

BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.
FEBRUARY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
9:00 A.M., Thursday, February 13, 2014.

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

Call to order - Pledge of Allegiance

- 1. Determine Quorum by Roll Call** – A quorum was established with 23 Members present. 5 Members were absent: Big Park Community School, La Barranca I, Oak Creek Estados, Sedona Village Lodging Association, and Wild Horse Mesa.
- 2. Agenda from Executive Board meeting** -The Executive Board met this month at the Forest Service Ranger Station on February 10, 2014 at 9 A.M.
- 3. President's Report – Steve Nelson** welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending the meeting.
- 4. Secretary's report – Deb Wilson** – The Minutes from the January 9, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.
- 5. Treasurer's report – Neil Pope** – The \$220 discrepancy reported last month has been located and resolved.

There are 4 Member organizations who have not submitted their annual dues. (Dana Blavat commented that the Verde Valley School check is in the mail which brings the total to 3).

Question was raised as to whether the Council has filed their tax return. Neil noted that a tax return for the Council is not required. A member commented that the IRS does, however, expect each HOA to file a tax return.

Corporation Commission filing/payment will come due in April-May timeframe.

Deb Wilson (Chair of the Audit Committee) confirmed that the Ad Hoc Audit Committee met, reviewed and approved the finance documentation for 2013 with signoff. It was agreed that the Audit Committee will now be closed and the approval will be filed.

6. Committee Reports --- Standing committees are: Recreation, P&Z, and Transportation.

(a) Recreation Committee – Dana Blavat – The Committee did not meet during the month of January. Dana reminded the Council of several upcoming events (Hunger Banquet and Soccer Camp). See Item 10 (Announcements) for more information. The Committee will also be active at the Vision Community Meeting (See Item 6(d)) to make sure they understand what the community is interested in the Committee pursuing. Last, but not least, a reminder that the Celtic Harvest Festival is scheduled for September 20th at Verde Valley School and the Walk to End Alzheimer's is scheduled for October 25th beginning at Tequa. If there are other events that could benefit from support by the Recreation Committee, please email Dana at dana@vvsaz.org,

(b) P&Z Committee – Bill Kusner – Bill reported that there are 2 items before the P&Z Committee:

Famous Pizza Move: Famous Pizza, currently located at 25 Bell Rock Plaza is relocating across the Plaza, requiring a change to their liquor license. The P&Z Committee reviewed their request and recommends approval of the liquor license for the new location. A vote of Members present was conducted and the recommendation was approved unanimously. The new location will include seating inside and outside.

Hilton Sign: The existing Hilton sign is being revised to update the Hilton logo and clarify that Tequa is a marketplace. The P&Z Committee recommends approval of the new sign. A vote of Members present was conducted and the recommendation was approved unanimously. The P&Z Committee also request that the Council submit a letter to the county approving a request that the new sign be considered separately from the pending request for additional signage at other Tequa entrances. A vote of Members present was conducted and the draft letter presented was approved unanimously. There was further discussion as to why other businesses (besides Hilton, Mongos and Full Moon Saloon) are not also on the sign. The PAD approval is that up to 5 restaurants can be included on the sign, assuming the

restaurant pays the appropriate fees. The PAD approval ONLY allows restaurants to be listed, hence other entities, such as the library, cannot be listed. It would be up to Tequa to request approval to add additional entities.

There was a question asked about the status of the Wells Fargo ATM Kiosk installation. Bill confirmed that the construction plan is underway.

(c) Transportation Committee – Steve Fiedler – John Gillam reported, in Steve’s absence, that there will be road “rehabilitation” this spring on Lee Mountain Road to Pine Valley. There will also be work on Jack’s Canyon Road to smooth out the rough spots. The word from ADOT is that the work on I-17 at Copper Canyon should be concluded in the May-June timeframe.

(d) Vision & Enhancement Committee – Paul Jankovsky – The Vision Committee held a meeting on the 4th of February. Plans for the community meeting to roll out and solicit feedback on the Vision have been solidified. The meeting will be held in the Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa’s main ballroom on March 18, 2014 at 7pm. Paul acknowledged the generosity of Edgar Lozoya, at the Hilton, in providing prime meeting space and Verde Valley School for providing cookies. The meeting is free, includes refreshments and door prizes, is expected to be very interactive to enable everyone’s voice to be heard and will last between 1 to 1 ½ hours. It is important that all Council Members be in attendance and encourage family, friends and neighbors to attend. It is an opportunity for residents and businesses to understand the five key vision points and determine where they can, and would like to, participate. If anyone has pictures for community events, please send them to Dorothy O’Brien at dotobrien@q.com. Look for more information and details in The Villager. The Council meeting in March will include an in-depth preview of the information to be presented.

