

BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON  
THURSDAY JUNE 10, 2010

Sedona Fire Station #3, 125 Slide Rock Rd, Sedona AZ 86351

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by President Mel Copen at 9:00am.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was led by Yavapai County Supervisor Chip Davis.

1. **Determine Quorum:** Twenty-one representatives were present out of twenty-seven, which constitutes a quorum. Those absent were representatives from Canyon Mesa, Firecliff, Oak Creek Country Club Estates III, Pinon Woods I, Sedona Village Lodging Assn, Wild Horse Mesa.

2. **Agenda from Executive Board Meeting:** The Executive Board met on June 7th at the Forest Service Administrative Offices, 8375 SR 179, Sedona 86351.

3. **President's Report:**

a. **Introduction of and welcome to guests/visitors** Yavapai County Supervisor Chip Davis and his Executive Assistant, Ms. Chris Moran. Also, Susan Korth from the Recreation Committee's Summer Blast program was in attendance.

b. **Meeting with VOCA Board:** VOCA is the largest member of the Big Park Council. The Council Executive Board has met with the VOCA Board, and another meeting is planned. The Executive Board will talk to any group at any time about any issue. Although no one has raised the issue, in order to assure complete openness and transparency, this resolution is proposed for Council's consideration:

RESOLVED, that the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council hereby confirms the authority of the Executive Board to discuss and clarify issues with any of its Members with the understanding that any action items arising out of such discussions will be brought to the Council for discussion and vote.

A request was made that Council members be sent agendas for any such meetings in advance; President Copen agreed. It is hoped that such meetings can resolve any misunderstandings and identify opportunities, thereby allowing the council to focus its energies on the most important issues. **Moved, seconded** to approve the resolution; motion **carried unanimously**.

Mark Mumaw added that the issue raised by Jim Gibson of VOCA, on the Council's organizing principles, has not been forgotten; it has temporarily been tabled until the VOCA board and Council Executive Board have had a chance to address it/them.

c. **Enchanting Villages:** Might the Council want to look at the concept of an association of enchanting villages, like Sedona, where we might build a network? This is not at the top of the priority list but anyone interested in developing something for the Council, please contact President Copenl.

d. **Umbrella Group:** A group consisting of individuals from Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon, Red Rock Crossing, Big Park, has been discussing common interests. The umbrella group has not yet been formed. Sedona Mayor Rob Adams is contacting both Yavapai and Coconino Counties, Keep Sedona Beautiful, the women's groups in Sedona. President Copen is contacting the Big Park Council, Forest Service, AARA, SVBA, etc. These groups all have an interest in the SR 179 corridor. There is interest in extending the All American Road designation from I-17 to the "Y"; signage is an issue as is the I-17/SR179 interchange. All groups have been contacted and all have indicated a desire to participate. The Council's participation would be most likely through the Transportation Committee, but any members of the Council would be welcome to participate. Ideas, thoughts are welcome; contact President Copen.

4. **New members/member changes:** The Council has been notified that La BARRANCA II has reinstated its membership in the Council; Al Dahma is the Representative; Alternate is Jim Canning. There are two new Alternates for The Ridge at Sedona: Paul Jankovsky and Ted Sprink.

5. **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary reported no corrections to the May minutes had been received. **Moved, seconded, passed:** the May Council minutes are approved as written.

6. **Treasurer's report:** Mark Mumaw reported receiving \$1,242 toward the Recreation Committee's Summer Blast, which was paid for two youngsters signing up for the entire 6-week program. The Council paid \$200 for supplies for the program. There was no activity in the Council's regular account in the month of May. The ending balance is \$5,472.01. The report is filed for audit.

7. **Corresponding Secretary:** Tom Graham reported a letter has been drafted but not yet mailed in response to the notice of claim that was received for a slip-and-fall accident at Kiwanis Park, saying that the Council has no interest in or liability for the claim.

#### 8. Committee Reports:

**a. Recreation:** Chair Jay Markle reported on the Summer Blast program which is struggling now for lack of students enrolled, only 5 in the first week. Susan Korth reported that she has not yet applied for grants. It was recommended that the reason for low enrollment be determined. Ms. Korth needs help getting the word out; flyers will be taken to Basha's and Safeway. President Copen stated the program needs to be successful this year, because commitments have been made. The program can be evaluated after it ends this summer. Mark Mumaw will make a request to SVBA for a donation; other donations have been received. The \$650 approved by the Council last month was an unbudgeted expense. Ms. Judy Hill asked if more students participated on days when they swim at Sedona Winds; the answer was yes. Judy offered use of the pool on Fridays or another day to boost enrollment. (Spontaneous applause.) Judy then borrowed the treasurer's money bag to pass around the Council table and visitors' chairs for donations on the spot.\* Donations can be sent to Treasurer Mark Mumaw.

