

BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.

REGULAR MEETING - JULY 2009

Thursday, 9 July 2009 9:00 AM Sedona Fire Station #3 - 125 Slide Rock Road, Sedona, AZ 86351

(Note - previous **MINUTES** and **EXHIBITS** may be viewed at www.BigParkCouncil.org)

Call to order - Pledge of Allegiance – Gary Johnson

1. **Determine Quorum by Roll Call** – **18 out of 27 Members were present. The 9 absent Members** are: Canyon Mesa, Casa de Piedras, Cathedral Rock Ranch, Oak Creek Country Club Estates III, Pine Valley, Ridge at Sedona, Sedona Village Lodging Association, Sundance, and Village of Oak Creek Association.
2. **Agenda changes** - The Executive Board had its monthly meeting at the Forest Service Ranger Station Administrative Offices Conference Room, on Monday, 6 July 2009 at 9:00 AM. The revised agenda, subsequently emailed to Council Members, reflects actions taken by the Executive Board.
3. **President's report** - Dorothy O'Brien
 - (a) **Guest Speaker - State Senator Steve Pierce** - at approximately 10:00 AM item # 9 of the Agenda, a legislative update from District 1 State Senator Steve Pierce, will be taken up. Upon completion Senator Pierce's legislative update, the meeting will resume its regular Agenda.
 - (b) **Bylaws** - reported that the Executive Board suggests forming a task force in the next month or so to look into Bylaw amendments, e.g. **review of officer service terms**, developing and circulating meeting agendas at the Executive Board meeting preceding the monthly meeting, and the distribution of draft minutes solely to Member Representatives and Alternates, and only posting adopted meeting minutes on the website.
 - (c) **Verde Valley Master Regional Trails Plan** – the County is ready for public comment on the draft plan, with the first public comment meeting scheduled for August 12th in Cornville. Upon consideration of whether the Council should take up the matter at a Special Meeting or a Regular Meeting, a show of hands voted to schedule a presentation at the September Regular Meeting.
 - (d) **League of Unincorporated Areas** – Dorothy is representing the Council at League meetings, reporting that the League is looking for an improved voice for the 35,000 residents of the unincorporated areas.
 - (e) **Movies at the Moon** – for several years, the 100-seat Canyon Moon Theater has been bringing live theater, music and other forms of entertainment to the Village – it is about to launch a new effort – Movies at the Moon, which will bring exciting, entertaining and educational films to our community, needs input from everybody to ensure that programs are targeted to community interests. Revenues to support the program will come from both attendance and a membership program. A 7-item questionnaire is on the website www.BigParkCouncil.org – please respond to email@BigParkCouncil.com.
4. **New Members/Member Changes** – none this month
5. **Secretary's Report** - Henry Reiter – several comments were received on the June draft minutes and displayed in highlighted form on the screen for the Council's consideration. **On motion made and seconded, the draft June minutes as amended were unanimously approved by voice vote with no objections.**
6. **Treasurer's Report** - Dave Norton made his report - see website www.BigParkCouncil.org.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's report** - Fran McWherter reports no correspondence received this month.
8. **Committee Reports** -
 - (a) **Website** - Jane Petty/Dave Norton – see website www.BigParkCouncil.org
 - (b) **Recreation Committee** - Don Beard – Summer of Fun program will complete its activities at the end of July. The Recreation Committee reports that participation has been fluctuating, probably due to logistical issues that came up this season – appreciation was extended to **Judy Hill of Sedona Winds** for ice cream socials, and the Sedona Roadrunner and Pink Jeeps for providing transportation for the children at no cost to the community.

(c) **P&Z Committee** - Mark Mumaw

- (1) **Adobe Hacienda Bed and Breakfast Inn** – is an existing 5-unit B&B Inn that is looking for a Special Use Permit and minor Community Plan amendment to convert an existing structure on the property for a 6th guest unit to increase revenue, and upgrade that structure's façade to be compatible with the existing guest units, with no increase in building footprint. The Committee reports that this proposal would: (a) change the use from that of a Bed and Breakfast Inn, which is permitted in RS zoning as a residential use, to a non-residential "lodging" use; (b) provide for additional kitchen facilities; and (c) considering its adjacency to State Route 179, would be an improvement for the community.

On motion made and seconded, the Council voted unanimously to recommend the application by voice vote with no objections.

