

# BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.

## REGULAR MEETING - November 2009

Thursday, 12 November 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](http://www.BigParkCouncil.org))

**Call to order** - Pledge of Allegiance – lead by Veterans on the Council and other Veterans attending

1. **Determine Quorum by Roll Call** – **20 out of 27 Members are present. The 7 absent Members are: Canyon Mesa, La Barranta I, Oak Creek Country Club Estates III, Oak Creek Estados, Pinon Woods I, Sundance HOA, and Wild Horse Mesa.**
2. **Agenda changes/Executive Board Meeting** – The Executive Board met this month at the Red Rock Ranger Station, 8375 SR 179 – on Monday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 A.M. The revised agenda, subsequently emailed to Council Members, reflects actions taken by the Executive Board.
3. **President's Report** - Dorothy O'Brien
  - (a) **Open Space Panel with Verde Valley Leadership** – Dorothy O'Brien represented Council.
  - (b) **Septic Seminar – AZ Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association** – well attended Beaver Creek Regional Council hosted nuts and bolts seminar on County regulations.
  - (c) **Page Springs Historic Road Designation** – the first ever County designation important to the Cornville area and the Verde Valley.
  - (d) **Tom O'Halleran appointed Alternate to Verde River Basin Partnership** – President O'Brien reported that Tom O'Halleran was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Verde River Basin Partnership.
  - (e) **Verde Villages Property Owners Association** – which represents about 4,000 properties, is struggling with the issue of dissolution.
  - (f) **NSA Draft Legislation** – ongoing intercommunity dialogue group and area leadership collaboration on legislative language for US Representative Kirkpatrick – draft in the works by coalition consisting of Keep Sedona Beautiful, Democrats of the Red Rocks, Sedona Village Business Association, Sierra Club and the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council.
  - (g) **Ongoing Meetings with Large Commercial Complex Owners** – including Tequa and the Factory Outlets to discuss community issues
  - (h) **Sunrise Senior Center open at the Methodist Church** –
  - (i) **League of Cities and Towns** – presentation slated for December Council meeting by Tom Belshe on pros and cons in the consideration of incorporation.
  - (j) **Verde Valley Intergovernmental Meeting** – Bert Berkshire will represent Council at next meeting
4. **New Members/Member Changes** – none this month
5. **Secretary's Report** - Henry Reiter reported that no comments were received, but there were a few typos corrections made, with the final draft displayed on the screen. **On motion made and seconded, the October draft minutes as corrected were unanimously adopted by voice vote with no objections.**
6. **Treasurer's Report** - Dave Norton
  - (a) **Treasurer's Report** – the report was displayed on the screen, indicating expenses paid for October at \$125.00, and a total Account Balance as of the end of October of \$3,173.36. The Report can be viewed on the Council's website - [www.BigParkCouncil.org](http://www.BigParkCouncil.org). **On motion made and seconded, the October Treasurer's Report was accepted for audit by voice vote with no objections.**
  - (b) **Budget Committee** – Consisting of John Gillam, Mel Copen, and Dave Norton, will review the budget for next year and report at the December meeting for Council consideration.
  - (c) **Audit Committee** – currently consists of Jeff Dunn and Carolyn Fisher – **a 3<sup>rd</sup> volunteer is needed.**
7. **Corresponding Secretary's report** - Fran McWherter – no report this month
8. **Committee Reports**
  - (a) **Website** - Jane Petty/Dave Norton – please see the Council's website at [www.BigParkCouncil.org](http://www.BigParkCouncil.org)