**b. Transportation:** Chair John Gillam reported that the SR 179 completion celebration is still scheduled for August 20-21; stay tuned. The Big Park School Principal, Steve Gardner, has an article in the June 1 *Villager* about grants available for the Safe Routes to School program. John will work with the principal to see if there's something the Council can do to help improve the bike paths from homes to the school, especially on Verde Valley School Road. Clarkdale and Cottonwood have already received grants from this program.

**c. Communications Committee:** Chair Hal Berman has recently accepted a job in Phoenix and can't chair the committee; a new chair is needed. Interested parties should contact President Copen, before he starts asking for volunteers.

**d. Vision and Enhancement Committee:** Chair Mel Copen reported about 300 responses have been received, and urged those who have not responded to do so today. The committee is going to start evaluating the responses soon. About 55 surveys came from *The Villager*, 36 came from handouts that were placed around the community, 16 came from people who printed the survey and mailed it in, and 106 surveys were completed on the website. Still, many people are not yet aware of the survey. Jake Weber was most helpful, having flyers put in shopping bags and making more copies of the form when they ran out. Mel thanked Dave Norton for sorting out the condensed data from the website. "Donuts and dialogues" sessions will no doubt start in July or August or September and in Oct or Nov will be the big community event working with the League of Women Voters. The County has been kept apprised.

9. **Visitor Presentation:** President Copen introduced Supervisor Chip Davis who has been Big Park's 4-term supervisor. He was asked to address budgetary items, Prop 100 ramifications, and the impact of the 2010 Census. Mr. Davis went around the Council table, shaking hands with everyone.

County budget as of this morning is \$80.5 million, which is less than the last year's budget. The County budget will be balanced. Prop 100 was to be the "cure-all" but the state is still \$2 million short on their budget. Mr. Davis is fairly confident that the state will be coming back to the County next year for funds. The whole purpose of the

state legislature is to balance the state budget; it still hasn't happened, in the last two years. The State and the County are in their 34th month of consistently negative revenues. The economy is getting better but there are still many foreclosures happening.

Mr. Davis spoke of the Verde River Greenway which is supposed to run from Clarkdale through Camp Verde to create a greenway which is a trail system, with public access. The state parks are working with the County to keep the parks open; the Benefactors of Red Rock State Park has committed \$150,000 which it will try to raise to keep the park open through next June. Mr. Davis hopes councilmembers will find a way to get involved with the Benefactors.

Changed legislation: the requirement for unanimous agreement of all three supervisors if land use proposals are opposed by 20% of neighbors has been rescinded and now the requirement is for majority agreement. More than once Mr. Davis has been out-voted on land use issues. If a proposal comes forward in the Big Park regional area and it does not fit the community's vision or values, but the other two supervisors are in favor of the proposal, he could be overruled again. He and the Council must keep an eye on this issue.

The results of the Census will be out next spring; it will redefine our legislative districts, congressional districts, and our supervisor districts. Mr. Davis did not support an increase to 5 supervisor districts due to the expense, but he now concludes that there are ways to trim the costs. He is confident there will be 5 districts.

Regional updates: SR 260 between Thousand Trails to I-17 will be completed. All budgets have been cut severely, but roadways cannot be allowed to deteriorate, so stimulus money received will be used for refinishing portions of Cornville Road. The Planning and Zoning Redevelopment Services Department has been reorganized and consolidated, and staff has been reduced. Phil Bourdon is the chief engineer of this Department.

To balance the budget: Jail bed rentals to Federal authorities bring \$2 million annual income to the County. The Restoration to Competency program was costing the County \$2 million when the state hospital provided this service at \$860 for the first day, every subsequent day cost \$640. The County now provides this program for \$250/day. (Spontaneous applause)

Q and A: Maintaining open communication is the best way Council can assist the County; establish the community's needs and know what resources are available. The County does not want to dictate to communities.

About the 5 supervisor districts: The Verde Valley will get split. There are about 220,000 people in the County, 70,000 in the Verde Valley. Mr. Davis anticipates districts of 40,000-50,000. The evaluation of proposed district boundaries will take into consideration boundaries of existing districts: fire, water, wastewater, road improvement, school, etc., in an effort to keep those existing boundaries intact in the new districts. Five supervisors will be elected for 2012 so candidates will need to be identified by the previous fall election, and there is plenty of preparation required in order for individuals to qualify to run.

The drainage situation and road maintenance: Mr. Davis has no information on the flood control project. Road projects are in the contingency plan; Verde Valley School Road has been in the plan for about 4 years.