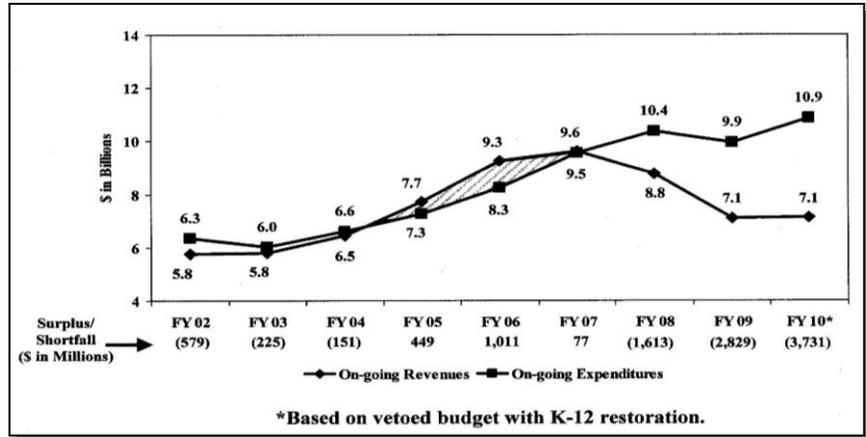
- (2) **Yavapai County Community Plan Policy and Process** – In the Chairman's absence, the four remaining Committee members unanimously recommended the latest draft of the County's Community Plan Policy and Process document dated 8 July 2009 Version 2, which became available and **was distributed by email** just one day prior to the Council's meeting. The Committee notes that "draft Version 2" is consistent with the proposed edits that the Council supported at the June meeting by a voice vote with no objections pursuant to a joint recommendation of the Council's Executive Board, and the Community Plan Review and P&Z Committees. An email sent late yesterday by the chair of the Community Plan Review Committee (who has been out of town since early June) disapproving of "draft Version 2" was displayed on the screen and discussed. Some Council Members expressed the need for time to review "draft Version 2". Dorothy O'Brien advised that the matter may be acted upon by the County prior to the next Regular Meeting of the Council and that action was now advisable.

Upon motion made and seconded the Council voted to recommend "draft Version 2" by a voice vote with 12 in favor, 0 against, and 6 abstentions (by a show of hands).

- (d) **Transportation Committee** – in John Gillam's absence, Dave Norton reported that in response to the Council's communication that visitors were having difficulty with the lack of adequate street identification signage at the new roundabouts, ADOT advised that it "may" be able to do "diagram signs" similar to ADOT's roundabout street identification signage on State Route 89A between Cottonwood and Clarkdale as part of the I-17 improvements project – stay tuned.
- (e) **Community Plan Review Committee** – in Norm Murdock's absence, Mel Copen made a combined report with the work of the Vision and Enhancement Committee – see below, and also item 8 (c) (2) above. In August, the Committee plans to continue its coordination with County staff on the Community Plan Review process, with perhaps another round of major community participation in October.
- (f) **Vision and Enhancement Committee** - Mel Copen reported that a large number of task groups were making progress, one of which is working on looking at what other communities have done, and another is working on local taxes and use of proceeds. There has been enthusiastic participation in this Committee, but even more community involvement is encouraged.

9. **Visitor Presentation – District 1 State Senator Steve Pierce** (contact information: **(602) 926-5584** email: SPierce@AZLeg.gov) visited with the Council during a break of the State legislature's budget session and provided an update on the state's financial situation. Some highlights of the report:

- (a) Senate President Bob Burns appointed Senator Pierce as **Senate President Pro Tempore** with the responsibility to preside over the 90-member senate in the absence of the President. Working with Andy Tobin and Lucy Mason, Senator Pierce is optimistic for northern Arizona's representation, and advocates a closer relationship between the controlling Republican senators and Democrats.
- (b) Senator Pierce reported that the State "was broke" and distributed the following chart entitled **"The Structural Shortfalls of On-Going Revenues and Spending"** which indicated a **\$3.7 billion projected deficit for Fiscal Year 2010**. During the 9 Fiscal Years covered by the chart, the state experienced a **surplus in only 3 years** (FY 2005 through 2007). Various elements of spending were reviewed, including **\$1 billion** of mandated spending for education, health care and unemployment expenses and advocated reform through a bi-partisan effort.

Senator Pierce's Chart**"The Structural Shortfall of On-Going Revenue and Spending"**

- (c) With regard to budget cutbacks, Senator Pierce stressed that cutbacks in “money-making” line items such as certain State parks hurt the economy and thereby may exacerbate State budget deficits.
- (d) In response to a question on the on-going water debate, Senator Pierce felt that the only way to manage growth was for local groups to unite rather than fighting among themselves.

10. Other reports – (BPRCC seeks to have attendees at meetings of the following organizations – in the interest of shortening meetings, these reports will be made on a rotating schedule of 2-3 per month)

- (a) ADOT Executive Team (Gillam/Berkshire) – the team meets twice a year; next meeting is in September
- (b) Yavapai County Regional Planners Workshop (Mumaw)

(c) Verde Valley Master Regional Trails Plan – considering time constraints and with the Council's permission, Keran O'Brien **emailed the following report** reported on the June 25th meeting held in Cottonwood, at which Bill Stafford made the following observations:

- (1) **115 miles of trails have been constructed around the Village with Federal money** – other Village projects include planned reconstruction of the La Barranca and Hot Loop trails
- (2) The Sedona City Council gives \$50,000 annually to the Forest Service
- (3) Several million dollars of Federal grant money for transportation and designated for trails, has been diverted to the state budget, with questions raised on the legality of such a move

Other elements of Keran's report:

