

BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.

REGULAR MEETING - December 2009

Thursday, 10 December 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

1. **Determine Quorum by Roll Call – 24 out of 27 Members are present. The 3 absent Members are: Oak Creek Country Club Estates III, Pinon Woods II East, and Sedona Village Lodging Association.**
2. **Agenda changes/Executive Board Meeting** – The Executive Board met this month at the Red Rock Ranger Station, 8375 SR 179 – on Monday December 7th at 9:30 A.M. The revised agenda, subsequently emailed to Council Members, reflects actions taken by the Executive Board at that meeting.
3. **President's Report** - Dorothy O'Brien
 - (a) **National Scenic Area** designation comments were submitted to Representative Kirkpatrick's Office from the Council and the NSA Coalition. Tom O'Halleran - and Tom Graham, working on behalf of the Council, drafted language.
 - (b) **Sedona Village Business Association** – President O'Brien made a presentation to the SVBA about the Council and its activities and purpose.
 - (c) **Camp Soaring Eagle** – President O'Brien provided a brief update on the Camp's situation, which has been reported in the newspapers. Contact Rick James or Jennifer Perry for more information.
 - (d) **Community Workshop** for Verde Front and Verde River Greenway will be given tonight at 6:00 PM at the Verde Ranger Station located at 300 East Highway 260 in Camp Verde.
 - (e) **School District Report** – Joan McClellan requested this previously scheduled item to be on a future meeting agenda.
 - (f) **Sunrise Center Day Program for Seniors** is now open at the Methodist Church, help is needed to spread the good word – call Jan Montgomery for more information.
4. **New Members/Member Changes** – none this month
5. **Secretary's Report** - Henry Reiter
 - (a) **Consideration and possible action on the November draft minutes** – there were no comments from Members and **on motion made and seconded, the November draft minutes were unanimously adopted by voice vote with no objections.**
 - (b) **Request to County for electronic version of the "Trail Map Book"** - **on motion made and seconded, the Secretary of the Council was directed to request an electronic version of the Trail Map Book as displayed at the October Trail Group meeting and subsequently distributed to Verde Valley cities. The Council Membership agreed to use this information solely for the Membership and it will not be posted on its website or distributed outside of the Council – the motion was adopted by a unanimous voice vote with no objections.**
6. **Treasurer's Report** - Dave Norton
 - (a) **November Treasurer's Report** – the November report can be viewed on the Council's website - www.BigParkCouncil.org. **On motion made and seconded, the November Treasurer's Report was accepted for audit by voice vote with no objections.**
 - (b) **2010 Draft Budget** – the Budget will be emailed to Council Members shortly after today's meeting and will be put to the Council for approval at the next Regular meeting scheduled for January 10th.
 - (c) **Change of Bank Depository** – Dave Norton advised that at its last meeting on December 7th, the Executive Board moved to change the bank depository.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's report** - Fran McWherter – no report this month

8. **Election of 2010 Officers** – President O'Brien reminded the 24 Members present of the following slate of officers submitted by the Nominations Committee and approved by the Council at the November meeting:

President – Mel Copen
Vice President – Dave Norton
Secretary – Fran McWherter
Treasurer – Mark Mumaw

Prior to the vote, Mel Copen indicated that the direction he would like to see the Council take in the coming year would include increased participation by members, inclusion of additional Residential Associations in the community, progress with the Vision and Planning efforts and added responsibility for taking leadership in implementing appropriate actions that result from these two efforts.

Before proceeding with the election for 2010 Council Officers, President O'Brien reminded the Council that any Member of the Council may propose their own slate of Officers for consideration by the Members prior to voting. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, the President asked for any motions, and **on motion made and seconded, the Council elected the slate of officers above unanimously by voice vote with no objections.**

9. **Committee Reports**

- (a) **Website** - Jane Petty/Dave Norton – no report this month - see website at www.BigParkCouncil.org
- (b) **Recreation Committee** - Don Beard – no report this month
- (c) **P&Z Committee** - Mark Mumaw – no report this month
- (d) **Transportation Committee** – John Gillam - no report this month
- (e) **Community Plan Review Committee** – Norm Murdock provided update on coordination work with the County, which is still developing ways to deal with Community Plans on a County-wide basis.
- (f) **Vision and Enhancement Committee** – Mel Copen reported that the visioning process is alive and well and will be proceeding as soon as the Committee works out a public participation process with the County so that this work could eventually be integrated with the Community Plan update process.
- (h) **Bylaws Review Committee** – Mark Mumaw reported that the Committee will be meeting in January and will report back to the Council with progress reports.

10. **Visitor Presentation** – One of the ongoing questions often asked by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors of the Big Park Council is why the community had not incorporated since Big Park was reaching “build-out”. This question, along with the fact that 10 years have passed since the last time the Council looked at the question, formed the basis to invite **Tom Belshe, Deputy Director of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, and Dale Wiebusch, Legislative Associate**, to provide a presentation on the pros and cons of incorporation, including legal and financial matters to be considered.

