

BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
THURSDAY MAY 12, 2011

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

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** President Mel Copen called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Determine Quorum by Roll Call:** Twenty representatives were present; the six absent were La Barranta II, Oak Creek Country Club Estates III, Pine Valley, Pinon Woods East II, Sedona Village Lodging Association, Wild Horse Mesa.

**2. Agenda** from Executive Board Meeting May 9, 2011, at the Red Rock Ranger Station, 8375 SR179, Sedona AZ 86351.

**3. President's Report:** Mel Copen introduced **Scott Russell**, Acting Coconino National Forest District Ranger, who made today's Visitor Presentation early in the meeting. Scott will be taking District Ranger Heather Provencio's place for May, June and July while she is on assignment in Oregon.

**Moved Seconded and Passed:** to add an item to today's agenda so a vote can be taken on a recommendation on the Red Rock Pass question.

Scott explained that the Forest Service is examining 6 scenarios for Red Rock Pass funding, and whether fees should be collected at several sites, or once at the entrance to a large area. The Forest Service will be meeting with the AZ RAC - Resource Advisory Committee - in July and August and will make a decision on which scenario to adopt after that.

USFS Liaison **Paul Sullivan** reviewed the 6 scenarios and mentioned a possible 7th scenario for outlying areas, as yet undeveloped. For now Scenario #5 seems to be the best option, because it is less confusing and more flexible and user-friendly for visitors, and is similar to what's in place now, with income from sale of passes going to maintain trails and facilities. Cyclists don't always pay for a Red Rock Pass, but most drive their cars to a trailhead and then ride; their cars will display a pass. There are some 70 vendors selling the Red Rock Pass.

State Parks Liaison **Jan Lisowski** relayed two requests from Jennifer Burns of the Forest Service: Individual replies to the USFS Scenario question should continue to be submitted; respondents should say why they are supporting one scenario or another. There is equal weight given to groups' and individuals' responses.

**Moved, seconded and passed:** The Council recommends adoption of Scenario #5, because it is less confusing and more flexible and user-friendly for visitors.

**3. President's Report Continued:**

**a. Sedona Wish List:** The Council is now a member; it costs nothing. This puts the Council in the network with almost every other non-profit organization in the area. <http://www.sedonawishlist.org/>

**b. June Council Meeting:** Supervisor Chip Davis and Brenda Peterson will present the various scenarios that the County has formulated on **Redistricting in Yavapai County**. There is one more chance for public input on the process; this will be a very important meeting.

**c. A letter of congratulations** was sent to Rep. Andy Tobin on his election to Speaker of the AZ House. He will be delighted to meet with the Council. Mel will try to schedule a meeting with him sometime in the next 2-3 months.

**4. New Member Changes:** A letter was received from VOCA announcing the appointment of Duane DePaepe as Senior Voting Member of the Council with Steve Nelson, Joanne Johnson and Jay Markle as Alternates 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

**5. Secretary's Report:** In Tom Graham's absence Fran McWherter reported receiving the following corrections to the April 2011 Council minutes:

Item 2, Agenda: the Executive Board met on *April 11, 2011*....

Item 9, (a) Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization, line 6, to effectively function  
*as a ...*

Item 9, (b) line 2, "Regional Theater *Model*" ...

Item 9, (c) Sedona Wish List: Since the name of the organization doesn't reflect all it  
does, suggest the addition of "*there are opportunities for people to volunteer as  
well as donate to the nonprofit agencies.*"

**Moved, seconded, passed:** the April Minutes are approved as amended.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** Mark Mumaw reported receiving no bills last month, and receiving a few dollars in interest. The report is being modified so that it reflects the bank statement more correctly. Current balance is \$4,958.45. One member still owes \$40 for this year. Report is filed for audit.

**7. Corresponding Secretary:** Tom Graham was absent; Mel reported a letter went out to the Forest Service supporting the Red Rock Pass program; another letter went to the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO) supporting that organization and agreeing to designate a representative.

