

BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting on
Thursday August 12, 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 Henry Reiter.

1. Determine quorum: Twenty representatives were present out of 27, constituting a quorum. Those absent were Canyon Mesa, La Barranta I, La Barranta II, Oak Creek Country Club Estates III, Pinon Woods East II, Sedona Village Lodging Association, and Wild Horse Mesa.

2. Agenda from Executive Board Meeting: The Executive Board met on August 9 at the Forest Service Administrative Offices, 8375 SR 179, Sedona 86351.

3. President's Report:

a. President Copen introduced Fire District Chief Hazimi and thanked him for his interest in the Council and, at the same time extended thanks to the Fire District on behalf of the community for all the service they provide and, specifically, for the use of their facilities for Council meetings.

b. President Copen reported on the Executive Board's meeting with the VOCA Executive Board on July 28, and apologized for not sending to the Council an agenda in advance. Since the entire agenda could not be covered in the time allotted, another meeting is planned for late September. Council members will definitely receive that agenda in advance. Items from this agenda will be discussed under New Business:

1. Improvement of Communications
 - a. Minutes of committee meetings
 - b. Activating member involvement
 - c. Policy guidelines (Here we are talking about conflict of interest and transparency)
2. Sharing
 - a. Taking inventory of community assets, knowledge, systems, capabilities (including ability to raise/provide funds)
 - b. Exploring areas for bulk community purchases (e.g. garbage, propane, AC replacements, parking lot maintenance, etc.)
 - c. Water conservation measures within the community
 - d. Developing an improved community calendar
 - e. Sewer and septic tank issues
 - f. Other common services (natural gas, Internet services, etc.)
 - g. Area recreational facilities
3. Expansion of BPRCC membership

c. The Inter-community Dialog Group had two recent presentations, one from Gerry Buley relating to an idea to create a museum to display the work of Sedona and Sedona-related artists and the second from Joe McNeill who is well down the road to establishing a Film Center which will showcase movies made in Sedona and relate them to historical and social events taking place at the time. The Group is also planning to initiate, in the near future, an umbrella group, consisting of all the organizations that have interest in AZ-179 to look at issues that are important to all - such as the I-17 interchange, signage, the possibility of extending the All-American-Highway designation up to the Y, and others.

4. New Members/Member Changes: None received.

5. Secretary's Report: Fran McWherter read the four revisions to the July minutes; it was **moved, seconded and passed** to accept the minutes as corrected. The corrected minutes will be posted on the BPRCC website.

6. Treasurer's Report: Mark Mumaw presented the report which was emailed to representatives the evening before this meeting and which shows a balance in the Council account of \$2265.17. There were no questions; report is filed for audit.

7. Corresponding Secretary's Report: Tom Graham had no report.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Recreation Committee: Jay Markle couldn't be here today; President Copen presented the report showing the number of students enrolled, the amount of money taken in, which activities were included, and the expenses incurred. President Copen asked that Jay and the Committee take a look at all the aspects of the summer program and bring back to the Council recommendations for next year. Clearly, the availability of someone to run the program will be a major factor, since Susan Korth is relocating away from the Sedona area. Anyone interested in serving on this task force should contact either Mel or Jay.

b. P&Z Committee: Chair Mark Mumaw presented the application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) from Mark and Aimee Stewart to be able to park two commercial vehicles on their property at 90 Sunbeam Acres Lane. The vehicles are used for their business, Red Rock Balloon Adventures.

A complaint was filed with the County – Commercial Vehicle
The Stewarts have been operating 8 Years at Current Location and for
7 Years at Previous Lee Mtn. Location
They have Permits from US Forest Service
There is no HOA – No CC&Rs in their neighborhood and it is
Rural – Very Low Density

The Stewarts are applying for a
Permit for Two “Commercial Vehicles”

Further information regarding the property:

LP Tank for Refueling the Balloons
One Part-Time Pilot – No Other Employees
No Customers
No Other Commercial Activities
Vehicles Depart Prior to Sunrise
Return Late Morning

Property Owners with no SUP are authorized:
One Commercial Vehicle per Parcel, no matter the parcel size
Can Have Unlimited Personal Vehicles
Due to the Lack of Industrial Zoning, there is no suitable location in the Commercial Corridor.