President O'Brien stressed the fact that this presentation was only to get information from the League, and, if Council Members were interested, subsequent meetings of the Council would be used to gather more information and debate the issues. Tom Belshe echoed this sentiment, stating that the League was not advocating incorporation for anyone, but simply providing factual information.

- (a) **Legal Requirements** – A minimum population of 1,500 is required for “towns”, and a minimum of 3,000 to be a “city”. Depending on the population of the proposed community to be incorporated and its distance to nearby cities and towns (such as the City of Sedona) permission may be required as follows, within:
 - (1) a minimum of 6 miles if the incorporated city or town has a population of 5,000, or more, or
 - (2) a minimum of 3 miles if the incorporated city or town has a population less than 5,000.(see “Municipal Incorporation In Arizona, December 2000”, page 4)
- (b) **Methods of Incorporation** – incorporation can be accomplished either through a petition process or by an election. A petition of incorporation would require signatures of two-thirds of registered voters, and the election process first requires a petition signed by 10% of registered voters and then an election decided by a majority of voters. By either method, a community must have a population of at least 1,500 (as determined by a census) to be a “town”. A full-fledged “city” incorporation with a charter must have a population of at least 3,000 – either population requirement is a fraction of Big Park’s estimated population. Model ordinances are available, but Belsche urged the use of a municipally-trained attorney. The first municipal council is appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.

- (c) **Financial Aspects of Incorporated** – Revenues are available from Federal, State, and Local sources. State revenue sharing and Local sales taxes are the most reliable – but, revenue sharing through the state and local sales taxes can vary significantly, so careful financial planning is essential. Typically, services provided by an incorporated community are public safety, roads and administrative services such as a manager, a clerk, an attorney, and insurance. By way of illustration, a financial breakdown created for Williamson Valley (which is considering incorporation) was distributed (**see attached Exhibit A**). Belsche cautioned that Williamson Valley is residential community that does not have a good retail base to provide sales tax revenues, the most important source of revenue.
- (d) **Pros and Cons of Incorporation** - Choosing to incorporate is a point of view, said Belsche. He encouraged a "friendly civil discussion," but warned the topic often creates conflict between viewpoints. The decision depends on an expectation of services - whether a community wants more police protection or more local control of land use and planning.

11. 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 – John Gillam/Bert Berkshire)
- (b) Yavapai County Regional Planners Workshop - Mark Mumaw
- (c) Verde Valley Master Regional Trails Plan – Keran O'Brien
- (d) Verde Valley Regional Transportation - John Gillam
- (e) Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District – Tom Graham
- (f) Sedona Fire District – Bert Berkshire
- (g) **Sedona-Oak Creek School District** – Jan Montgomery/Joan McClelland – as noted in the President's Report, Joan McClelland has requested to postpone this report.
- (h) Yavapai County Schools –
- (i) **Big Park Domestic Wastewater Improvement District** – Paul Jones reported that the plant is working fine and is in compliance with regulations. With regard to the use of reclaimed water, the Oak Creek Country Club uses about 87 million gallons annually; collected fees cover the cost of providing the service. The capital replacement program is in good shape, and there is an ongoing video-taping of District lines. Less than half of the properties in the District are connected to the treatment plant.
- (j) Sedona Public Library - SPL in the Village – Carolyn Fisher
- (k) **Sedona Village Business Association** – Judy Hill advised that this Saturday, December 12th, Santa's Helpers will be roaming the Village to collect toys for Christmas. Donations can be dropped off at the Sedona Winds Christmas tree in the lobby on December 15th.
- (l) Chamber of Commerce Community Issues Committee – Dave Norton
- (m) Verde Valley Intergovernmental Meetings – Dorothy O'Brien

12. Old business - none this month

13. New business

- (a) **Overview of Council Planning and Goals for 2010** - President Elect Mel Copen advised of a February workshop on this subject. He plans to meet with each Council Member to individually discuss issues affecting the Community and the Council.

14. Announcements:

- (a) **November 27th – 28th – Inspired 09 Update – 600 people attended** the exhibition by 31 local artists – turned out to be a very successful event, especially noteworthy because there was only local marketing. With wider marketing next year should contribute to an even more successful annual event.
- (b) **December 19th – January 1st – Model Train Show at the Outlet Center**
- (c) **January 4th and 7th – Movies at the Moon** – started to Monday's ago, with regular showings to be held on Monday's and Thursdays.
- (d) **January 22nd-24th - SPL in the Village Book Sale** – call 284-1603 for more information
- (e) **January 2010 – Bohemians of NAU**
- (f) **April 21st-22nd 2010 – TGIF Festival** - more information coming soon.
- (g) **Ongoing - Sedona Recycles Information**

14. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM