

**BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011**

**Sedona Fire District Station #3, 125 Slide Rock Road, Sedona, AZ 86351**

**Call to order - Pledge of Allegiance:** President Mel Copen called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Dave Norton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1. Determine Quorum by Roll Call – a quorum was established with the following 20 members present:** Bell Rock Plaza Association, Canyon Mesa, Cathedral Rock Ranch, Cathedral View II, Firecliff, Highland Estates, Las Piedras, Oak Creek CC Estates I, Pine Valley, Pinon Woods I, Pinon Woods East II, Pinon Woods North III, Ridge at Sedona, Sedona Golf Resort, Sedona Village Business Assoc., Sundance, Valley Vista Estates, Village Estates, VOCA, Village Park, Wild Horse Mesa. **6 Members absent:** La Barranca I, La Barranca II, Oak Creek CC Estates III, Oak Creek Estados, Sedona Village Lodging Assoc. Roll Call attached as Exhibit A.
- 2. Agenda from Executive Board meeting**  
The Executive Board met on December 5, 2011 at the USFS Visitor Center, Sedona, AZ.
- 3. President's Report – Mel Copen, President –** Mel indicated this was his final report as President. He began by stating it had been a privilege to serve as the Council President for two years during which there was fun and frustration and that he and Bev had made many new friendships. Mel thanked the officers and committee chairs who had served with him. He marked the major accomplishment of his tenure as creating productive relationships with other local organizations including Yavapai County. Left undone was the finalization of the Vision Effort with which he would stay involved, building better communications ability with the members of the community and increasing membership in the Council.
- 4. New Members/Member Changes – Secretary Tom Graham** No new members but changes for an existing member: Pinon Woods I – Lanna Larew is the new Representative with Jolynn Greenfield and Janis Mock-Jones as Alternates.
- 5. Secretary's report – Tom Graham**
  - (a) Moved, Seconded and Unanimously Carried to approve the November minutes as distributed with minor correction to Kathy Huffstetler's name.**
- 6. Treasurer's report – Mark Mumaw**
  - (a) November, 2011 Treasurer's Report –** No comments. Filed for audit and attached as Exhibit B
- 7. Corresponding Secretary's report – Tom Graham –** No report.
- 8. Committee Reports – A reminder for Committee Chairs that display material for the screen should be submitted to Dave Norton one week in advance of the meeting.**
  - (a) Vision & Enhancement Committee – Mel Copen –** Mel reported on the community meeting held on Monday, November 14 at the Hilton Tequa Ballroom where approximately 70 attendees each joined in one of five groups to focus and brainstorm ideas to achieve goals for their particular group.
  - (b) SR 179 Median Weed Abatement Committee – Gail Shaw Simpson –** Gail reported that the Committee met on November 15 with ADOT & USFS personnel. Gail reported that the Committee is supporting a low-growing wildflower solution that would include mowing of the median by ADOT twice each year, sweeping the weeds out of the cracks in the roadway, and no use of herbicides that would kill the wildflowers. The Committee asked for authority to communicate this position to ADOT and continuing with this solution. **Moved, Seconded and Unanimously Carried to approve the Committee continuing to pursue the wildflower solution and use Green Earth as a resource in that process.**
  - (c) Redistricting Task Force – Dorothy O'Brien -** Dorothy reported that the US Department of Justice decided that they had no problem with the County redistricting process. This means that our BOS district will need good support from two new districts to form a majority on any given issue. The state

redistricting process has been thrown into chaos and is now in litigation. Stay tuned for further developments as the final map is expected by the end of 2011.

**9. Visitor Presentation – Dave Grondin, Owner of Green Earth LLC, the landscape management & enhancement maintenance contractor for the RRREMD.** Dave reported that he and his crews have cleaned up the landscaping and other enhancement maintenance but not everything is under control. They are using a combination of pre-emergent and contact spray to control the weeds and will be re-installing this coming spring about 200 one-gallon plants. There was some indication from the Council not to replace the dead prickly pear. Dave Grondin thought the landscaping all along SR 179 should be similar rather than the City of Sedona have one look and the All-American Road have another. The main weed to get rid of is yellow star thistle. A wide-ranging Q & A followed Dave's presentation.