There is strong support within the County 1000' Notification Radius; there is strong opposition outside the 1000'. The P&Z Committee believes the opposition to the use permit is based on the following:

Perceived Negative Effect on Property Values
Precedent for Commercial Use
Visual Impact & LP Tank

Henry Reiter stated a SUP does not set a precedent. If it did, there would be no reason for anyone to apply for a SUP.

In response to a question from the floor, P&Z Chair Mark Mumaw confirmed that in his deliberations, the greatest weight was given to comments from residents within the 1000' notification radius. Upon this confirmation, a request was made to have this deliberation criterion information be included in the package sent to the County that communicates the Council decision on the SUP permit request.

The P&Z Committee heard all the issues and recommends approval of the SUP with the following stipulations:

- (1) The Permit is granted for three years; it is required to be renewed at that time
- (2) The 1000-gallon LP tank is buried or painted in accordance with fire regulations
- (3) The permanent signage on the two commercial vehicles be eliminated; possibly being replaced with magnetic signage
- (4) Minimum planting by applicants on the eastern and southeastern areas of their property in close proximity to the commercial vehicles parking area and the LP tank– a minimum of 15 plantings of fast-growing shrubbery/trees to provide adequate screening for the commercial vehicles and the LP tank
- (5) All this work to be completed within 6 months of date of permit
- (6) No additional commercial activity on the property

It was **moved and seconded** to approve the Committee's recommendation with the above stipulations.

During the discussion it was determined that some neighbors had not received the Notice of Intent which was mailed to all neighbors who were identified by the County.

Everyone present who wished to speak had an opportunity to do so; individuals were limited to three minutes speaking time. VP Dave Norton kept the time. There were both positive and negative opinions expressed. After an hour's discussion it was suggested that the application for the SUP could be delayed to allow for more research, if the County's timetable for its hearing allowed. Mark Mumaw called the County office while we waited; the answer was "yes" the application could be delayed; the applicant could request a delay. It was the Stewarts' choice whether to delay or not; they chose not to delay.

The question was called; a roll-call vote was taken. **The motion passed, 9 ayes to 8 nays.** Those voting yes were representatives from: Bell Rock Plaza Association, Casa de Piedras, Cathedral View II, Highland Estates, Las Piedras, Oak Creek CC Estates I, Ridge at Sedona, Sedona Golf Resort, Village Park. Those voting no were: Cathedral Rock Ranch, Firecliff Community Association, Oak Creek Estados, Pine Valley, Pinon Woods I, Pinion Woods North III, Village Estates, VOCA. There were 3 abstentions: Sedona Village Business Association, Sundance, Valley Vista Estates. Seven representatives were absent.

c. Transportation: John Gillam reported the rubberized surface is currently being applied to SR 179; after that only the striping remains to be done. The celebration for the completion of the road begins Friday August 20 at 4pm, with a motorcade from Airport Mesa, through the "Y" roundabouts and down SR 179 to Tequa Plaza where there will be a welcome and speeches in the ballroom, live entertainment, and a movie under the stars. On Saturday at 10:00am there will be a celebration ceremony at Airport Mesa, plus other historical exhibits and more live entertainment. For complete information click on celebratetheredrockroad.com

The second issue is the signage that ADOT proposes to place in the medians on SR 179; at the Ridge Trail and Jacks Canyon roundabouts the signs would be 9' wide and 4' high. At the Bell Rock roundabout the signs would be smaller: 6' x 3'. Dave Norton **moved** and Carolyn Fisher **seconded** that a strong letter be written to John Harper of ADOT with a copy to the ADOT architect, expressing displeasure over the proposed signage and requesting that context-sensitive signage be installed

along the roadside instead of in the median. Dave also requested that ADOT look at the size of the mileage markers in hopes they could be made smaller for a 35 MPH road. **Motion approved unanimously.** John Gillam will draft the letter aided by Dave Gill.