(e) SR179 Median Weed Abatement – Bill Kusner – There continues to be Council Members who have not responded with the aggregate results of the polling of their constituents on this issue. It is important to get this tally finalized.

(f) Signage Committee – Tom Graham – There was no report.

7. Other Reports

(a) All American Road Committee – Tom Graham – The Committee met on February 10th. Plans are in the works for filming of the PBS Weekend Explorer (with Jeffrey Lehman) documentary in the spring. Funding drive will include organizations throughout the Verde Valley area as well as the crowd-funding approach attempted last fall. Since the documentary includes organizations and locations throughout the greater Sedona area, the Committee is interested in also filming an independent video that just includes the Village of Oak Creek. More to come on this topic.

There was discussion about the continuing problem of signs (real estate, garage sale, etc.) in the roundabouts. While the problem has diminished somewhat, Council Members need to remind their HOA members that signage in the roundabout is considering littering. It was suggested that this is an important issue that needs to be placed on a future agenda.

There was discussion about inappropriate dumping (furniture, TVs, etc.) in the recycle area behind Webers. Sedona Recycles is considering installing cameras to mitigate the problem, once approval is received from Webers. Sheriff’s office has also put the illegal dumping in this area on their radar.

(b) Forest Service – Paul Sullivan – The Forest Service is applying for grant monies to do trail work and repairs. They have requested that various groups, such as the Council, provide a letter of approval/support to help bring attention to the application. A vote of Members present was conducted and the recommendation was approved unanimously. A draft letter was presented and approved unanimously.

Paul provided an update on the Sedona Red Rock Trails Fund. Status to date is that they have now have a Tax ID Number (TIN), the application has been submitted for a 501(c)3 designation as a non-profit, they made \$121 from a booth set up at the Sedona Marathon and are easing into a way to raise additional money for the trails. Meetings are the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm at Sedona Rouge. All who are interested in this project welcome to attend.

(c) Sedona Fire District – Chief Kris Kazian – Kris reminded the Council that the last time the winter was this dry, the area was subjected to tremendous flooding in the spring and vastly increased risk of wildfire. Now is the time to be sure that properties are being prepared for the real possibility of a recurrence of tremendous rains and fire.

It is budget time in the Fire District. One meeting has already occurred. Kris reminded the Council that budget meetings are open to the public. There is a budget workshop scheduled for March 19th at the Village station. Typically the meeting for the budget starts at 3:30, but check the website for confirmation. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Kris talked in length about the new fire station under construction in the Chapel area. See Item 9(a) for more information on this topic.

(d) Yavapai County Sheriff's Office – Sergeant Dan Winslow – There have been a couple bank robberies in the Verde Valley (Camp Verde and Cottonwood). Dan has been in touch with our local banks to be sure they are aware. Both happened on a Tuesday, so the plan is for the Sheriff's department to be very visible.

The new secretary/area coordinator for the Village Sheriff's location has started. She will be on-site starting the 24th but will still be learning the job, so please be patient.

Tourist season is starting so expect to see increased visibility on local roads such as Verde Valley School, Jack's Canyon, etc. and please be aware and patient with visitors to our community.

The staffing at the Village location is down one individual, but Dan expects to be back to a full staff of 5 shortly.

8. Old Business –

(a) Audit Committee's Report – Deb Wilson – See Item 5.

(b) BPRCC Community Vision Meeting – Paul Jankovsky – See Item 6(d).

9. New Business

(a) Chapel Fire Station – Fire Chief Kris Kazian – The construction of Station No. 6 in the Chapel area is well underway. Design for the station was based on functionality, practicality and efficiency with location of crew quarters and flow into the "bays" all designed to facilitate response. Thought also went into sustainability, both environmental and financial. While the low bid for the job was selected, it appears to have been a wise choice with respect to a quality build that will minimize the cost to taxpayers with respect to maintenance. The budget was \$2.25M financed as a 10 year project, but is expected to come in under budget.

The station is not intended to be a Chapel area only operation. The existing station in the Village tends to have multiple, coinciding calls, which can require Village emergencies to be redirected to uptown or West Sedona when the crew is already out on a call. That, of course, means a longer response time. The new station will provide an opportunity for a back-up crew and equipment with much shorter response time. The new station will include a Ladder, Ambulance and Type 3 Engine and will have 5 people assigned to the station, with a minimum of 3 available at all times. With the new station, there will be 5 "manned" stations in the Sedona area. There are an additional 3 "buildings" that house equipment and telecommunications.

