



COPP News

March, 2010

Open House Scheduled on Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

The City of Scottsdale is holding an Open House to receive public comment on a proposed Text Amendment to the R1-70 single family residential district to allow the establishment of Specialized Residential Healthcare Facilities in that district.

The Text Amendment is being proposed by the owner of a +/- 5 acres parcel on the southwest corner of Scottsdale and Lone Mountain Roads who wants to put an 80-bed Specialized Residential Healthcare Facility on that parcel. This is the same property owner who submitted and then withdrew an application for a Major General Plan Amendment to change the General Plan designation on that parcel from Rural Neighborhoods to Suburban Neighborhoods, and an accompanying rezoning to allow the construction of that same 80-bed Specialized Residential Healthcare Facility.

The Text Amendment approach is clearly intended to avoid the need for a Major General Plan Amendment and the super-majority vote of the City Council that is required to approve such an amendment. Additionally, not only is an 80-bed facility unacceptably dense and intense for the area, but crafting a Text Amendment to a city-wide zoning ordinance for the benefit and enhancement of a single property owner constitutes bad public policy and presents a very bad precedent for future cases.

The Open House will be held on Tuesday, March 16, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Arabian Library, 10215 East McDowell Mountain Ranch Road in Scottsdale. The entrance to the library is south and east of the intersection of Thompson Peak Parkway and McDowell Mountain Ranch Road.

Please plan to attend the Open House to state your opposition to both the Text Amendment and the proposed 80-bed Specialized Residential Healthcare Facility. The case number is 5-TA-2009.

Neighbors Concerned Over Plans for Live Entertainment

The proprietors of Dos Diablos, a new restaurant in the Summit Shopping Center (northeast corner of Scottsdale and Ashler Hills Roads), have submitted an application to the City of Scottsdale for a Conditional Use Permit to allow them to have live entertainment in that establishment until 2:00 am.

Many residents of the surrounding residential neighborhoods have expressed their concerns about the potential negative impact of a live entertainment venue on their quality of life and property values. They also believe a live entertainment venue is incompatible with the residential area that surrounds the Summit.

The Coalition shares their concerns. When The Summit was first proposed in late 1998 or early 1999, realizing that the existing Commercial zoning on the site allowed the proposed use, the Coalition worked with the owner of the parcel and neighbors in the surrounding residential areas to obtain concessions that would make the proposed shopping center a neighborhood amenity that the neighbors could support. Those concessions included setbacks, lighting, hours of operation, noise and traffic control.

The result was a shopping center that has focused on serving the needs of the nearby residents, and that has been successful because of that focus. Allowing live entertainment and a bar-like atmosphere is incompatible with that objective and with the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

If you share the neighbors' concerns and agree that live entertainment venues are incompatible in the predominately rural, residential character of North Scottsdale, please communicate your concerns to the City of Scottsdale in advance of the March 23 City Council hearing date. You can reach the Mayor and all the Council members at once via email at citycouncil@scottsdaleaz.gov, via fax at 480 312-2738 or by surface mail at Scottsdale Mayor City Council, 3939 North Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251. The case number is 36-UP-2009.

Heard Museum Offers Course on Native Cultures

The Heard Museum Guild presents its spring class session at the Heard West Museum in North Scottsdale beginning on Tuesday, March 16. The four session class aims to promote respect for the arts and cultures of the American Indians of the Southwest. Participants will learn about Indian people from prehistoric times to the descendants of the people today.

Each of the 4 sessions begins at 9:30 am and concludes at 12:30 pm. The first three sessions, March 16, 23 and 30 will be held at the Heard North Museum at the Summit. The final class session on April 6 will be held at the Heard Museum on Central Avenue and Monte Vista in Phoenix.

The cost of enrollment is \$45 for Heard Guild members, \$55 for Heard Museum members and \$65 for non members. The deadline to register is March 15. For additional information or to register, contact Barbara Johnson at 480 502-5193 or at Barbara@lucrex.com.

Calendar of Events

March 9 Election Day: Polling places are open from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm. If you vote in person at the polls on Election Day you need to provide proof of identity. Acceptable proof of identity is one form of identification that bears your name, address and photograph, or two different forms of identification that bear your name and address.

March 9 is also the last day to return a ballot that was mailed to you. For your ballot to be valid and counted, your mailed voted early ballot and affidavit must be received by the Maricopa County Tabulation and Elections Center by 7:00 pm on Election Day. You may also deposit your ballot and affidavit at any polling place designated for this election from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm on Election Day.

March 16 City-sponsored Open House on 5-TA-2009, a Text Amendment to allow Specialized Residential Healthcare Facilities in the R1-70 zoning district. See above for details.

March 20 Scenic Drive Clean-up: Sign in at 8:00 am at the location that is most convenient for you -- at the northern Scenic Drive entry sign (located on the west side of Scottsdale road just south of Carefree Highway, or the southern Scenic Drive monument sign area (located on the east side of Scottsdale Road, across from McDonald's Ranch). Safety vests, pickup "sticks" and plastic trash bags will be provided. Complimentary coffee, donuts and water will be available. Gloves and long pants are recommended.

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