

**BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.**  
**APRIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**9:00 A.M., Thursday, April 10, 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 22 Members present. 6 Members were absent: Big Park Community School, Pinon Woods I, Pinon Woods II East, Sedona Village Lodging Association, Valley Vista Estates and Wild Horse Mesa.
- 2. Agenda from Executive Board meeting** -The Executive Board met this month at the Forest Service Ranger Station on April 7, 2014 at 9 A.M.
- 3. President's Report – Steve Nelson** welcomed all those present, including special guests Chip Davis, Yavapai County Supervisor, Chip's Administrative Assistant Shannon, Steve Mauk, Director of Yavapai County Development Services and Dave Williams, Head of Land Use and Planning Unit and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- 4. Secretary's report – Tom Graham** – The Minutes from the March 13, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.
- 5. Treasurer's report – Neil Pope** – Activity for March included receipt of one check for HOA dues and payment of \$345 for expenses from the Vision community event. Steve Nelson asked for a motion to increase the \$300 allocation for the Vision community event to cover the \$345 expenditure. Increase was approved unanimously. Neil expects to receive the outstanding check within a week which means all 27 HOAs will be paid by the end of the month.
- 6. Committee Reports** --- Standing committees are: Recreation, P&Z, and Transportation.
  - (a) Recreation Committee – Dana Blavat** – No report for the month of April.
  - (b) P&Z Committee – Bill Kusner** – Bill reported that two previously outstanding issues have been resolved: the flashing lights on top of the Encore Theater are now gone and the U-Haul dealership trucks and trailers have been moved from behind the Outlets. There are no new issues.
  - (c) Transportation Committee – Steve Fiedler** – Steve received a call-back from the Transportation and Road Committee Supervisor regarding plans for the Jacks Canyon Road project. Work is expected to begin the end of May/first of June starting from Lee Mountain Road. There was also clarification from an attendee that the intent is for work to begin on the sides prior to putting on the black top.

Steve Nelson raised the issues on Slide Rock Road that are causing individuals to drive through the parking lot to avoid the deteriorating road. Dave Norton commented that the County was on Slide Rock Road last week fixing the shoulder but not the pot hole.

Question was raised as to whether there would be bike lane added to Jacks Canyon Road. Various attendees commented on the question and it appears there is an easement problem that cannot be resolved.

- (d) Vision & Enhancement Committee – Paul Jankovsky** – Paul reported that the March 18<sup>th</sup> community forum was a success. There were about 125 participants with about 58 individuals submitting action plan ideas. Table 3 (Community Spirit and Involvement) was responsible for 27 of the 58 submissions. The various action plan suggestions have been reviewed by the Vision Committee, consolidated and categorized into

Short Term Actions: 1 to 5 years  
Medium Term Actions: 6 to 10 years  
Long Term Actions: 11+ years

Paul also reported that the Vision Committee realized that the business community had been left out of the survey that was used to frame the Vision. As a result the committee made modifications to better support businesses. The changes were reviewed and accepted by the Vision Committee.

Paul thanked everyone who worked to make the event a success, especially Sheriff's Office and the staff/management at the Tequa Hilton.

A motion was made to approve the Vision Plan. During discussion it was requested that the first Action Plan for Item 3 (Nurturing a sense of community spirit and citizen involvement by maintaining our small town atmosphere and values. Creating a "Sense of Place" through the amenities expressed in our arts, cultural and educational opportunities) be amended to recognize recreation. It was unanimously approved that the Action Plan be revised to read

**“Create a communication structure to promote forums for civic issues, educational and recreational opportunities, local cultural and social events.”**

With the modification above, the Vision Plan was approved unanimously. The Council will provide a copy of the Vision to Supervisor Davis.

During discussion a request was received from Gail Shaw-Simpson to create a Public Relations committee to create brochures and press releases about our community. It was decided that amendment to the Vision document was not required; however, agreement was reached that such a committee should be explored with involvement from the Business Association, All American Road Committee and Council. Steve Nelson asked that a sign-up sheet be created to create the committee.

**(e) SR179 Median Weed Abatement – Bill Kusner** – Bill reported that he has not heard from 5 HOAs concerning the weed abatement survey. The current totals from the survey reflect that 2157 homeowner/taxpayers would like to have the median improved by the removal of the existing weeds; 23 homeowner/taxpayers would prefer to keep the median as is. The Committee will be meeting later in the day (April 10<sup>th</sup>) to determine on next steps. The 4 outstanding HOAs are: Cathedral View II; La Barranca II; Pine Valley; and Ridge at Sedona. Bill planned to speak with the HOA representatives following the meeting to obtain their input.

**(f) Signage Committee – Tom Graham** – No report for the month of April.

## 7. Other Reports

**(a) Forest Service – Tom Graham** – Tom reported that a letter to the Regional Office of the United States Forest Service, that includes the Coconino National Forest, has been drafted. The first paragraph of the letter describes who and what the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council represents. The remainder of the letter reads as follows.