#### **8. Committee Reports:**

**a. Recreation:** Jay Markle reported that an article appeared in *The Villager* stating there would not be a recreation program here this summer, but that people can join the Boys and Girls Club of Sedona. He has received no applications for the \$35 scholarships offered by the Council. Better publicity is needed.

**b. Planning and Zoning:** Art Toensmeier reported the committee met May 3 on two possible amendments to the zoning code. The first specifies a limit of 2 swine per acre; the second limits canines to 4 per acre. The committee questions why dogs are limited to 4, but 5 sheep, emus, etc. are allowed. The committee has no objection to the proposed amendments. **Moved, seconded, passed:** the P & Z Committee will respond to the County with no issues on the swine amendment; for the canine amendment, no issues but a question about the number of canines permitted, and why other household pets are not limited.

**c. Communications:** Carolyn Fisher needs to know which HOAs have an email distribution list. The roll of the 20 members present was taken: those which don't have such a list are: Cathedral View II, Highland Estates, Pinon Woods North III has a list in progress, Sundance has a partial email list along with a block captain system due to their large number of elderly citizens. VP Dave Norton is sending the results of the roll call to Carolyn.

**d. Vision Committee:** Mel Copen reported the summary is complete, and it is 47 pages long. It will be posted on the Council website in the near future. The committee will try to extract the 6-12 most significant things from the survey that should be pursued. Then the committee will decide how the results will be presented to the public. Mel will be sending a memo that summarizes the summary; he will appreciate council members' feedback.

**e. SR179 Median Weed Abatement:** Gail Shaw Simpson mentioned the beautiful wildflowers that are presently in bloom. The committee has been working with the Forest Service and landscape architects. The Forest Service isn't interested in making any changes. The committee is now preparing to meet with ADOT. The one-mile stretch of the road coming into town before it runs into the Enhancement District boundary goes through Forest Service land, but is under the jurisdiction of ADOT. ADOT mowed that median last fall presumably under pressure from the public. The committee initially thought the best, cheapest, and easiest solution was gravel on top of 2 layers of weed cloth. However, Max Licher (read about him [here](#)) went on a "weed walk" with the committee to explain why that is not the best solution, and the Forest Service didn't want that either. Now the committee

unanimously agrees on twice-a-year mowing, once after the wildflowers have bloomed, and once in springtime, along with a re-seeding every year of the right kinds of plants. This, over time, will help to keep out the weeds. The committee will present a proposal to the Council, who will review it, discuss it with their constituents, and take a position at the June Council meeting.

## 9. Other Reports:

**a. Community Issues Committee:** Dave Norton reported: Attendees reported on the following updates:

Centennial – The State of Arizona Centennial is coming up on Feb. 12, 2012. Cities will take turns celebrating throughout the year and Sedona's turn will be in March under the present plans, which could change.

Sedona Chamber of Commerce/Main Street – Reports are coming in showing that visitors have increased about 10% over last year. Trip Advisor recently ranked Sedona #9 in the nation on their list of top destinations.

Fire District – The Sedona Fire District has implemented an Explorer program for youth interested in fire service as a possible career. Interested youth should contact the SFD for further information.

There will be a Community Dumpster at Fire Station #3 for disposal of household brush (no cactus) and trimmings, May 14-15.

Arts – There will be a Film Camp for kids as part of the Film Festival. Negotiations for the first art in the roundabouts in Sedona (not in the Village) have been completed with ADOT. Installation will be in November - December or next spring.

July 23rd is being celebrated as the Day of the Cowboy featuring several local artists.

On May 21st, there will be a Sedona Fine Art Auction at the Old Sedona Public Library on Jordan Road. Free Admission!

City of Sedona – November 8 is the election on the SR 89A turnback issue. No funding is coming from ADOT in the interim and the contracts for the signal at Andante, the pavement overlay and the lighting have been bid out and construction is expected to begin in late September or mid October.

