

Big Park Regional Coordinating Council  
Minutes of meeting on  
Thursday July 8, 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 Keran O'Brien.

1. **Determine Quorum:** Sixteen representatives were present out of 27, constituting a quorum. Those absent were Canyon Mesa, Casa de Piedras, Cathedral Rock Ranch, Cathedral View II La Barranca I, La Barranca II, Oak Creek Estados, Pinon Woods I, Pinon Woods II East, Village Estates, Wild Horse Mesa. President Copen asked representatives, if they see any of the representatives who are absent today, to remind them of the importance of attending, or if they can't attend, to send their alternates.

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

3. **President's Report:** Mel's comments will be incorporated in Committee Reports.

4. **New Members/Changes:** Secretary Fran McWherter reported she had not received any changes.

5. **Secretary's report:** Fran McWherter reported receiving no changes to the June 10 Council minutes; **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the minutes as distributed.

6. **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Mark Mumaw reported in June \$125 was received from La Barranca II reinstating their membership on the Council; \$234 was paid for liability insurance, and the \$692 for committee expenses was mostly for the Visioning Committee's page in *The Villager*. There was a miscellaneous expense of \$37. The end of June balance was \$4468.95. Mark thanked all who donated \$719 to the Summer Bash program last month. President Copen added his thanks. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

7. **Corresponding Secretary's report:** Tom Graham was not present. President Copen reported the Council responded to the slip-and-fall incident notification of last month; the letter was signed and mailed. This was 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 Committee** Chair Jay Markle reported that through July 1, 20 individuals plus 5 more from Missoula Theater participated. The first week in July there were 7, 10 and 10 respectively on Tuesday, Wednesday and today. (Monday was a holiday.) Susan Korth, the Director, brought in \$2301 during that time and was reimbursed \$562.59 for supplies and fees. There have been articles in the local newspapers which have helped increase enrollment. Mr. Markle thanked all those who contributed to the program last month. The balance in the recreation account as of June 30 is \$871.27 which he thinks will cover expenses through the two weeks to go in this year's program. President Copen said the program should be evaluated after it is over this year and all the data are in. He thanked both Jay and program director Susan Korth.

b. **P&Z Committee:**

1. **Request for Special Use Permit** application: Red Rock Balloon Adventures owners have lived on the cited property for 8 years and have parked their 3 vehicles there, but they don't run their business from that property. A neighbor has complained. The County considers their

vans commercial vehicles. The P&Z committee will wait to see the results of the notification to neighbors. Some neighbors are submitting letters of recommendation to the County in favor of the applicant. No action is needed today.

2. **A Setback Variance application** from a resident in Pine Valley. Mark apologized to the Pine Valley representative, Bob Herring, for forgetting to include him in this process. This application is different from a Special Use Permit. It goes through the Board of Adjustments and Appeals and may not go to the Board of Supervisors. The applicant wants to reduce the front setback from 40' to 6'. The hardship reasons given are 1) a garage and storage are needed; and 2) a garage next to the house would cost a great deal to build, due to the steep grade. The P&Z Committee didn't feel the need for a garage is a hardship. Also there is a safety issue, due to the proximity to the road. Public Works is reportedly against this variance. The P&Z Committee recommends that the Council adopt a motion to oppose the request due to safety issues. Pine Valley representative Bob Herring reported the house in question is for sale and the sale is predicated on having a garage. He doesn't know of anyone in Pine Valley who is opposed to this application. Approval of this application would set a precedent. The application goes to the appeals board next week. After further discussion, it was **moved, seconded and passed** to oppose this permit application. Mark plans to attend the meeting when the application is reviewed and if the appeals board wants more time to review the situation then the Council's recommendation can be put on hold.

c. **Transportation Committee:** John Gillam reported the celebration for the completion of SR179 is still planned for Aug. 20-21. The Full Moon Walk on August 20 has reportedly been cancelled. John has seen orange stakes in some medians which he suspects may indicate signs will be placed there. He will try to find out. Website: [celebratetheredrockroad.com](http://celebratetheredrockroad.com).

d. **Communications Committee:** With the enthusiastic approval of the Exec Board, Carolyn Fisher has been named the Chair of this committee (spontaneous applause). Anyone interested in serving on this small but excellent committee should contact Carolyn. Communication is the heart of everything the Council stands for.

e. **Vision and Enhancement Committee:** Chair Mel Copen reported receiving just under 300 responses which may actually equal about 500 responses because couples generally submitted one form for two people. This is approximately a 10% response from full-time residents. The committee is somewhat behind because all the printed data needs to be incorporated into the website data responses. Dave Norton is doing this work. Volunteers are needed to key in data, probably using Excel; contact Mel. Mel reported that the one constant superlative is the happiness of the community with services provided by the Sedona Fire District. Another area where volunteers are needed is from businesses with food services for the "donuts and dialogue" small group sessions. At the meeting last week where the committee normally has 20 participants, there were five, hopefully because of the normal summer exodus.

