

Solar One/Community Meeting  
Fox Field January 12,2012  
Robert Kerekes

At 5:00PM Supervisor's Aid Norm Hickling opened the meeting between First Solar and Community Participants. Mr. Hickling let it be known right off that he was the facilitator, and the facilitator only, and that he was expecting for all participants to behave in a mature manner and not resort to yelling and so on.

Mr. Hickling stated that he was not a good poker player because he could not hide his intentions. Therefore he was being honest himself and looking for honesty from all participants.

Solar One was well represented with many employees from different divisions being there. Both Oso and Fairmont Town Councils were well represented but official council members from Three Points and Antelope Acres were strikingly not in attendance except for Ginger Stout of Antelope Acres Town Council.

Some few months ago Solar One gave financial gifts totaling \$140,000 divided between Antelope Acres Town Council, the Poppy Preserve, AA Community Center and 4H club, among some others. In response Both Oso and Fairmont Town Councils complained bitterly looking for their share. Also there has been concern raised in the past that such contributions amounts to bribery and should not even be done, but that was not even an issue here.

First to speak for Solar One was James Woodruff. Mr. Woodruff's stated concerns was that of equability.



James Woodruff

How to be fair. Originally First Solar came up with \$140,000, \$100,000 of which was supposed to go to Antelope Acres Town Council and the rest broken up to some other organizations like the Antelope Acres Community Center, 4H, Del Sur School and the Poppy Preserve.

Being confused I sent off an e-mail to Mr. Woodruff and received the following reply.

"We have previously committed (last June) to \$140,000 as a community benefit for the West Valley. We have concluded that the best and least controversial use of this fund would be for scholarships. Eligibility would be for residents in the communities of AA, Oso and Fairmont attending AV College. In all, we believe that the fund would support anywhere between 7 and 10 annual scholarships of about \$1,000 each during the life of the AVSR1 project. These funds would be managed by the AVC Foundation. Separately, we stated at



Norm Hickling

last week's meeting that we have determined to dedicate an additional \$140,000 to the West Valley communities. I described a committee directed approach to distribution of these funds. These funds were not specifically committed to scholarships, and the use of the funds would be determined by the committee (which would include representatives of the three town councils), subject only to the general guidelines that the funds be used for the greater good of the community. That said, as several observed at the meeting, the funds could be used for scholarships as well. These funds would be managed by CalFund. As further described, we plan to structure this fund in a way that would allow other developers to use this vehicle for community giving.

We appreciated the feedback from Thursday's meetings, and understand that the town councils will be giving further consideration to the deployment of these funds.

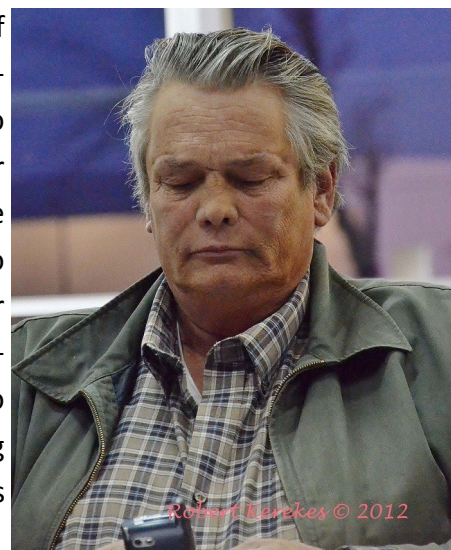
In total this brings First Solar's commitment to the West Valley community to \$340,000 -- consisting of the \$140,000 announced in June, the \$140,000 previewed at the meeting last Thursday, and the 6 \$10,000 grants, also announced last June, which have already been distributed."

According to this then the original commitment of \$100,000 to Antelope Acres Town Council was cancelled but six grants of \$10,000 each went to other organizations mentioned previously.



Standing James Woodruff, left, Norm Hickling, right is Jim Lamon, VP and other company officials and Oso and Fairmont Town Council members.

The question of scholarship funds was challenged by Pat Chioto of Fairmont TC as not being beneficial for many members of the community, especially those who have not children or their children are too old. Mr. Chioto also pushed for funds for fire, police, parks, etc. to which Mr. Hickling



Pat Chioto

responded that there would not be enough funds to do that and that was the responsibility of County.

Carl wanted to know what was in it for him?

David Kerr, President of FTC, said that while he does have children who could benefit from scholarships, he did feel that scholarships could be a fair way to go. He further stated that the Councils were going to have to become more conciliatory because if they did not he was afraid that no agreements would ever be reached.

Barbara of Neenach wanted to know why a 4H Club should receive a grant but not the 4H Club in Neenach? To which there was a response to check out how many 4H Clubs there were on the West Side.

Pat Chioto was also concerned about mitigation property and why was that being handled by a Conservancy in Santa Monica instead of being handled by the Rural Western Antelope Valley Conservancy, which was recently established in Fairmont by some members of the Town Council. He also wanted to know why it would



More attendees

have a cyclone fence around it and why was it not to be used as a park for people. Robert Kerekes responded that it was mitigation property used for preserving habitat. Norm Hickling responded that there was not going to be a cyclone fence around it and that he would have someone from the conservancy come to the next meeting to explain it.

David Jefferies of FTC brought up the accumulated funds that would come into existence since 23

more companies were expected to be contributing to the fund. Further, he stated, that Element Power had made an extremely large and generous offer to them to which Norm Hickling responded that they had better not depend on Element too much as they might not get permitted. Mr. Jefferies further stated that the RWAVC had been formed to distribute funds throughout the West Side to which Mr. Hinkling responded asking if they would put those funds toward the general fund. Though the question was repeated no answer came forth.

Mr. Jefferies raised further concerns about changes to Solar's compliance plan, about their lack of preparation for fire control and a lack of safety procedure.

Jim Lamon, Alabama accent, main honcho, took the podium to discuss jobs, job firings, and rehiring policies. There was a strong response for hiring local people and that meant people who live on the west side and not in Palmdale or Lancaster. Currently there are 154 employees on site and they are expecting to hire 73 more in the near future and they will hire locally.

A question of water use was raised to which the answer was in 3 months 129.6 acre feet has been used. I'm double checking on that figure but have not received confirmation yet. David Jefferies claimed that a property just south of the project now has silt in their well. Pat Chioto said his well is down two feet, but was not concerned because he believes it will return to its previous depth quickly. The sense was water, which is used mostly for dust control, was being used too quickly. Palliatives were also being dispersed to control dust and when asked what palliatives were being used Mr. Lamon responded that it was verified safe by Federal agencies and went on to something else.

I have sent in a second e-mail to Jim Woodruff asking for information on amount of water used, palliatives used, what will be grown under and around panels and what mitigation did they have to do for burrowing owls and wondered why so many have been showing up in my neighborhood recently? Still waiting.

Further discussion of the financial gifts program are to be taken up at the next meeting, which will be on February 7, 2012 at 5:00PM at Fox Field.