The opening date is projected to be somewhere between April 15th and May 1st. There will be an open house shortly thereafter for the public to come visit and tour the facility.

(b) BPRCC Scholarship – It was confirmed that there is \$1000 in the budget this year for the granting of a scholarship. It was recommended that the Scholarship Committee established in 2013 be retained for 2014. A vote of Members present was conducted and the recommendation was approved unanimously. It was suggested that it would be nice to find a way to be sure that scholarship money from the various organizations in the community be spread around among eligible candidates, however, it was agreed that making that assessment would be difficult

(c) Projected Agendas for 2014 – Steve Nelson – The schedule of guests for 2014 is still a work in progress but solidifying quickly. Many of the “wish list” participants identified during the January meeting have been contacted and expressed a willingness to participate. It was suggested that Red Rock District Ranger, Nicole Branton, be included on the schedule of guest speakers for 2014.

Steve also indicated that as more becomes known about the consolidation of Yavapai College campuses that appropriate college officials be invited to talk to the Council about our concerns with the loss of local education opportunities.

Next month’s agenda will focus on the BPRCC Vision Statement Community Meeting with a presentation by Paul Jankovsky and Dorothy O’Brien.

(d) Coconino National Forest Plan Revision – Tom Graham – Keep Sedona Beautiful (KSB) held a very productive meeting with the Forest Service on February 6th, including the individual in charge of writing the plan, which was also attended by Steve Nelson and Deb Wilson on behalf of the Council. KSB has formed a committee to read the Draft Forest Service Plan and Environmental Impact Report and provide written comment back to the Forest Service. The comment period expires on March 20th; however, a letter requesting a 60 day extension has been submitted to the Regional Director of the Forest Service in Albuquerque. A motion was made to provide a letter of support for KSB’s request for an extension. A vote of Members present was conducted and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

KSB’s two biggest issues with the draft plan/report involve the National Scenic Area designation, that was proposed in legislation but never got anywhere in Congress, and Land Trades. At a meeting with the House of Representatives Committee, a Forest Service representative testified in favor of the designation. However, nothing about preserving this area as a national scenic area is included in the plan. Amendment 12, adopted in 1998, which was made part of the then Forest Service Plan, made land trades much more restrictive. While some of Amendment 12 has been incorporated into the new Plan, KSB is not fully satisfied with the language being used regarding restriction on land trades. Steve suggested that when KSB completes their comments, a representative from KSB come and speak to the Council so that the Council can vote to concur with what KSB has found in their analysis. A comment was made that these documents may be long, but are not difficult to read. They are not written in “legalize”. A copy of the Draft Plan and Impact Statement are posted on the Coconino National Forest website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coconino/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5334655>).

10. Announcements

(a) BPRCC Community Vision Meeting – March 18, 2014 @ 7pm, Hilton Sedona Resort and Spa, Main Ballroom. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

(b) Coconino National Forest Public Meetings and Workshops – Coconino National Forest (CNF) will host a public meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 from 3pm-7pm at the Sedona Airport Conference Room (235 Air Terminal Drive).

(c) Library Events:

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 – Join Cheryl Yeatts, Manager of Sedona Public Library in the Village, at the Marketplace Café from 6pm-7pm to learn more about our local public library.

Wednesday, March 12 -- Speaker Reba Wells Grandrud of the Arizona Humanities Council will explore the life of Cora Viola Slaughter, a Southern Arizona ranch woman at 1:30 p.m. at Sedona Winds, 405 Jacks Canyon Road. Program is free and open to the public.

(d) Hunger Banquet – Verde Valley School will host a Hunger Banquet on February 25, 2014 at 6pm. Tickets are \$10 per person. 100% of the proceeds will go to local hunger or a group in Malawi where Verde Valley School has supported a village for the last 7 years. This event promises to be a fun one with attendees having the opportunity to understand what it means to be hungry. There will also be raffle tickets (\$5 each or 5 for \$20) for a variety of raffle opportunities donated by local businesses.

(e) Challenger Sports Group Soccer Camp – Camp will be held at the Verde Valley School June 9-13. Registration will begin on April 25th. Registration fees will range from \$85 for the little 3 year olds to \$185 for a teenager taking a full day of training. Check out brochures located at Webers.

(f) Meals on Wheels – Paul Jankovsky announced that Meals on Wheels here in the Village needs volunteers to help with distribution to our neighbors in the program.

11. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 A.M.

Respectfully submitted: Deborah Wilson, Secretary