- (b) **Recreation Committee** - Don Beard – no report this month
- (c) **P&Z Committee** - Mark Mumaw
- (1) **Dark Skies Update** – the County Planning Commission has accepted the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council's recommendations except the shielding provision for landscape lighting.
- (d) **Transportation Committee** – John Gillam
- (1) **Roundabout Signage** – John reported that ADOT would consider directional roundabout signage smaller than 8'x12'. One smaller alternate direction sign design was displayed on the screen. After some discussion John agreed to pursue a coordinate roundabout signage approach for SR 179 working with the City of Sedona and ADOT as well as other groups including KSB and the All-American Road Committee.
- (2) **Sign Placement** – though related to the directional signage issue, placement is a particular concern. The Transportation Committee will work with ADOT on improving placement issues using the "what can we do to help?" approach.
- (3) **Median Weeds** – an ongoing issue since no volunteer workers are permitted in the medians because of safety concerns. The Committee will continue to work with ADOT to maintain median appearance.
- (4) **I-17 Interchange** – David Gill initiated discussion for direction from Council on how the Transportation Committee should pursue this issue. An objection was raised that this matter was not on the meeting Agenda. **On motion made and seconded, the matter was added to the Agenda by a voice vote with one objection, resulting in a 19-1 decision of the 20 Members present.** Discussion followed mainly dealing with the importance of coordinating the Council's efforts with other stakeholders. **On motion made and seconded, the Council directed the Transportation Committee by unanimous voice vote with no objections to form a sub-Committee to coordinate with other stakeholders and participate in the ADOT design process for the proposed new interchange.**
- (e) **Community Plan Review Committee** – Tom Graham
- (1) **Letter to Supervisor Davis** – In Norm Murdock's absence, Vice Chair Tom Graham reported that during Yavapai County's review of its recently adopted Policy and Procedures document pertaining to all community plans, and also manage scarce County personnel resources that will be available to assist communities with their community plan, our Community Plan Review Committee has maintained contact with the County regarding their suggestion that the Council's Visioning process go forward. In that regard, a letter has been drafted to Supervisor Davis regarding the Visioning process and requesting a meeting to discuss this with him. President O'Brien asked the Members if they had any comments, or objections to sending the letter – hearing none, the Chair moved to the next item.
- (f) **Vision and Enhancement Committee** – Mel Copen
- (1) **Update** – The County's prime focus is on the Community Plan Review and that the Visioning effort should precede the Plan. Since both Visioning and the Community Plan Review efforts require broad community outreach, we want to make sure we are working hand and hand with the County on these efforts - as it is not likely that we will have great success in doing more than one community outreach. We hope to resolve any issues shortly and then kick the Visioning process into high gear.
- (g) **Nominating Committee** – Don Beard reported that the Committee, which also included Judy Hill and Jane Petty have selected the following slate of Officers for next year:
- President – Mel Copen**  
**Vice President – Dave Norton**  
**Secretary – Fran McWherter**  
**Treasurer – Mark Mumaw**
- President O'Brien pointed out that voting for Officers will take place at the December Council meeting and that any Member of the Council may propose their own slate of Officers for consideration by the Members prior to voting.**
- (h) **Bylaws Review Committee** – Mark Mumaw – reported that the Committee does not yet have any recommendations. The first meeting of the Committee took place on October 21<sup>st</sup>, with a second meeting scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

9. **Visitor Presentation – Sedona Public Library (SPL)** presentation by **Ann Meiggs**, Trustee, **Ginny Volkman**, Director of SPL, and **Barbara Kile**, Yavapai County Library District Director. The presentation consisted of three segments: (a) Overview of the SPL, and the Village service center, referred to as “**SPL in the Village**”; (b) The **Yavapai Library Network** and how SPL and “SPL in the Village” are part of that network; (c) Review of SPL in the Village facility statistics.

- (a) **Overview of Sedona Public Library** - The 51-year old SPL was built on land donated by residents, with \$2.5 million of building costs paid by residents and businesses. In 1988 the City of Sedona began contributions to part of library operations. Two years later in 1990, Yavapai and Coconino Counties commenced contributions to another part of those operational expenses. There are about 100 volunteer workers.

- The Sedona Public Library opened **SPL in the Village** (originally called the Village Service Center) in December 2005. Now more than 1,700 people visit each month to pick up items they've ordered through the Yavapai County Network, return items from any library in the Network or use the public Internet access computers. Unreserved items that are returned each day can be checked out. In addition, SPL provides free digital audio book downloads and electronic books (eBooks) online (see attached **Exhibit A**).
- The Center is a **WiFi location**, and many people bring their laptops for **free wireless access**. **SPL in the Village** has no circulating collection of its own. Items can be ordered from any computer with Internet access via the Sedona Public Library site using its online catalog at [www.SedonaLibrary.org](http://www.SedonaLibrary.org), and picked up at **SPL in the Village**. (see attached **Exhibit B** for online tutorial)



- (b) **Yavapai Library Network** – the YLN includes over forty unique libraries. Each participating library shares a common catalog that offers access to more than 1,000,000 items. Once activated, your library card may be used at other YLN libraries (see attached **Exhibit C**) – you must register as a patron at each library you wish to use. Library cards are issued at no cost to County residents but ID requirements and proof of residency varies for individual libraries. In addition to the Yavapai Library Network, the Sedona Public Library provides access to **Arizona Statewide Databases** (see attached **Exhibit D**).
- (c) **SPL in the Village Statistics** – Barbara Kile advised that Village real estate taxes contribute \$176,010 to the Library District. About \$57,000 of that is spent directly on the **SPL in the Village** facility and the \$119,000 balance went to all the other services provided by the system. By way of example, a \$446,000 property in the Village pays \$36 annually to the Library District (comment heard was that this is about the cost of an annual subscription to just one of the magazines provided free of charge online by SPL).

Activity at **SPL in the Village** is noteworthy – in the past three years circulation is up 80% and traffic is up more than 90%.



