

BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting on
Thursday November 11, 2010
Sedona Fire Station #3, 125 Slide Rock Rd, Sedona AZ 86351

Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance: President Mel Copen called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Pledge was led by Stan Tax.

1. Determine Quorum by Roll Call: There were 20 Representatives or Alternates present out of 27, which constitutes a quorum. Those absent were from Firecliff Community Association, Highland Estates, La Barranca I, La Barranca II, Oak Creek Country Club Estates III, Pinon Woods East II, and Wild Horse Mesa.

2. Agenda from Executive Board Meeting: The Executive Board met on November 8 at the Forest Service Administrative Office, 8375 SR 179.

3. President's Report: Mel Copen

a. The Council timetable which records all of the Council's activities was included in the minutes of the October Council meeting and will soon be on the Council website. Everyone should review it and point out any omissions or errors.

b. National Scenic Area Designation vs. Amendment 12: At Supervisor Chip Davis' community meeting in October at VOCA, a speaker from the Forest Service stated unequivocally that Amendment 12 is being revised in the Forest Plan Revision that is going on now. The belief that Amendment 12 would provide all kinds of protections is no longer valid. Many organizations are very concerned about this; President Copen cautioned people to please keep this in mind.

c. Veterans' Day Recognition: President Copen paid tribute to men and women who have served our country and by way of honoring them, Immediate Past President Dorothy O'Brien led the assembly in a hearty rendition of "*America the Beautiful*".

4. New Members/Member Changes: Fran McWherter reported receiving notice that Dean Campbell is the new Representative from Canyon Mesa and Norma Murphy is the Alternate. Valley Vista Estates HOA has Carlos Navarro as second alternate. VP Dave Norton introduced Stan and Denise Tax as new Representatives for Oak Creek Estados.

5. Secretary's Report: Fran McWherter reported receiving no changes or corrections to the October Council Minutes. **Moved, Seconded, Passed**, the minutes are approved.

6. Treasurer's Report: Mark Mumaw reported one expenditure of \$110 for the Council Website; his written report for October will be distributed by email and filed for audit. Current balance is \$2,130.17.

7. Corresponding Secretary: Tom Graham reported one letter was sent last month from Council to Yavapai County Development Services reflecting the Council's recommendations on the Las Posadas application for a PAD amendment and the Wild Horse Mesa Setback Variance.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Transportation Committee Chair John Gillam introduced Max Licher and Jim Wagner. Mr. Licher is Chair of the City of Sedona Task Force of 9 or 10 people which is studying the Roadrunner service. Jim Wagner is with Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) which operates bus services in Northern Arizona including the Verde Valley Lynx shuttle service.

The Sedona City Council intends to eliminate the Roadrunner service. It presently circulates from the Uptown parking lot down SR89A and SR179 to the Hillside Shopping Plaza and back about every 15

minutes. The Task Force as well as merchants and shoppers on the route, however, find the Roadrunner service worthwhile and would like to keep it.

The City is also partially funding the Lynx Shuttle which runs between Cottonwood and Sedona via SR89A with eight round-trips each day. There seems to be more support for serving commuters than for serving visitors. Uptown merchants say that many employees live in Big Park, perhaps more than live in Cottonwood. Right now Sedona contributes about \$80,000 and Cottonwood contributes about \$40,000. Most of the Lynx funding comes through NAIPTA from Federal transportation grants and matches. It is hoped that additional funding might come from Yavapai County.

The Task Force would like to use the money Sedona currently spends for the Roadrunner and apply it to a Lynx route between the Village and Sedona via SR179. They envision 8 RT trips per day, hourly between 6am and 11 am, and again from 2pm to 7pm. The Task Force would like an indication of support for this idea from the Council. The Task Force will then approach the Sedona City Council with a proposal.

Moved by John Gillam, seconded by Kathy Huffstetler: The Big Park Council will support the study to determine the viability of extending the Verde Lynx from Sedona to the Village/Big Park area. **Passed unanimously.** John Gillam or someone from the Transportation Committee will attend future Task Force meetings.

