 21, 2024. Total calls for service: 497. Calls for service called into dispatch: 387. Self-generated calls by deputies: 110. Total reports taken: 65. Total arrests in Lucerne Valley: 10

THIRD DISTRICT. Steve Reyes

Assemblyman Lackey, Senator Rosalicia Ochoa Bogh. Unable to attend

Congressman Obernolte by Hayden Bartz Getting legislation passed. Hold Act – allows financial compensation for donation of organs, to reimburse costs of missing work, travelling a long distance, etc. Another stops CARB from mandating use of electric locomotives. Legislation passed. Partnered with others trying to stop rail up to Sacto – No Franken-Rail Act. Preserving Vehicle Choice Act to stop EPA from issuing CA a waiver allowing it to force electric vehicles on everyone.

LVUSD. Peter Livingston and Chelsea. Something going on in Rancho Lucerne. Going to build in 6-8 months, they say. Or is he trying to upgrade it to get a better price to sell it? Maybe 1500 houses at build-out. 70% non-retired. 30% retired. School enrollment up to 1180. Considering using battery backups to solar. Six charter schools up at least 10% each, one as high as 30%.

LV Museum by Chelsea LaGrange. Still moving stuff around. Starting a sponsor donation program. Donors get a plaque acknowledging the donation. In November, a field trip to 29 Palms Weed Show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Angie Miller – Need new members for fireworks committee. Fireworks show and parade very successful. Lots of activities in the park. Mega Swap Meet on Sept. 7. Passport system and scavenger show. Paint and Sip Women's networking event. Lions Club making haunted ghost town Oct. 26. Tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 7. Sept 7 dedication of new observatory.

LVEDA/CHUCK. Sienna Solar presentation. Open House. Avantis open house Sept 24 here at Moose Lodge 5pm.

License plate cameras? Status so far: Expensive, no grants for them, and effectiveness uncertain.

Water Hauling update. During pandemic, the state seemingly said hauled water ok. Mostly related to emergencies. Regulations too limited to help out LV's needs.

Adjourned 7:15