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NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

Monday
March 11, 2002 at 7:00 pm
Legend Trail
Community Center
 (see directions on page 3)

COPP Board of Directors

Bob Vairo, *President*
 rvairo@coppeak.org
 Linda Whitehead, *Vice-President*
 lwhitehead@coppeak.org
 Daniel Basinger, *Treasurer/Secretary*
 dbasinger@coppeak.org
 Alan Kaufman, *General Counsel*
 akaufman@coppeak.org
 Dick Janssen, *Director*
 djanssen@coppeak.org
 Darlene Petersen, *Director*
 dpetersen@coppeak.org

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 Published by

Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, Inc.
 8912 E. Pinnacle Peak, PMB 275
 Scottsdale, AZ 85255
 602-230-5233
 COPPeak@coppeak.org
 www.COPPeak.org

Los Arcos – The New Ellman Plan

Over the past few weeks much has been written about Ellman’s new project for Los Arcos. The major focus has been the amount that might need to be contributed by the city to support the plan. The dollars that have been mostly tossed around is that 40 Million plus will be needed to make the project a reality.

What has been lost in the heated political debate over the city’s potential investment are the merits of the project itself and whether or not it will provide the kind of economic stimulus needed to revitalize the Los Arcos business community. The question of how much the city should or shouldn’t invest in the project has clouded this paramount issue and delayed a solution that is much desired by those who live and work in the area.

COPP believes that the proposed retail centered project is suitable for the area. We testified to this effect at the City

Council hearing and urged that the plan be given a full review to see if it fits. We did not agree with nor did we comment on the amount of city funds needed to support the project. We couldn’t because no financial details were available to us or other members of the public prior to the hearing.

At the hearing we heard many residents of the area comment in favor of the project. Even one person who had been an avid supporter of the hockey arena spoke in support of the new plan. There were a few, including representatives of the Scottsdale Area Chamber, who spoke against it, but they didn’t offer an alternative, just that it would cost the city too much based on their self-serving and speculative financial analysis of the plan.

At this writing, we believe the Ellman proposal should get a full hearing and a

(see “Los Arcos” on page 3)

March Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| March 11 | COPP Member Meeting – On the Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottsdale City Council Candidates George Zraket, Wayne Ecton and Bob Littlefield • Tully Clifford, City of Scottsdale Director of Traffic Engineering, will discuss Pima Road safety issues |
| March 12 | Election Day! |
| March 8-10 | Scottsdale Arts Festival, Civic Center Mall |
| March 14-17 | National Festival of the West – Westworld |

COPP’s mission is to educate the public and hold government officials accountable to the public on any issue that poses a threat to neighborhoods, the environment, and fiscal responsibility.

The Problem with Pima Road

The following Email message was sent by COPP Vice President Linda Whitehead to Police Chief Doug Bartosh and Transportation Manager John Little on February 12, following a series of fatal auto accidents on Pima Road.

Chief Bartosh and Transportation Manager Little:

The past few weeks have been especially deadly on that stretch of Pima Road north of Pinnacle Peak Road. Despite the carnage, the city is clinging to the belief that Pima Road is safe, citing 10-year accident statistics in an attempt to substantiate that position.

Ten year statistics, and even five year statistics are meaningless on this stretch of road, as traffic conditions were vastly different then. It is far more meaningful to review more recent statistics. In addition to the 6 fatalities on Pima Road since January 20, in the past 12-18 months I recall the following: One of my neighbors was killed in an accident at Stagecoach Pass and Pima. A young woman was killed in the vicinity of Pima and Jomax. Another driver was killed at Dynamite and Pima. I can't recall the number of times Pima has been closed because of serious, although non-fatal accidents.

In the January 12 Scottsdale Tribune Tully Clifford, director of Scottsdale Traffic Engineering was quoted as follows: "The roads are designed that if people are going 55, they have adequate time to stop, adequate sight distance. So from an engineering point of view, they are fine." Clifford's point of view seems to be that if, as a driver, you are operating

within the speed limit, you'll be fine. That point of view ignores the need to protect those of us who operate within the law from those who do not.

I must also point out that Efrain Hernandez who, along with his wife and child was killed on January 20, was operating within the speed limit. In fact, I believe they were stopped at the traffic light at Happy Valley and Pima. They are not fine. They are dead!

Following that accident and apparently in response to the public's outcry about conditions on Pima Road, I noticed photo-radar stationed on Pima Road at Thompson Peak Parkway. The problem isn't at Thompson Peak Parkway. That stretch of Pima Road is a parking lot most of the time. The problem is on the stretch of Pima north of Pinnacle Peak Road up to Stagecoach Pass. I haven't seen radar, photo or otherwise, on that stretch of road within recent memory.

The reality is that Pima Road has become a death trap. The intersection of Happy Valley Road and Pima is very poorly designed. The lack of center left turn lanes into the neighborhoods between Pinnacle Peak and Jomax is an invitation to disaster. The lack of a left turn lane from northbound Pima onto Dixileta is another accident waiting to happen. The city's failure to patrol and enforce the speed limit on that stretch of road is a further invitation to disaster.

When serious accidents occur, the Police response has been to direct traffic away from the scene as they conduct their investigation. That, of course, is something they must do. But they can and should do more to expedite the flow of traffic around the area.

In the case of the February 8

accident at Pima and Happy Valley Roads, police officers stopped northbound Pima traffic at Pinnacle Peak and sent traffic onto westbound Pinnacle Peak Road. Traffic southbound on Pima Road attempting to get around the accident site tried to use 84th Street and Hayden Road. They were blocked at Pinnacle Peak Road because of all the traffic being diverted from Pima Road to Scottsdale Road along Pinnacle Peak Road.