9. Visitor Presentations:

Arizona Water Company storage tank presentation: IPP Dorothy O'Brien introduced Paul Lindberg, a geologist and long-time Sedona resident. He reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the AWC Water Tank and Pipeline Project, beginning with the opinion that an additional water supply for Southern Sedona is needed. The EA is here:
http://a123.g.akamai.net/7/123/11558/abc123/forestservic.download.akamai.com/11558/www/nepa/10578_FSPLT2_028064.pdf

Of the 4 Alternative sites outlined in the EA, Mr. Lindberg recommends the chapel site because no service road would be required. VOCA has submitted a letter to the Forest Service in opposition; so has the All American Road group. Comments on the EA were due by November 15 to Judy Adams, Land Team Leader, Red Rock Ranger District, email comments-southwestern-coconino@fs.fed.us Individuals are urged to submit their own comments via email.

Keep Sedona Beautiful will also file a long statement in opposition. The decision on placement of the tank will be made in Flagstaff by Earl Stewart, Coconino Forest Supervisor. The Arizona Water Company is paying for the Environmental Assessment. After considerable discussion it was determined that the Council should be on record on this issue.

Moved, seconded and passed: President Copen will submit a letter to the Forest Service addressing seven points: asking for a justification of the need for the tank, suggesting further study before any decision is made, asking that opportunities be provided for more public input, recommending that better notification procedures be employed, recommending that additional alternate sites be explored, requesting that the cost implications and the impact on Arizona Water Company customers be made explicit, and suggesting that a detailed visual impact analysis be conducted. Give the extremely tight response deadline, the letter should be sent both by regular mail and email no later than Friday (tomorrow).

10. Other Reports

a. Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District (RRREMD): Tom Graham summarized the memo he received from Bev Staddon on the new maintenance contract with Vicente Landscaping. It has been extended through June 30, 2013, with an increase of 3% each year, and includes using traditional weed control methods. The contractor is being monitored to ensure compliance with the contract. She

asked that residents be patient while Vicente is catching up with weed eradication; because no weed barrier was installed by ADOT under the rock mulch, and due to significant rainfall, weeds have flourished.

In addition, Steve Volk from Yavapai County Public Works fixed the problem with the pedestrian lights along the sidewalks on SR179 by setting them to go on and off at specific times. According to Ms. Staddon there is a legislative proposal that the RRREMD be converted to a district with a local governing board as opposed to the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors continuing to sit as the directors for the district. The County Supervisors Association will decide; Ms. Staddon will notify Mr. Graham of the result. Applicants for the local board would have to be nominated and elected.

b. Forest Trails Plan is now online at www.co.yavapai.az.us - people should look at it because it affects Big Park.

c. Sedona Fire District: Officer Gary Johnson will demonstrate for the Council the new hands-only CPR method following the December Council meeting, for those who wish to stay. Sedona Fire has dealt with its first chimney fire of the season. Everyone is reminded to have their chimneys checked by a chimney sweep annually. Creosote builds up in chimneys from burning pine or other soft wood. Oak and juniper are hardwoods. Ashes taken from the fireplace should be put in a metal container with a lid; owners should assume the ashes are still dangerous because they will be insulated in the container and will remain hot. Sand is a better fire extinguisher than water.

11. Old Business:

a. Nominating Committee Report: Chair Paul Sullivan presented four nominees: Mel Copen for President; Dave Norton for Vice President; Mark Mumaw for Treasurer; and Tom Graham for Secretary. There were no further nominations. **Moved, seconded and passed:** nominations are closed. Elections will take place at the December Council Meeting. President Copen thanked the Nominating Committee.

b. Red Rock Pass: The Forest Service is watching the Red Rock Ranger District to see how this problem is resolved. There are 6 amenities that must be present at a trailhead in order for the Forest Service to require a Red Rock pass to be displayed in a car: law enforcement, picnic tables, toilets, trash, parking, an information kiosk. The issue is which trailheads will have these amenities so that a Red Rock Pass can be required, and which will not.

The second issue that is important to this community is the forest plan revision. Forest Supervisor Earl Stewart is waiting for comments from individuals about the plan. Comments are due no later than December 10, 2010 via email to coconino_national_forest_plan_revision_team@fs.fed.us Comments should include the strong recommendation that the language of Amendment 12 be preserved.

c. State Park Liaison: The Council agreed that President Copen should appoint someone to serve on the State Park work group.

13. Announcements

Tom Graham reported that Keep Sedona Beautiful is almost 40 years old, older than the city of Sedona. At the volunteer appreciation luncheon certain people from The Village were recognized: Ron Pucchi of Village Ace Hardware and Jake Weber of Weber's IGA. Dave Norton was given the "Sweat Equity" award, the first ever, for his work in the KSB building's garden. (Applause)

14. Adjournment: Moved, seconded, passed: the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.