“On March 20, 2014, Keep Sedona Beautiful submitted its comments on the Draft Plan and Draft EIS referred to above (KSB Comments). Representatives of the Council have reviewed KSB Comments and, at a duly called meeting of the Council on April 10, 2014, the Council unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLVED, THAT THE BIG PARK REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL HEREBY SUPPORTS IN THEIR ENTIRETY THE COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY KEEP SEDONA BEAUTIFUL ON MARCH 20, 2014, TO THE DRAFT LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN & THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONCERNING THE COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST AND FURTHER RESPECTFULLY URGES ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION BY THE FOREST SERVICE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THOSE COMMENTS.**

A Motion was made to approve the letter for submission to the Regional Office of the United States Forest Service. The letter was unanimously approved.

**(b) Sedona Fire District – Fire Marshal Gary Johnson** – Gary reported that residents have an opportunity to dispose of their yard waste and combustible vegetation prior to fire season. SFD Fire Station #4, located at 391 Forest Road in Uptown Sedona, will be accepting yard waste Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. In response to questions, Gary clarified that hazardous material and electronics are not included in this event.

To illustrate the need for clean-up Gary commented that a wild land assignment has already occurred in April. With humidity starting to drop and winds are coming up, the potential for a dangerous wildfire season cannot be over-emphasized.

In response to questions, Gary commented that measures are being taken to discourage using the fire station drive as a “short cut”. Signage has been placed and if that doesn’t work, barriers will be considered.

Gary commented that the wrecked vehicles behind the fire station were used for extrication training.

Finally, the Station 6 dedication is on the April 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a pancake breakfast prior to the dedication ceremony.

**(c) Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office – Deputy Kevin Harper** – Kevin opened with kudos to Sedona Fire for their extrication training. The training was recently put to use after a vehicle accident at Castle Rock and Verde Valley School Roads that resulted in two elderly individuals hanging from seat belts in their overturned vehicles. Otherwise, things have been pretty quiet in the Village with the exception of events such as shoplifting, neighbor disputes and welfare checks.

In response to a question whether calling the Sheriff’s Office when there are children in the round-about is appropriate, Kevin answered that they would respond but there is a limited amount that can be done. They would be happy to talk to the adults in charge and if research shows that the reason for the low curbs is to allow extra room for 18-Wheelers to navigate the turns, then they will also talk with the schools. Kevin will pursue with ADOT as to whether the center of the round-about is considered an “off-limits” area.

Another question was raised about rumors of a change in the Verde Valley School Road speed limit--is this a police issue? Kevin responded that the assignment of speed limits falls within the Roads Department with the Roads and Sheriff’s Office being separate. The Sheriff’s Office provides input with the Roads Department making final determination of speed limits.

**(d) Verde Valley Transportation Planning Organization - John Gillam** – In addition to Steve Fiedler’s report on Jack’s Canyon Road, see Item 6c above, John reported that Verde Valley School Road will be addressed in the fall and Copper Canyon is now in the paving phase, hopefully completing by the end of May.

Tom Graham suggested that with respect to bike lanes, someone needs to confirm whether it is true that if a highway borders forest service land there is federal money to support the building of bike lanes.

**(e) Village Library Center - Cheryl Yeatts** – Cheryl reported that there are several upcoming events (see Announcement 10a below). There is also a Library e-Newsletter available to HOAs. If interested in receiving the e-Newsletter, please contact Cheryl to be added to the mailing list.

## **8. Old Business –**

**(a) Results of BPRCC Vision Meeting and Modifications to BPRCC Vision/Goal Statements – Paul Jankovsky** – See Item 6d above.

**(b) BPRCC Scholarship Update – Bob Kraft** – Bob indicated that there will be a full report at the May meeting.

**(c) Coconino National Forest Plan Revision Update** – See Item 7a above.

## **9. New Business**

**(a) Special Guests: Chip Davis, Yavapai County Supervisor, Steve Mauk, Director of Yavapai County Development Services and Dave Williams, Head of Land Use and Planning Unit.** Chip opened with a reminder of the history of Arizona, particularly Yavapai County and Big Park, to illustrate the relative youth of our community.

Following a quote from Helen Hayden, “There is proof that the worth of a community in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it. And that individuals united can change the course of event”, Chip acknowledged 3 individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of Big Park:

**Joan McClelland.**

**Joanne Johnson**

**Ruth Kane**

Steve Mauk and Dave Williams continued the presentation, with Steve noting that “permitting is way up” and the homes being built are “high end” as opposed to the nationwide trend of houses getting smaller. Dave continued the discussion with a list of the top three enforcement issues they encountered.

