



COPP News

April, 2010

An Update on the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments

Because of the format of the event, an exact count of attendees at the March 16 Open House on a proposed Text Amendment to the R1-70 zoning district to allow the establishment of Specialized Residential Healthcare Facilities in that district is not available. However, the meeting was well attended and the room where it was held was packed for most of the evening.

Copies of comment cards received from the City showed only one comment in support of the proposal. All other comments, nearly all of which came from the residents of the immediate area, were firmly in opposition. Many thanks to COPP members and residents of the area who turned out to register their opposition to both the Text Amendment approach to circumventing the requirements for a Major General Plan Amendment and the proposed Specialized Healthcare Facility which is unacceptably dense and intense for the area.

As of this writing, no additional public meetings have been scheduled for this application, or for the application for a Text Amendment to allow a commercial development at the northwest corner of Pima and Dynamite, an area also designated as Rural Neighborhoods in the current General Plan and covered by the Foothills Overlay, which does not allow commercial development within its boundaries.

We will keep you apprised of developments in these two cases as they occur. The case numbers are:
Scottsdale and Lone Mountain: 5-TA-2009 and 35-UP-2009
Pima and Dynamite 7-TA-2009 and 38-UP-2009

This Year's Major General Plan Amendment Process Begins

Arizona State Law requires that all requests for Major General Plan Amendments be considered for approval/declination at a single public hearing during the calendar year in which the proposal is made. Therefore, one City Council hearing is designated each calendar year to consider these applications. Additionally, a two-thirds majority vote of the City Council is needed to approve a Major General Plan Amendment.

In order to meet the schedule of mandatory public meetings, this year's deadline for receipt of Major General Plan Amendments is April 23. It will be interesting to see if the current Acting City Manager's demonstrated pro-development bias, regardless of codes, ordinances and other constraints, will result in an influx of applications for Major General Plan Amendments this year. Or will we see more attempts to use the Text Amendment approach to achieve changes in land uses that, absent the Acting City Manager's support, would otherwise require a Major General Plan Amendment to achieve.

Plans for Live Entertainment Cancelled

The proprietors of Dos Diablos, a new restaurant in the Summit Shopping Center (northeast corner of Scottsdale and Ashler Hills Roads), have withdrawn 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.

Facing overwhelming opposition from residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and others in the area who felt a live entertainment venue was inappropriate in a largely residential area, the applicant wisely decided to withdraw those plans. The Coalition concurs. Allowing live entertainment and a bar-like atmosphere was not only incompatible with the surrounding residential neighborhoods, but it would have established a very poor precedent for other establishments desiring the same consideration.

With the withdrawal of this ill-conceived application for live entertainment, it appears The Summit will continue to be a neighborhood amenity that its neighbors can support.

Calendar of Events

- April 17 Earth Day! Celebrate Earth Day from 8:00 to 11:00 am at Pinnacle Peak Park. Members of the nonprofit group Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park will be on hand to discuss the plants, animals and geology of this special area.
- April 24 Scenic Drive Clean-up: Sign in at 7:45 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.
- April 24 City of Scottsdale Public Safety Fair: When you have finished at the Scenic Drive Clean-up, take advantage of free Vehicle VIN etching, eco-friendly disposal of prescription and over-the-counter drugs and document shredding to help protect you from identify theft, from 9:00 am until noon at Coronado High School, 2400 North Miller Road (enter off of Miller at Murray Lane).
- May 8 Electronics Recycling Day: Discard your unwanted electronics in a safe and environmentally friendly way from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm at the city's Corporation Yard, 9191 East San Salvador. For a list of acceptable/unacceptable items call 480 312-5600 or go to www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle.

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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.