Why weren't police officers set up at key "pinch" points to expedite the flow of traffic? If officers had been stationed at Thompson Peak Parkway and Pima to expedite the flow of traffic westbound onto Thompson Peak Parkway, at Pinnacle Peak Road and Scottsdale to manually override the traffic light and provide better flow of traffic through that intersection, and at the intersections of Pinnacle Peak and Hayden and Pinnacle Peak and 84th Street, the traffic nightmare could have been alleviated.

In the case of the February 11 accident, southbound Pima Road traffic was diverted westbound onto Westland Road. Traffic was backed up on Westland Road at Scottsdale Road, because the timing of the traffic light contemplated very few cars going westbound on Westland Road and turning south onto Scottsdale Road. Why wasn't a traffic control officer stationed at that intersection to expedite the flow of traffic?

To summarize this very lengthy message:

Pima Road has become a death trap. Remedies need to be put in place for the problem areas including the intersection at Happy Valley Road

(see "Pima Road" on page 3)

Pima Road

(continued from page 2)

and the lack of left turn lanes as mentioned above.

Greater attention needs to be given to patrolling Pima Road, enforcing the speed limit and curtailing aggressive drivers and unsafe driving practices. Just having officers visible on that stretch of road would be a deterrent to the unsafe speeds and driving practices that routinely occur. Those officers, if present, might also be able to apprehend such egregious offenders as the driver who, operating under the influence of alcohol and at excessive speed, killed the Hernandez family.

Finally, when serious accidents occur, greater attention needs to be given to expediting the flow of traffic around the accident area.

I would appreciate hearing the city's plans to deal with this escalating and deadly problem.

Thank you
Linda Whitehead

As a follow-up to this message, Bob Vairo and Linda met with Transportation Manager Little to discuss the city's plans to deal with the safety issues on Pima Road. Tully Clifford, Director of Traffic Engineering for the City of Scottsdale, will attend the March 11 COPP Member Meeting to address these issues and to answer your questions. We hope you'll plan to attend.

Legend Trail Community Center directions:

North on Pima Road past Lone Mountain (1.5 miles)

To Legend Trail Parkway on right – then 1.5 miles on right to Community Center.

Development Updates

COPP Recommends a "Yes" Vote on Proposition 400 - The General Plan Update

The General Plan is a comprehensive guide used to plan development and the delivery of city services throughout our city. A law called Growing Smarter Plus which was adopted in 2000 requires voters in most Arizona cities and towns to approve or reapprove their General Plan every 10 years.

The proposed General Plan is an update of the Plan which was adopted in 1992. The current update includes five new elements (Open Space and Recreation, Preservation and Environmental Planning, Growth Areas, Cost of Development and Public Services and Facilities) as required by law. The other General Plan Elements are: Character and Design, Land Use, Economic Vitality, Community Involvement, Housing, Neighborhoods and Community Mobility. The update was the result of surveys, input and comments received from hundreds of meetings held throughout the community over a two year time frame.

At the February 11 Member Meeting, COPP President Bob Vairo recommended a vote in favor of the General Plan Update. "While the update is not perfect", he commented, "it is an improvement over its predecessor." COPP will continue to monitor those areas of the General Plan that are a concern and we will work within the General Plan amendment process to address those areas that need attention.

If the 2001 General Plan is not approved by the voters, the existing General Plan will remain in effect until a new General Plan Update can be prepared and approved by the voters.

Los Arcos *(continued from page 1)*

determined effort by the city to evaluate the project. We will not support the plan if it requires a disproportionate contribution of taxpayer funds or if it unnecessarily puts the city at future financial risk. However, we we are hopeful that a compromise can be reached that will allow the project to go forward with a plan that can avoid such results.

We believe that a reasonable compromise could justify a modicum of taxpayer funding as long as it serves the public good and does not put the city's finances in jeopardy. It is time to bring a suitable project to fruition that will end the long delayed revitalization of Los Arcos. This area of Scottsdale has suffered long enough from broken promises and false starts.

The Board of Directors

E-Mail Newsletter Delivers Scottsdale City News

The city has created a new, weekly electronic newsletter to keep citizens informed about Scottsdale happenings. Using their email address, readers can subscribe to "Scottsdale City Update" by accessing the city's Web site at www.ci.scottsdale.az.us and clicking "Mail Subscriptions" in the upper left portion of the page.



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Join COPP today! Your support will help COPP continue its mission as a volunteer organization serving the Northeast Valley. If you cannot join COPP right now, please consider making a donation.

COPP's mission is to educate the public and hold government officials accountable to the public on any issue that poses a threat to neighborhoods, the environment, and fiscal responsibility.

I support COPP's mission and would like to join COPP. Your membership and/or donation is greatly appreciated.

Annual Membership \$50 per household Donation of \$ _____ I would like to volunteer

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Work (_____) _____
 Fax (_____) _____
 E-mail _____

Alternate Address

Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Fax (_____) _____
 Start Date _____ End Date _____

In what neighborhood/HOA do you live? _____

In which city do you vote? _____

Comments/Suggestions _____

Office Use Only

03/02

Have a question? Call the COPP Hotline at: 602.230.5233 or E-mail us at: COPPeak@coppeak.org
 Make your check payable to COPP. Please return this form and your check to:
 COPP • 8912 East Pinnacle Peak Road, PMB 275 • Scottsdale, Arizona 85255-3649