**Photo to left** - the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council presents **SPL in the Village** with a donation check (left to right in photo are **David Norton**, Council Treasurer, **Barbara Kile**, County Library District Director, **Ann Meiggs**, SPL Trustee, **Jenny Volkman**, SPL Director, **Carolyn Fisher**, Village library coordinator, **Dorothy O'Brien**, Council President, and **Mel Copen**, Council Vice President)

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)
- (b) Yavapai County Regional Planners Workshop (Mumaw)
- (c) **Verde Valley Master Regional Trails Plan** – Keran O'Brien advised that the draft trails map previously provided the Council will be returned next week after being available for public viewing for over a month. Several opinions were voiced to the effect that this availability was inadequate notice to adjacent property owners, and that an electronic (PDF) version of the draft trails plan should be made available to the public. President O'Brien reminded everyone of the County's position is that it will only disseminate final versions of plans because of the previous misuse of published draft plans that mislead the public and caused confusion and frustration. But, President O'Brien promised to make a request for an electronic map at the request of Members of the Council representing adjacent property owners.

- (d) Verde Valley Regional Transportation - John Gillam
- (e) **Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District** – Tom Graham reported on a communication from **Bev Staddon**, Yavapai County consultant, that there is still no date on the enhancement construction warranty extension. The County did do its own “walk through” of the construction focusing on sidewalks, and communicated its observations to ADOT.
- (f) **Sedona Fire District** – Bert Berkshire – no report this month, but **Gary Johnson**, Sedona Fire Department, reminded everyone of their “Coats for Kids” program – donations can be dropped off at the Village fire station.
- (g) Sedona-Oak Creek School District – Jan Montgomery
- (h) Yavapai County Schools – (need representative)
- (i) **Big Park Domestic Wastewater Improvement District** – Paul Jones – no report this month
- (j) Sedona Public Library - SPL in the Village – Carolyn Fisher
- (k) **Sedona Village Business Association** – Mark Mumaw reported that the last couple of Association meetings focused on commercial signage - a difficult issue, especially during the current economic climate. He said that the SVBA is continuing to work with the County and ADOT.
- (l) **Chamber of Commerce Community Issues Committee** – Dave Norton reported on the Committee meeting of 13 October 2009 hosted by the Sedona Chamber of Commerce. A summary of that report:
  - (1) **ADOT construction update** – the Schnebly bridge work is still in progress (for those who may not have noticed). After the meeting Dave advised ADOT (Karl Burkhalter) that the Council was still studying roundabout directional signage, but that there was an impression that the 8’x12’ signs were too large, and that the Council would be communicating further with ADOT on this issue.
  - (2) **Sedona Main Street Program** - \$26 million was reinvested in Main Street during the First Fiscal year of the program ending in June 2009. An additional \$15.3 million in infrastructure improvements were made, including road work, storm drains and water system – these figures include the ADOT project. A net of 11 new businesses were established and net gain of 71 jobs was realized.
  - (3) **City of Sedona** – considering self collection of sales taxes due to ineffective collection methods at the Arizona Department of Revenue. Considerable damage to drainage ways, homes, and businesses did not make the news media. An SBA rep is temporarily located in the Chambers offices to assist businesses. Mayor Adams reported the City has to use \$800,000 of reserves for expenses, and the Council approved another \$340,000 to \$400,000 for this fiscal year. City tax revenues are down 14% to 16% from normal.
  - (4) **Red Rock Fantasy** – will be held this year due to considerable public request to continue it.
- m) Verde Valley Intergovernmental Meetings – Dorothy O’Brien

#### 11. Old business - none this month

#### 12. New business

- (a) **Community Calendar** – Steve Nelson, VOCA President, requested the Council send a letter to the Villager Editor to change the name of the 1-page calendar of events to either the “Village Calendar” or the “Community Calendar”. During discussion, it was pointed out that the Council contributes event information to the calendar, but does not control the calendar page. **On motion made and seconded, the Council approved unanimously that a letter be sent to the Villager requesting the calendar name change to “Community Calendar” – the voice vote was unanimous with no objections.**

#### 13. Announcements:

- (a) **Verde Valley Toy Run November 22<sup>nd</sup>** - 25th anniversary of the Verde Valley Toy Run, when bikers have fun and benefit needy kids throughout the Verde Valley. Register from 8:30 until 10 a.m. in the Cottonwood Wal-Mart parking lot at SR260 and Rodeo Drive.
- (b) **November 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> – Hilton Art Show at the Canyon Ballroom** – 32 local artists work will be on exhibit. Admission is free and there will be refreshments as well as a silent auction. Reception will be from 5-8 PM on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. For more information go to the event’s website at [www.HiltonSedona.com/HSR\\_landing/](http://www.HiltonSedona.com/HSR_landing/).
- (c) **SPL in the Village Book Sale** – coming in January 2010
- (d) **TGIF Festival April 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2010** – more information coming soon.

#### 14. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM