

# BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on  
Thursday September 9, 2010

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

**Call to Order:** President Mel Copen called the meeting to order at 9:02.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Nancy Brown led the Pledge.

**1. Determine Quorum by Roll Call:** There were 22 Representatives out of 27 present which constitutes a quorum. Those absent were Bell Rock Plaza Assn, Canyon Mesa, Oak Creek Estados, Pinon Woods I, Wild Horse Mesa.

**2. Agenda from Executive Board Meeting:** The Executive Board meeting was held on September 3, 2010 at the Forest Service Administrative Office, 8375 SR179.

### 3. President's Report:

**a. President Copen introduced and welcomed SFD Chief Nazih Hazimi** who will be making a presentation later today.

**b. Clarification of *Sedona Red Rock News* article from last week:** President Copen testified to County Supervisor Chip Davis that he was neither running for Emperor nor seceding from the County, as might be implied from the article. It was apparent from the article that the reporter and the SRRN can't distinguish a city from an unincorporated area. For what it's worth, at least the SRRN knows we exist, says President Copen. He does not plan a response.

**4. New Members/Member Changes:** The revised roster is forthcoming.

**a. Sedona Village Business Association (SVBA)** has duly chosen Kathy Nelms as the SVBA representative to the Council; the alternates are Lori LoDuca, Tim Byrne, Michele Moore, Rick James and Dean Patterson.

**b. Sedona Village Lodging Association** has designated Henry Reiter as its second Alternate.

**5. Secretary's Report:** Fran McWherter reported there were two corrections received for the August minutes, one from Jim Gibson and the other from Steve Nelson. Jim Gibson is not here today; Steve Nelson presented Jim's correction along with his own. The corrections were to Paragraph **8.b. P&Z Committee report**, with regard to the Special Use Permit from Mark and Aimee Stewart which was discussed at the August meeting. After considerable discussion it was **moved, seconded and passed** by a show of hands to incorporate Jim Gibson's corrections into the minutes. Steve Nelson read his own corrections; after considerable discussion, it was **moved and seconded** to include Steve's corrections; the **motion failed**. It was then **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the August minutes with Jim Gibson's corrections. The corrected minutes will be posted on the Council website.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** VP Dave Norton presented the report in the absence of Treasurer Mark Mumaw. There was only one expense in August for \$10; the balance in checking is \$2255.17. Report is filed for audit.

**7. Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Tom Graham reviewed the letters to and from John Harper, District Engineer, ADOT, regarding the proposed signs which are to be placed in the medians in front of the roundabouts on SR179. The Council's letter requested signs more aligned with the style of the road itself, namely, smaller and not in the medians. Harper's return letter stated the signs have already been manufactured. John Gillam reiterated that the size of any sign is dictated by the number of letters on the sign. Shorter street names will result in smaller signs. It is feared that the signs will also be placed too high and will interfere with views of the red rocks.

## 8. Committee Reports:

**a. Communications:** Chair Carolyn Fisher reported the committee met August 17 and discussed being clear on what it wants to communicate before trying to figure out how to communicate. Tony Rizzo from VOCA has offered its website to have links to aid communication. The committee must determine where community members will be going to get their information: from print media or the internet. President Copen stressed communication is the heart of the Council and asked representatives if they are not interested in participating themselves, to solicit volunteers from outside the Council who might contribute effectively to communication.

**b. Vision and Enhancement:** The project is ongoing; there will be an update soon.

## 9. Visitor Presentations:

**a. Fire District Chief Nazih Hazimi:** His first year here has been exciting, interesting, a little more than he expected. Customer service is a priority. A Fire District is different from a Fire Department in that it is self-governing; there is no waiting for services from outside the district. All the personnel within the District work together to achieve goals, which all share, from fire fighters to the IT person to Human Resources, etc. The Chief also looks for cost-saving initiatives, and all staff are doing the same. Five positions have been eliminated through attrition and others willingly assumed additional duties, which speaks to the quality of the personnel. Nine of the vehicles in the fleet have been eliminated. The District has also eliminated their office cleaning service.

Reminders: next Fire Board meeting is on September 22, 3:00pm at this fire station #3. Also there will be a Chief's Chat, which is an open forum, here at 6:00pm September 28.

The Chief pointed out the Verde Valley Fire Chiefs' Association newsletter which is available to take home today; this issue is called "**Wildfire and Disaster Survival Guide 2010**". A place to dispose of garden cuttings and vegetation from the creation of defensible spaces around homes is being planned for the Village. The Chief reiterated that SFD will evaluate anyone's property for fire danger. "If it's predictable, it's preventable" - teach children that lesson. A request was made for the Chief to email President Copen regarding dates and times of SFD events.

In response to a question, Chief Hazimi said there is unfortunately no hazardous material drop site in Big Park, due to the expense of dealing with hazardous materials. The community of Beaver Creek has hazardous material collection events periodically and usually invites Big Park to participate. President Copen pointed out there is no service too small for SFD; this room now has lights in the front and back of the room on separate circuits, so the screen is more easily seen. Everyone expressed gratitude to the Chief for outstanding service.

**b. Sedona Public Library:** President Copen introduced Ann Meiggs who introduced Library Director Ginny Volkman. The Council was thanked for financial and volunteer support over the years for the SPL in the Village. The Council's inquiry to the County about its funding for the SPL in the Village has resulted in a doubling of support to \$60,000 from \$30,000 for this year. (Applause!) Dottie Vandelinde, SPL in the Village site manager, is retiring next week. Cheryl Yeatts will be taking over that position. Ann Meiggs, Chair of the Sedona Library committee that oversees the SPL in the Village, is turning over her job to Anne Uruburu. Blair Henry introduced himself as a new member of the committee. Ann Meiggs thanked the Council along with the Association of Village Artists which has donated proceeds from every art sale to the SPL in the Village, and asked that their Oct 1 event be supported by the community. She also thanked Sedona Winds for free use of their facilities for the free Arizona Humanities Council events. Sedona Fire was thanked for the free use of this room for book sales, and Beverly Copen was also thanked for her positive newspaper article on the SPL in the Village.

## 10. Other Reports:

**a. Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District (RRREMD):** Tom Graham reported on the many emails about the weeds along SR179. Supervisor Chip Davis sent an email asking for support for an amendment to the landscape contract to stop the use of non-traditional weed control and get back to something that works. A resolution has been drafted which will be presented under New Business.

**b. Sedona Village Business Association:** Lori LoDuca reported on the Full Moon Walk scheduled for Oct. 16. The Association has been trying new formats for meetings in order to attract better attendance. Tony Rizzo, new General Manager for VOCA, stated that he will build a page on the [VocaOnline.com](http://VocaOnline.com) website that will allow businesses to advertise any loyalty programs and offers for the local community. In order to achieve media synergy, *The Villager* and the websites of business organizations, etc., should also have this information.

## 11. Old business:

**a. Task Force on median maintenance on SR179 outside of the RRREMD:** At the August Council meeting it was agreed to form such a task force; Joanne Johnson, Jan William as a representative of the Master Gardeners, and Jim Gibson as Chair have agreed to serve. The Forest Service will provide a representative, and one more person (who is out of town) will be invited by President Copen to serve. The plan is to generate recommendations on what can be done and then figure out how it can happen. President Copen plans to have the task force report back within a month, or no later than two months.

**b. Task force to consider a resolution on select policies (transparency, conflict of interest and Council spokespersons):** This item was tabled at the last Council meeting. President Copen asked for Council approval to appoint a 3-person Task Force to look at both the policy issues that had been identified and to recommend what action should be taken and in what form. He indicated that it was his intention to ask Craig Dible to serve as Chair, with Jim Gibson and Tom Graham as the other members. **A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.** Joanne Johnson then indicated that she had both interest and background information that would be very helpful and that she would like to meet with the task force. President Copen indicated that her input to the Task Force would be most welcome and that, obviously, the entire Council would become part of the discussion once the Task Force recommendations were submitted. It is hoped the task force will have some recommendations in about two months.