Enchantment Resort is nearing completion of renovation of guest rooms. Next on the schedule is all of the public areas; they expect it to be completed by next spring.

Sedona Area Restaurant Association – Michelle Moore has formed the Sedona Area Restaurant Association; their goal is to increase promotion of local restaurants. They will be taking over and improving the Dine in Sedona program in the near future. Michelle is chair of the Association.

**b. Forest Service:** Paul Sullivan has already reported on the Forest Service.

**c. Sedona Fire District:** Officer Gary Johnson reported again on the residential vegetation clean-up scheduled for next weekend and the weekend after that. He offered to assist with getting neglected overgrown properties into compliance.

**d. Sedona-Oak Creek School District:** Mel asked if the Council should drop this area of concern; if not, someone should be identified as the liaison. It was decided to drop it from future agendas.

**e. State Parks:** Jan Lisowski reported that Red Rock State Park will be receiving a little more money from the State, and so the park will be open for another year.

**f. Verde Valley Transportation Planning Organization:** John Gillam reported Cornville Road will continue to be improved from Tissaw to Aaspas Roads; there will be widened shoulders and raised medians. Construction will start soon and will last about 3 months.

**g. Village Library Center:** Carolyn Fisher reported on the next book sale scheduled for June 24 - 26. Setup starts June 22, needs people with trucks and strong backs. Preview sale is June 23 from 5-8pm for Friends of the Library and volunteers. Sign up with Cheryl Yeatts at SPL-V to volunteer. Please take donated books to the center in Tequa when it's open, Tuesday-Friday 1-5 and Saturday 9-1. Beverly Copen is the featured artist - her photo display started May 10; an artist's reception will be held May 18, 4-6pm. SPL-V usage has increased dramatically since it opened.

**h. Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO):** Mel has asked volunteers Nancy Brown as the Council's representative and Jan Lisowski as the alternate, to attend the monthly board meetings.

**i. Member Reports:** this is a new agenda item. Members wishing to make a report should let Mel or Dave know before the Agenda is prepared (the Monday before the Council meeting).

**(1) Sedona Village Business Association:** Kathy Nelms reported they will be holding their Full Moon Walk next Saturday May 14, 4-7pm. Prizes include 2 twosomes at Sedona Golf Resort, two tickets to Sedona Taste. Oak Creek Country Club is doing putting and chipping; the walk is pet-friendly. Children can be finger-printed for digital identification as the first step in the Amber Alert system; this is being sponsored by Don and Kathy Nelms.

**10. Old Business:** Mark Mumaw raised the issue of weeds in the Red Rock Enhancement Maintenance District. Vicente Landscaping got the contract at some \$10,000 less than other bids; the residents are not getting the service they are paying for. Several council members agreed with him. Some have already emailed the County; others should email all three Supervisors attaching photos if possible. Mel stated the need to go through Rep. Andy Tobin to introduce and urge passage of the necessary legislation to create a citizen board for the RRREMD. Mark proposed putting this issue on the agenda for the June meeting, for possible Council action.

**11. New Business:** Mel stated it's not too early to be thinking about the next Big Park Council officers. Mel's 2-year term is up at the end of 2011; VP Dave Norton has indicated he cannot assume the presidency. At a minimum, nominees are needed for President and Vice President.

## **12. Announcements:**

**a. Marge Herkenham Memorial** May 13, 1pm at Greer's Mortuary, a reception following at St. John Vianney Catholic Church.

**b. Full Moon Walk:** Saturday May 14, 4-7pm.

**c. Book Sale,** SPL-V, June 24-26, presale June 23.

**d. Village Movie Club** starts its second season June 6 at Canyon Moon Theater with "*City Island*". Memberships are \$60 for 12 vouchers. Movies are shown on the first Monday of the month, 7pm. [VillageMovieClub@gmail.com](mailto:VillageMovieClub@gmail.com). <http://www.sedonafilmlovers.org/newsletter.htm>

**13. Adjournment: Moved, seconded, carried,** the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Minutes by Fran McWherter