9. **Visitor Presentation:** Tom O'Halleran had a conflict so he was not able to be here. He has recently accepted the position of President of Keep Sedona Beautiful. Dorothy O'Brien made a presentation from O'Halleran's notes on the National Scenic Area legislation. At the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands hearing in June, Holly Mabery stated that she represented all the members of the Verde Valley Realtors Association *and their clients*. The membership was not polled on the NSA legislation. A very succinct rebuttal to her statement is being prepared. A call to action is coming. If Council members have a relationship with a realtor, they are asked to express disapproval of being included in this statement. Larry Warren from Utah may return to Sedona to explain how the scenic area designation there improved property values. Realtors have an agency relationship with their clients, but not the power of attorney to speak for them.

## 10. Other reports

a. **ADOT Executive Team:** John Gillam reported there is to be only one more meeting, on August 13, which is just before the planned celebration of the completion of SR179, after which the Executive Team will be out of business.

b. **Verde Valley Master Regional Trails Plan:** Keran O'Brien reported the Forest Service is soliciting public comments now on possible new trails and trailheads within the greater Sedona area. He recommends, since the forest is so important to Big Park residents, that people go to the Forest Service website and provide input.

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa/nepa\\_project.shtml?project=22614](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa/nepa_project.shtml?project=22614)

(c) **Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District (RRREMD):** Mark Mumaw reported for Tom Graham: The two primary questions on the budget from the June Council meeting were the increase from \$69,000 to \$101,000 in outside services and the increase in supplies from \$15,000 to \$44,000. In both cases they are planning for the worst case scenario; the County does not know how much anything will cost and they are trying to make sure they have enough money because the general fund has no money. Damage to the roundabouts, light poles and trash receptacles was not anticipated. The budgeted amount for the RRREMD is \$14.76 for a \$300,000 home. A levy rate is being set so that when property values go down, the amount of the assessment will also go down.

A suggestion was made to plan an agenda item for a future meeting to discuss the maintenance of the medians within Forest Service Land. The RRREMD cannot take responsibility for them. A coalition of the Transportation Committee, the All American Road Committee, ADOT and/or the Forest Service could determine what we would like to happen. President Copen will put this issue on the Council's agenda.

(d) **Sedona Fire District:** Information Officer Gary Johnson related the telephone scam that is still going around; his mother received a phonecall saying her grandson had been arrested in New York. Residents are advised to remain skeptical. He also reported that Big Park may get some rain soon, and advised Council members to plan for heavy downpours with possible flooding. Also, there are fire bans in both Coconino and Yavapai Counties, and they will stay in effect until the weather offers some relief. Burned soil will not absorb water. Home inspections are free; contact SFD at 282-6800.

A question was asked about the possible privatization of ambulance service - is it resolved or not? Officer Johnson said the issue is almost dead. If a private ambulance service wants to make a presentation to the Fire Board, it will be heard. Until that happens, there is nothing to talk about. Comments from the public can be made to the Fire Board via the SFD website.

(e) **Sedona Village Business Association:** Mark Mumaw reported the annual meeting was held and new board member Rick James will replace Judy Hill. Lori LoDuca reported the Full Moon Walk may be not cancelled, but modified due to all the other activities that will be taking place on the Friday of the road celebration, August 20. There will be balloons along the SR179 corridor to "dress it up."

(f) **Community Issues Committee - Chamber of Commerce:** Mel Copen reported for Dave Norton, who could not attend. Lodging Council's annual meeting is August 3 at the Sedona Rouge at 1:00pm if anyone is interested. Carl Burkhalter is wrapping up his 5-year involvement with the SR179 project. He is looking forward to working on any other project. Landscaping will be finished mid-August. By the date of the road celebration all that will be needed is the rubberized surface and final striping. SFD Chief Hazimi reported that a home waste removal site for hazardous material is being arranged for The Village, similar to that in West Sedona. Red Rock State Park is open through October and funds are being sought to keep it open through June 11. July 24 the Sedona Main Street Association is celebrating the "Days of the Cowboys."

11. **Old business:** none.

12. **New business:** none.

13. **Announcements:**

(a) Highway completion celebration, August 20-21; details forthcoming.

(b) Celtic Harvest Festival: September 25, sponsors and volunteers needed; tickets will be sold in advance at \$8, a huge bargain; at the gate, \$10. A full day of entertainment, focused in the Courtyard at Tequa. Food and Guinness and whiskey tasting, pipers, and dancers. The headliner will be a famous piper. Website: [celticharvestfestival.com](http://celticharvestfestival.com).

(c) Register to vote or sign up for the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) (and conduct other Arizona business) at [servicearizona.com](http://servicearizona.com).

14. **Adjournment: Moved, seconded and passed**, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

President Copen reminded representatives to remind colleagues to send their alternates to the next meeting.