## 12. New Business:

**a. Median Maintenance on SR 179 - Resolution to the RRREMD Board of Supervisors:** *RESOLVED, that in light of the obvious ineffectiveness of the weed control methods currently mandated within the Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District (RRREMD), the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council hereby recommends that the RRREMD Board of Directors amend its contract with Vincente Landscaping to require the use of conventional weed control methods including the use of pre-emergent and conventional sprays within the RRREMD with monitoring of application and results.*

Weed-whackers presently in use have thrown stones into the road and encouraged the weeds to flourish. Joanne Johnson reported that an unpublicized committee consisting of herself, Bob Carabell and Ruth Kane has been reporting on the road directly to Bev Staddon for over a year. Henry Reiter cautioned that chemicals used, location and quantity used, should be documented, just in case.

**Moved, seconded and passed:** the resolution (above) is approved and will be forwarded to the RRREMD Board of Supervisors.

**b. Community Calendar:** Dorothy O'Brien reported that the publisher of *The Villager*, Pam Miller, has protested the inclusion in the calendar of businesses events. She feels this directly undermines her ability to solicit business advertising; she wants the Community Calendar to refuse business

advertising. The Council should take steps to save the page of free space which has been made available to by the publisher. **Moved, seconded** to establish a team of business and lodging association representatives, VOCA and the Council to work with the publisher and Editor Dan Engler to resolve the issue. **Motion carried.** Dorothy O'Brien will email businesses which have already submitted their events for inclusion in the October *Villager* stating that business events cannot be included in the calendar henceforth.

### 13. Announcements:

**a. Celtic Harvest Festival - September 25:** Dorothy O'Brien reported Tom O'Halleran will be the Master of Ceremonies; Pat O'Halleran and Deb Schwartz are the volunteer coordinators; logistics coordinators are Dave Norton and Ray Schwartz, Betty McGinness from St. John Vianney is working on lists of tasks to be completed. Richard Ellis of Tequa Marketplace will be Lord of the Festival. Volunteers are still needed. Friday night will be a thank-you event for the volunteers. Features of this year's festival include: The Festival is proud that there will be two full days of activities in all 3 Sedona elementary schools. The Phoenix Conservatory is sending musicians. Dr. Thomas Bopp, discoverer of the Hale-Bopp comet, will be the Festival Astronomer and will spend Friday in the schools. Three different kinds of dancers will perform: Sword dancers, Clog dancers and Step dancers. The Festival ends at 6:00pm Saturday with a social dance where everybody learns the steps. Tickets are \$8 in advance from the Chamber Visitor Center Uptown and Full Moon Saloon, \$10 at the gate.

**b. Memory Walk October 30:** Dave Norton reported on the walk for Alzheimers; the Council needs to put together a team; he has applications. People who want to walk, volunteer or donate should contact him. Walk begins at Tequa at 8:00am. Carolyn Fisher will also have a team.

**c. School Board Candidates and Fire Board Candidates Forum - October 5, 6:30pm, Sedona Community Center:** This free forum is sponsored by the Democrats of the Red Rocks but the Exec. Board is not endorsing any political party. It may be the only time all candidates will be together in one place; it's a good opportunity for everyone to hear them.

**d. Literacy Center:** Carolyn Fisher reported this is an after-school, all-volunteer free program focusing on second-graders who are a little behind other students in reading, writing and arithmetic. This is their 23d year; tutors are solicited. They will be trained; all they need is to be able to read, and to care. Please contact Carolyn Fisher.

**e. Sedona Golf Resort:** President Copen reported the golf course is going to be sold October 1. It includes some 200 acres, and what happens to it will affect the entire community. The *Sedona Red Rock News* has the story correct in the current issue.

**14. Adjournment: Moved, seconded, passed:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:39am.