President Copen thanked Dave Norton for keeping 27 balls in the air and also to Mark Mumaw and the P&Z committee for their extraordinary work on the SUP and other issues. Tom Graham voiced his dismay that so many people stated they had not received advance notice of the application for SUP and/or that it would be discussed at this Council meeting.

e. Communications Committee: Carolyn Fisher announced the committee will be meeting at 10am on Tuesday August 17 at VOCA. She invited anyone with comments or suggestions to call or email her. The new general manager at VOCA, Tony Rizzo, will be working with the committee to develop linked websites to help improve communications.

f. Vision and Enhancement Committee: Chair Copen reported that all the survey data is now in and that Dave Norton has set up a template which already contains the data that was submitted on the Council's web site (about 1/3 of the total). Within the next week or so, these templates will be parceled out to volunteers to enter, manually, the data that came in on the written survey forms. That data will then have to be summarized into categories. Once that is done, the committee will move on to the informal "donuts and dialog" sessions.

9. Visitor Presentations: None.

10. Other reports:

a. ADOT Executive Team: John Gillam reported that after the next meeting on August 13, the team will be disbanded.

b. Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District (RRREMD): Tom Graham reported receiving an email from Bev Staddon at the Yavapai County office who was happy to say that Vicente Landscaping had agreed to a contract extension. Ms. Staddon is writing the contract now, which includes a 3% increase each year until June 30, 2013. She says this is an "incredibly good deal" for the district. She hopes Vicente will also agree to provide utility locating services, but if they don't, another company will be hired for that task.

Tom reported that he advised Ms. Staddon of the many complaints he has been receiving about weeds, both in the medians and between the sidewalks and the roadway; she will forward the information to Vicente. The Council briefly discussed that the one-year trial period for weed eradication by natural controls is over, and it was unsuccessful. Now it is time for proven weed-killers to be used. Tom stated any comments can be directed to Bev Staddon directly at bev.staddon@co.yavapai.az.us.

c. Sedona Village Business Association: Kathy Nelms is not present at this meeting; Mark Mumaw reported that the association will be putting red-white-and-blue bunting and balloons along SR179 for the Red Rock Road Celebration on August 20-21.

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business:

a. Median maintenance on SR 179 outside the RRREMD: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to set up a task force to look at alternatives to make this area consistent with the area within the maintenance district and President Copen will move forward with its establishment. He asked for volunteers and will add other members as appropriate.

b. VOCA Board meeting followup:

- (1) **Posting of Approved Committee meeting minutes on the BPRCC website:** It was noted that the committee members themselves must approve the minutes. **Moved, seconded and passed;** this will be done henceforth, and those committees that are able may post past meeting minutes on the website.
- (2) **Task force to prepare a resolution on select policies. (Transparency, Conflict of Interest and Council Spokespersons.)** Immediate Past President Dorothy O'Brien stated that at the joint Council Exec Board/VOCA Exec Board meeting, VOCA President Steve Nelson stated that their board is composed of 7 people and only 4 have to agree to change a policy. The Council has had this discussion many times over the years, and every time the Council has decided not to proceed with a policy where a smaller number than the 2/3 majority required by the Council Bylaws could change a policy. A more representative number of members should make such decisions. **Moved, seconded and passed** to table this issue to the next Council meeting.
- (3) **Joint effort with VOCA on community websites:** Carolyn Fisher indicated that the Communications Committee was working with Tony Rizzo, the new VOCA general manager on this effort.
- (4) **Other items:** President Copen reported that there were two more action items that came out of the meeting. The first involved taking an inventory of resources and best practices in the Big Park Communities and looking at areas where there might be benefit by pooling resources to achieve economies of scale in purchasing various services.

The second involved re-examining the criteria for Council membership to see what could be done to make all the units within VOCA eligible for Council membership, with an understanding that VOCA would then promote such participation. Both of these items will be on the September meeting agenda.

c. David Gill asked to have another item added to the agenda and be discussed today; his item was postponed to the September Council meeting. He will ask the Executive Board to request of the All American Road an extension of the AAR to include the I-17/SR179 interchange.

d. Mark Mumaw apologized for the P&Z committee information arriving so close to the meeting and expressed regret that there are no staff and no budget to handle such a large amount of paperwork.

13. Announcements:

- a. Celebrate the Red Rock Road August 20-21, 2010; see the Transportation Committee report, above.
- b. Celtic Harvest Festival, September 25. Artists will be visiting schools for two days before the festival begins on September 25. For complete information visit www.celticharvestfestival.com.
- c. October 30 is the Alzheimer's Memory Walk; Dave Norton asked for volunteers and donations.

14. Adjournment: It was **moved, seconded and passed** to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.