- (4) Each community within the VV Master Regional Plan must build its own trails, with a separate resolution for each incorporated community is planned to serve as a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding in which these communities “buy into” the trail plan. **Unincorporated communities, such as the Village, fall under the County.**
 - (5) Public comment, in the form of charrettes, will take place before the regional plans are submitted to the Forest Service. **The first charrette (a trial run) will be in Cottonwood on August 12th.**
 - (6) Public Easements on Private Land – if these easements are needed for the trail plan and granted by private landowners, there may be protection for liability by state law (Arizona Revised Statutes). The private landowner must still pay property taxes on the easement land – which the work-group felt was unfair and was considering ways to change this.
 - (7) **The next meeting is scheduled for July 23rd.**
- (d) Verde Valley Regional Transportation - John Gillam
- (e) Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District** – Mark Mumaw reported that the District's maintenance contract was awarded to Vincent Contracting located in Prescott. The 16-month contract is just over \$54k and the District has budgeted almost \$93k for maintenance to pick up various items – that budget amount is about \$16 annually in property tax for the “typical” (\$400k) home in the District. This initial contract doesn't include the first 6 months of the warranty maintenance covered in ADOT's contract. Mark noted an apparent public frustration with “negative” changes to landscaping line items and that the AARC is checking these line items against the approved scope of work covered in the grant application.
- (f) Sedona Fire District** – Dave Norton reported that there was a tie vote (2 to 2 with one absent board member) on moving ahead with the proposed Chapel facility. In the interim, the Board is looking at options for the best type of emergency response vehicle to be employed. The matter may come up at the next meeting on July 22nd when a district voter referendum will be considered.

- (g) Sedona-Oak Creek School District – Jan Montgomery
- (h) Yavapai County Schools – (need representative)
- (i) Big Park Domestic Wastewater Improvement District – (need representative)
- (j) Sedona Public Library - Village Library Center – Carolyn Fisher
- (k) Sedona Village Business Association – Judy Hill
- (l) Chamber of Commerce Community Issues Committee** – Dave Norton made his report on today's meeting via email as follows:
 - (1) **NACOG Grant Funds** - Becky O'Banion (Business Services Manger, and owner of Zonies Galleria in Uptown Sedona) spoke on the availability of grants through the Northern Arizona Council of Governments. Grant funding may be available for things like Council support personnel, etc., which would save the Council considerable money. There may even be funding for the Recreation program. Dave told Becky that she should expect a call from an Executive Board member – her contact information is (928) 300-4868 or bobanion@commspeed.net
 - (2) **Farmer's Market** - every Friday morning at the Sedona Airport from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. There are over 30 vendors there. The airport is also going to be adding a new restaurant in a new building that may break ground later this year. The existing building will be removed and replaced with aircraft parking. Once that is done, a new tour operator building will be constructed so all visitors taking air tours will go to one building instead of several places on the airport as now. The airport is also going to be looking at a total rehab of the overlook in the near future.
 - (3) **Windsong Trailer Park** property is in the final stages of redevelopment. The 15-acre parcel is planned for retail and residential condos uses with a church at the back of the development. Construction is expected to begin before spring of 2010.
 - (4) The **Sedona Trolley** is exploring electric or alternative fuel vehicles for the uptown area. No implementation date is available as of now. Tlaquepaque is experiencing vacancies and they have reduced lease rates to assist in keeping tenants but visitors are not currently buying larger art pieces. The Main Street organization has noticed that visitors are beginning to do some shopping. A reusable shopping bag program is being developed.
 - (5) The **Shop Sedona** program is being launched with the business community. All residents will be included in a mailing to go out in August or September which will provide them with a local ID card for discounts at selected merchants that will be listed on a website. Additional cards can be requested from the website once it is launched with the mailing.
- (m) Verde Valley Intergovernmental Meetings – Dorothy O'Brien
- (n) Greater Sedona Area MatForce Meeting – Steve Suter

11. Old business - none this month

12. New business – Review of Bylaws – see Agenda item 3 (b) above

13. Announcements:

- (a) **Agenda items** - Agenda items should be submitted to Dave Norton the Friday of the week before the Council meeting. He will send a reminder to Council members the Monday prior to the Friday deadline.
- (b) **Movies at the Moon – Canyon Moon Theater** is planning to start showing films Monday and Thursday nights – please see questionnaire which will help to assure desirable programs
- (c) **August – Magical Journeys** - Musical Event with Northern Arizona University
- (d) **September 18th through 20th** – Celtic Harvest Festival - www.CelticHarvestFestival.com.
 - (1) Friday, September 18th - **Pub Night at Fork in the Road** restaurant featuring **Oceans Apart** (6:00 PM to 9:00 PM), and Celtic cultural workshops in area schools
 - (2) Saturday, September 19th – **Celtic Harvest Festival at the Hilton/Tequa** (10:00 AM – 4:00 PM) and **Ceilidh dance event at the Hilton Sedona's Tequa Ballroom** (6:30 PM)
 - (3) Sunday, September 20th - **Brunch at the Marketplace Café** featuring **Oceans Apart** (11 AM - 2 PM)
- (e) **Date Pending - Town Hall Meeting** – Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick - Edgar Lozoya has offered the Hilton for a meeting with Congresswoman Kirkpatrick. We just need to have a date from her.

14. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM