



# COPP News

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August 1, 2009

## **Action Needed!**

There are two proposed General Plan Amendments that are getting a lot of attention and concern because, if approved, they would forever change the character of this area and set the stage for other similar projects that would continue the destruction of the character of far North Scottsdale. Both properties are within the boundaries of the Desert Foothills Character Area and the Foothills Zoning Overlay

The first project is on the southwest corner of Scottsdale and Lone Mountain Roads. That application is for a General Plan Amendment from Rural Neighborhoods to Suburban Neighborhoods, and a companion rezoning for high density residential to allow an assisted living facility. It is case number 2-GP-2009. In this case the use isn't the problem because assisted living is permitted in the current land use designation. The concern is removing the parcel from the boundaries of the Foothills Zoning Overlay, as well as the substantial increase in density they are requesting.

The second project is on the northwest corner of Pima and Dynamite. It is a request for a general plan amendment and rezoning to commercial with a plan for a mix of retail and a gas station. It is case number 3-GP-2009. In this case, the requested use is not allowed within the boundaries of the Foothills Overlay.

The area of Scottsdale north and east of the CAP Canal is protected by a number of city ordinances, the intent of which is to preserve the unique natural resources that are found in this area. These ordinances include, in addition to the Desert Foothills Character Area Plan and Dynamite Foothills Character Area Plan, the Foothills Zoning Overlay, the Native Plant Ordinance and the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance

The Area Plans and accompanying ordinances are the product of many years of cooperative effort among the citizens of this area, city planners, the Planning Commission and the City Council. They define very clearly the agreed-upon direction of future development in this area. As citizens we rely on the promises the city has made in regard to these areas and we are not supportive of any change to those ordinances that is not in keeping with their original intent or that is inconsistent with the character of the area.

We believe that Commercial development is completely inconsistent with the intent of both the Character Area and the Foothills Overlay and that if either of these proposals is successful in removing the Foothills Zoning overlay from their location, many more attempts to do the same will follow, and the open, desert character of this area will be lost forever. We believe the boundaries of the Foothills Overlay must remain intact, and that should be the focus of our campaign.

The schedule of public meetings on these proposed amendments is as follows:

August 17                      Applicant Sponsored Open House on the Pima/Dynamite GP Amendment (3-GP-2009)  
5:30 – 6:30 pm, Wrangler Room, Scottsdale Corporate Yard, 9191 E. San Salvador  
(SE of the Intersection of Via Linda and 90<sup>th</sup> Street)

NOTE: It would be easy to become annoyed over the applicant's choice of location for this open house, and refuse to attend. That would be a big mistake. We need a large turn-out at this open house to let the applicant -- and the City -- know how the neighbors who would be affected by this proposed development feel about the plans.

August 26                      Remote Planning Commission hearing  
5:00 pm – Water Campus – 8787 East Hualapai Drive

September 23 Regular Planning Commission hearing where Planning Commission will vote on the amendments – 5:00 pm in the City Hall Kiva

October 27 City Council hearing – 5:00 pm in the City Hall Kiva

Please plan to attend these meetings and speak or turn in written comments in opposition to removing the Foothills Overlay from these parcels or modifying the Overlay in any way. Be sure to indicate the case number in your spoken or written comments.

The applicant on the GP Amendment proposed at Scottsdale and Lone Mountain Road is also required to hold a public open house to clearly describe their proposal and solicit public comment on that case. The date and time of that open house will be posted in the Alerts section of the Coalition's website as soon as it is announced – [www.COPPeak.org](http://www.COPPeak.org),

You can email your written comments to the Scottsdale City Council using the following email addresses: [citycouncil@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:citycouncil@scottsdaleaz.gov)

You may email the members of the Planning Commission individually using the following email addresses:

Michael D'Andrea (Chair)	<a href="mailto:mfdandrea@msn.com">mfdandrea@msn.com</a>
Steven Steinke (Vice Chair)	<a href="mailto:SSteinkePC@aol.com">SSteinkePC@aol.com</a>
Kevin O'Neill	<a href="mailto:kevino@ocompanies.com">kevino@ocompanies.com</a>
Michael Schmitt	<a href="mailto:MSchmitt@scottsdaleaz.gov">MSchmitt@scottsdaleaz.gov</a>
Ed Grant	<a href="mailto:EGrant@scottsdaleaz.gov">EGrant@scottsdaleaz.gov</a>
Jason Ottman	<a href="mailto:JOttman@scottsdaleaz.gov">JOttman@scottsdaleaz.gov</a>
Erik Filsinger	<a href="mailto:EFilsinger@scottsdaleaz.gov">EFilsinger@scottsdaleaz.gov</a>

Feel free to pass this information on to friends and neighbors who are also concerned about conserving the natural desert, primarily rural, character of this area.

## **COPP Terminates the COPP PC**

We have decided to terminate the COPP Political Committee because the new state election requirement for referenda has grossly increased the number of registered voter signatures required to initiate and file a referendum with the City of Scottsdale.

The result of moving the Mayor and City Council elections to September/November, coupled with an extraordinary turn-out for the 2008 Presidential Election, increased the number of minimum voter signatures required to file a referendum from 1,961 to 11,625. This creates a monumental task and makes it nearly impossible for citizen groups to collect the number of signatures required to successfully launch a referendum.

In the future the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, sponsor of the COPP Political Committee, will continue to take a position on referenda when doing so is important to COPP's membership, but given the requirement for initiating a new referendum and, as a practical consideration, it will no longer need a political committee for this purpose.

The Coalition can continue to communicate positions on candidates for political office to our membership without using a Political Committee.