**10. Other Reports (see reminder about display material under #8 above)**

BPRCC seeks to have attendees at meetings of many organizations. In the interest of shortening our meetings, these reports will be made on a rotating schedule of 2-3 per month:

- (a) **All-American Road Committee – AARC Chair Tom Graham** – Tom reported on the AARC banner project which will put up 14 banners on the pedestrian light poles. In response to a question, Tom reported that AARC members have met with Green Earth and representatives of the RRREMD to ensure long term goals are accomplished.
- (b) **Community Issues Committee, Sedona Chamber of Commerce – Dave Norton** – Dave reported on his attendance at a 12/6/2011 meeting at which the attendees reported on the following issues:
- (i) **Sedona Fire** – the Chief position is being advertised and applications are being accepted until December 29<sup>th</sup>. The Coats for Kids program in cooperation with Kiwanis is accepting coats until the end of December. Contact any fire station to donate.
  - (ii) **Sedona Chamber of Commerce/Main Street** – A cooperative effort with the Elks Club is going to Cottonwood on Saturday morning to purchase coats for kid. The Chamber of Commerce has purchased the Sedona Marathon. The event will be on February 4<sup>th</sup> and to date, over 500 runners have entered. They are expecting 2,000 for the event. These numbers are double previous events. They are using Crowd Rise to generate entrants and any group wanting to raise funds is encouraged to check out Crowd Rise, which is like Facebook for fund raising.
  - (iii) **City of Sedona** – The Police Department is working on traffic relief measures in uptown and is looking for part time employees next year to assist with traffic, zoning inspections, etc. City revenues are on track with the budget while expenses are below budget. The SR89A lights project is anticipated to begin in January with concrete work and the Andante signal. The pavement overlay is projected to be done in April or after, depending on temperatures.
  - (iv) **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Yavapai County** – MEN are needed to become Big Brothers. An easy way to donate to this organization is using the school tax credit. Taxpayers can donate up to \$200 per person (\$400 per couple) to each of the three categories for this credit: schools, charter schools or working poor. The Big Brothers/Sisters qualify as the last category so taxpayers could receive up to \$1,200 in direct tax credits by making a \$400 donation to each of the three categories.
- (c) **Forest Service – Paul Sullivan** – Paul reported that Heather Provencio will be appearing at the next Council meeting to speak about off-road travel rules in the National Forest. There was also some discussion concerning the Tobias/Flynn access issues.
- (d) **SFD – Gary Johnson** – Gary talked about calling 9-1-1 as your first move if you are not feeling well. Each of the SFD stations has a "Coats For Kids" box where you can donate clothing. Also each has a Toys For Tots box.
- (e) **Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO) – Tom Graham** – Tom reported that there was an important announcement that the Verde Valley Wine Consortium had been awarded one of the five communities grants to do research in conjunction with Yavapai College to do low-water viticulture. Tom also mentioned the VVREO Symposium to be held at the Hilton in February, 2012 on economic development in the Verde Valley.
- (f) **Member Reports** – Tony Rizzo and Steve Nelson talked about the opening of the Redstone Patio restaurant at the Oak Creek Country Club. It is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with homestyle food made from scratch. There was a soft opening starting in November. The as yet not opened "upper restaurant" will be a fine dining concept and be open sometime in February.

**11. Old Business** – President Mel discussed the role in the Vision Effort of the League of Women Voters. It was agreed at the first part of this Vision Effort that we would make a donation to the League to help them continue their work on these types of activities. **Moved, Seconded and Unanimously Carried to make a donation of \$350.00 to the League of Women Voters in appreciation for their assistance in the Vision Effort.**

**12. New Business**

(a) Election of Council officers for 2012. After hearing no nominations from the floor, it was **Moved, Seconded and Unanimously Carried to close the nominations and approve the following slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee:**

**Carolyn Fisher – President  
Paul Jankovsky – Vice President  
Kathy Huffstetler – Treasurer  
Tom Graham – Secretary**

(b) The Council has received a letter from SFD that starting in 2012 the Council will be charged a monthly fee of \$65.00. **Moved, Seconded and Unanimously Carried to book Station #3 for the January, 2012 meeting and explore other options for thereafter.**

(c) **Moved, Seconded and Unanimously Carried to keep the Council dues at \$125.00 per year.**

(d) It was announced that the Council is looking for a tech person to replace Dave Norton.

(e) **The new Budget Committee was appointed as follows: Kathy Huffstetler, Mark Mumaw, Paul Sullivan & Margie Gershtenson**

**13. Announcements**

- (a) January book sale: January 20-22
- (b) Pilgrimage to Bethlehem, 12/16 – 12/18 Tequa.

**14. Adjournment – Meeting was duly adjourned at 11:10 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas H. Graham, Secretary

**EXHIBITS**

- A – Roll Call**
- B – Treasurer's Report**