Immigration problem in Yavapai County: 17% of the jail population is made up of illegal immigrants. Crime has decreased; Mr. Davis believes the diminished construction work is the reason crimes have decreased. Construction worker have gone elsewhere.

## 10. Other Reports

**a. Verde Valley Master Regional Trails Plan:** Keran O'Brien is not present; Dave Norton reported in his absence: the Forest Service is taking input from the public on their "scoping" letter which was distributed to Council. Comments should be submitted to Jennifer Burns at the Forest Service before June 30.

**b. Verde Valley Regional Transportation:** John Gillam reported the Cottonwood Area Transportation System (CATS) is losing funding. The roundabout at Mingus and Willard and the Safe Routes to Schools program are somehow being funded; he will try to find the source of the funds. ADOT is starting a southbound climbing lane on I-17 between Camp Verde and Copper Canyon around the end of summer; this should take about 6 months.

**c. Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District:** Tom Graham reported receiving an update from Bev Staddon, coordinator of the special improvement districts at the County; ADOT says the SR 179 project through the Village is completely finished; 300 of the 400 lantana plants were replaced with either desert spoon or turpentine bush. Joanne Johnson worked with ADOT on plant replacements. There is a problem with weeds which will have to be pulled by hand because they are growing among the irrigated plantings. The Vicente contractor was asked to perform this function; the cost for the first month will be \$1350. There is an amendment to Vicente's contract that will be presented to the District Board of Directors (the County supervisors) on June 21. It reads as follows:

**Part B – 2, Landscape Maintenance (November 1, 2009, to October 31, 2010) is amended to add monthly maintenance of areas outside the rock mulch but around where irrigated plantings are located at a cost of \$675 per month.**

Joanne Johnson said the wildflower plantings will take over the areas in about 3 years and costs for weed removal will diminish then. Bill Kusner said the weeds outside the enhancement district grow very tall and fall into the roadway and need to be swept up. Dave Norton said the median at the Forest Service entrance needs to be attended to; which agency is responsible, ADOT or the Forest Service, was not determined.

President Copen recommended all the issues should be defined and discussed at once with appropriate authorities, rather than trying to take one issue at a time.

From Ms. Staddon's email: "The district will be entering the new fiscal year with an approximately \$58,570 fund balance that offsets the budget increase, so the actual increase in the tax levy is \$9,450 over last year. This results in a change in the district's tax rate from \$0.0401 to \$0.0492. What that means for a residential property valued by the Assessor's Office at \$300,000 is an increase in tax liability for the RRREMD from \$12.03 to \$14.76, or an increase of \$2.73.

"The reason there is such a large fund balance is that the warranty period on the landscaping, which includes maintenance of the irrigation system and water costs, was extended through May 27 of this year. While this has been a benefit for the district, it has also made it very difficult to anticipate just what it will actually cost to operate the district."

**d. Sedona Fire:** Officer Gary Johnson reported on an incident with bees in Pine Valley. A beekeeper took care of the aggressive bees. The bees usually leave the area if they don't find a water source. This is a reminder to be careful; if there's a problem call on Sedona Fire.

**e. Big Park Wastewater Improvement District:** Paul Jones reported on a budget hearing happening June 15. The budget is available on the District's website: [www.improvementdistrictservices.com/bigparkdwwid.html](http://www.improvementdistrictservices.com/bigparkdwwid.html) Ruth Kane reported the trustee sale at the Outlets, which would cure its debt owed to the District, has been postponed once again.

**f. Village Library Center:** Carolyn Fisher reported the book sale last weekend was the best ever; sales of \$2,600 will support the Center. A large donation raised the income to \$3,000. Some high-value books were taken to the main library where Friends of the Library will sell them on behalf of the Village Library Center. Volunteers who help set up the sale will have the first look for high-value books next time. She thanked everyone who participated; she would like to have more volunteers. Sedona Fire crew helped pack up books after the sale, saving hours of time.

**g. Sedona Village Business Association:** President Kathy Nelms reported that the annual meeting will be held at the Hilton on July 7 at 4:30. The new board will be voted in; refreshments will be available for purchase.

**11.Old Business:** None.

12. **New Business:** None.

13: **Announcements:** Wastewater District Hearing June 15; SVBA annual meeting July 7; the June 10 House subcommittee hearing on the NSA can be heard on the Keep Sedona Beautiful website. Canyon Moon Theater is having a sale this weekend at Tequa Plaza.

President Copen reiterated the need for contributions to the Summer Blast program and the need for a chair for the Communications Committee; parties interested in the Enchanted Villages idea should contact him. Vision surveys can be picked up here today.

President Copen expressed appreciation for the participation and commitment of everyone at the halfway point in his tenure; virtually any time he has asked for support he has gotten it.

\* \$550 was collected from those present today.

14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:49.