The Number One issue is signage. There is one chronic offender who was just assessed a \$10K fine. Acknowledged they walk a line between helping business and maintaining the integrity of the Village. The Number Two issue is short term (vacation) rentals (defined as any rental less than 30 days). The Number Three issue is dark sky. Yavapai County has one of the most stringent dark sky rules in the country. Steve and Dave then opened up the presentation to questions:

- **Q:** Do you have advice or procedures for HOAs to follow for short term rentals? **A:** There is no formal guidance for HOAs but they are always happy to, and appreciate, the opportunity to speak to HOAs about issues in the community. Feel free to coordinate a meeting through Supervisor Davis’ office.
- **Q:** What is the status of U-Haul issue? **A:** There is only one trailer and one truck left on the lot. They took the business owner to an administrative hearing last month with the outcome being that the owner has until April 20<sup>th</sup> to remove all U-Hauls. The additional issue about an RV parked in the same lot has been taken care of now.
- **Q:** Can the County help put pressure on ADOT to enforce signage in the round-about? **A:** People holding up signage are different than signage itself. They believe that this is a question for the Sheriff’s Office [who keeps referring back to Chip or ADOT]. Steve Nelson suggested that the questioner (Joanne Johnson) create a report for presentation at a future Council meeting. Carolyn Fisher suggested that this is an education issue with respect to the schools. Dave Norton responded that there are other issues beyond the kids, such as garage sales and real estate signs i.e. we need comprehensive education and enforcement. It was noted that Bill Pumphrey is working with ADOT to alleviate the problem. Bill has received a verbal from ADOT and is awaiting a written response. Steve Mauk and Dave Williams agreed to work with their counterparts at ADOT as well.
- **Q:** Village Estates 2 homes being built. Is there a timeframe for completion? **A:** The typical build is about 18 months. Once a permit is issued, there is a requirement that there be an inspection (showing activity on the build) every 6 month, which can be subject to extensions. Maximum time that a builder could take for completion is probably around 4 years. While this was a real problem after the economy crash, the building industry has improved. It was also noted that in addition to County requirements, there could also be time limits included in HOA CC&Rs.
- **Q:** Was approval received for all the equipment vehicles to be parked at Big Park School? **A:** Actually it is road equipment belonging to the County. It is predominantly a seasonal issue and should not be an issue long term.
- **Q:** Keep Sedona Beautiful has submitted an application to be designated a Dark Sky Community for Sedona. Once that process is completed, Keep Sedona Beautiful will then turn their attention to the Village. The City of Sedona has funding to help individuals and businesses who are out of compliance (predominantly due to being grandfathered) to remediate their lighting. The original funding of \$50,000 was distributed; an additional \$50,000 should be coming available. Sedona shares in remediation up to 50% of the cost. Does the County have funds available for a similar program in the Village? **A:** It is too early to speculate on how the County may be able to participate in remediating dark sky issues following a future designation.

Dave Williams commented that 99% of enforcement actions are the result of public complaints. They do not have the resources to “drive around and look for issues”. Complaints can be anonymous and provided through phone (639-8151), email, web, or letter. Dorothy O’Brien expressed concern that the discussion was so heavily focused on complaints rather than how we can find ways to balance the need for businesses to survive and thrive with the desire to maintain a beautiful residential community. For example, Dorothy cited concerns that the Celtic Harvest Festival will face barriers trying to promote the event with signage as well as directing individuals to Verde Valley School. Dave Williams responded that they are very willing to talk about solutions and that temporary sign permits are less restrictive and can be very helpful.

**(b) Verde Valley Community College Board Meetings – Steve Nelson –** See Item 10g below.

## **10. Announcements**

**(a) Upcoming Library Events in the Village** - Programs are free and open to the public:

1. Wednesday, April 23 - Community book discussion of "Filaree: A Novel of American Life" at 1:30 p.m. at Sedona Winds
2. Wednesday, May 7 - Arizona Humanities Council program "Armed with Our Language, We Went to War: The Navajo Code Talkers." Dr. Laura Tohe will present two programs in the Village: 1:30 p.m. at Sedona Winds and 6:00 p.m. at VOCA Community Center.

**(b) British Soccer Camp June 9 to 13 at Verde Valley School**

**(c) Humane Society** – There is an auction planned on May 10, 2014; 11:30 AM (preview) with 1:00 PM start time at the Elks Club. Deliver donations for auction to Paw Prints Thrift Shop in the Village.

**(d) New Business Ribbon Cutting** - Eye Boutique of Sedona on April 24 at 3:30PM at 100 Verde Valley School Road

**(e) Wells Fargo ATM Kiosk in Bell Rock Plaza** - Is now open for business

**(f) Sedona Fire District Dedication Ceremony of our new Fire Station No. 6:** Free event on Sat., April 26, 2014, at the new station in the Chapel area with a pancake breakfast from 9:00 to 11:00 AM, ceremony at 11:00 AM, and station Open House from 11:30 to 1:00 PM.

**(g) Verde Valley Community College Board Meeting** – Scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 1:00 p.m. Prescott Campus-Rock House

**11. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM

**Respectfully submitted: Deborah Wilson, Secretary**