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NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

Thursday
January 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Legend Trail
Community Center

(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.)

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Published by

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2007 – Back To The Future

Except for a couple of events, it was a fairly quiet year – the best kind.

The Coalition is asked to comment on dozens of land use applications and related city ordinances during the year. In most instances we meet with applicants or city staff to fully understand what is planned and to offer our views on the appropriateness of a proposed land use and how it will affect a neighborhood.

We sometimes have some very “spirited” discussions about a proposed land use. To be clear, property owners have a right to develop their property as zoned. The problem arises when an applicant wants to change the approved zoning to one which is inappropriate for the area and may work to the detriment of the neighborhood. That’s when we hear from residents and get involved.

In the eleven years of COPP’s activities, we have established a presence that is recognized by the city and land owners. We strive to be reasonable representatives of North Scottsdale neighborhoods. Our goal is keep its character residential, and to retain the desert and mountain views free of urban influences.

Looking to 2008, we see density and transportation issues as major concerns. Despite our success in late 2006 in convincing DMB to withdraw its request for increases in height and density at One Scottsdale, applications for substantial increases in building heights and density continue to pour into the City. For example, the notion of doubling or tripling the current 50,000 or so workers in the Airpark with taller buildings is mindless without a traffic

(see “Future” on page 2)

Calendar of Events

- January 12 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, 7:30 am - 2:00 pm, 9191 E. San Salvador Drive. For a list of acceptable items refer to www.Scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle or phone (480) 312-5602.
- January 13 & 26 Preserve Connection Hikes. In partnership with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, the city is offering steward guided hikes. Please call (480) 312-3111 for details, or register online, www.scottsdaleaz.gov, under the heading: City News, click on Preserve Connections Tours.
- Thursday, January 17 COPP Member Meeting; 7:00 pm, Legend Trail Community Center, Program details to follow. **Note:** Change to **Thursday nights**; Please refer to article on page 2 for the 2008 schedule.
- January 19 Friends of the Scenic Drive Cleanup begins at 8:00 am. For details, refer to www.scenicdrive.org.

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.

Future

(continued from page 1)

solution that will relieve traffic congestion on Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard and surrounding major roads.

The Transportation Master Plan study that was recently completed by the city's consultants does not make recommendations to solve traffic congestion. Instead, it provides a comprehensive analysis of the city's transportation infrastructure with options for consideration by the city council.

Much has been written about light rail on Scottsdale Road. At an estimated cost of \$65 million per mile, it is not to be lightly considered. Moreover, it has not been demonstrated that it will solve traffic congestion or that it will be cost effective; actually its operational costs would have to be heavily subsidized by taxpayers.

The transportation issue – read congestion – will be heavily discussed during the 2008 city council campaigns. Mayor Mary Manross and council members Betty Drake, Jim Lane and Ron McCullagh are up reelection. Lane is expected to challenge Manross in the Mayoral campaign and there will undoubtedly be several others who will file to challenge incumbents Drake and McCullagh.

We will hold a candidates forum for COPP members and the public. Also, we will ask each candidate to complete a detailed questionnaire on issues of importance to COPP Members and residents throughout the city. The unedited results of those questionnaires will be posted on our website for everyone to read.

Key meeting and election dates will be announced in this newsletter as the year progresses.

Our best wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year and our thanks for your continued support.

The Board of Directors.

Desert Discovery Center Workshop

With the City Council having approved a feasibility study to update the plans for the Desert Discovery Center located in the planned Gateway to the Preserve, plans are moving forward.

A Concept Development Workshop for the Desert Discovery Center was held on December 5. Bob Vairo, in addition to other leaders in Scottsdale's civic, tourist, environmental, and ecological areas were invited to participate.

Initially, the leaders of Scottsdale's tourist, civic, and business organizations will identify the target audience: Who are our visitors, and what are their interests and attributes? In return the city will provide the experience of how to best represent the essence of Scottsdale.

As visitors arrive at the Desert Discovery Center, the setting, building, and the exhibits, should provide a sense that this is an important place.

The participants of the workshop envision a Desert Discovery Center that would be a substantial building

that blends with the surrounding desert. Anticipated within the building will be exhibits that highlight the uniqueness of the Sonoran Desert. Some types of exhibits under consideration for inclusion are archeological remains, examples of petroglyphs, and nocturnal feeding spots for desert animals. There will be emphasis on educational technology to replicate the desert experience.

In the outdoor open spaces, short nature trails for hikers and equestrians will be included. Importantly, there will be minimal disruption, only as necessary, of the natural environment.

To generate revenue, function and meeting rooms will be available to rent. A dining café and shop will provide additional funds.

Currently, more ideas are under study, with additional meetings to follow. Please contact Bob Vairo with questions or suggestions you might have at rvairo@COPPeak.org or on our hotline at (602)230-5233.

Member Meeting Schedule 2008

Reminder: Member Meetings will resume Thursday, January 17, 2008. Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month to avoid conflict with previously scheduled city meetings.

Location: Legend Trail Community Center; **Time:** 7:00 pm

Locally, Scottsdale will be electing a Mayor and three Council members. Candidates Forums along with Membership Meetings are scheduled. Details will follow as they become available. However, mark your calendars and save the following dates:

2008 COPP Meeting Calendar: Member Meetings and Candidates Forums.

January 17	Member Meeting	Legend Trail	7:00 pm
March 20	Member Meeting	Legend Trail	7:00 pm
May 15	Member Meeting	Legend Trail	7:00 pm
July 17	Candidates Forum	Legend Trail	7:00 pm
June and August Summer Break; No Member Meetings			
September 2	General Election for City Council		
September 18	Member Meeting	Legend Trail	7:00 pm
	Candidates Forum, if there is a runoff		
November 4	Runoff for Local Election; National Election Day		
November 13	Member Meeting	Legend Trail	7:00 pm

Development Updates

Severe Weather Information for Scottsdale Police and Fire Departments

During severe weather emergencies, the city has implemented a new early warning system to alert the Scottsdale Police and Fire Departments, as well as all those involved with safeguarding the public.

The new flood warning system will transmit weather reports every three minutes via the internet, cell

phones, and other portable devices used by the emergency responders.

The city anticipates that the new technology will be an additional tool to help officials collate information and prioritize street closings. The city reports that during flash floods, there are 70 potential wet crossings in North Scottsdale that can flood, and become a threat to the safety and welfare of the residents. Response time will be decreased by three minutes, allowing the city to barricade these flooded roads more effectively.

Storm Water and Drainage Process Improvements

The Coalition is pleased to report that with ongoing discussions and suggestions, the city is making positive changes to its current drainage review process. Recent events have highlighted this need for change.

Professional engineers and knowledgeable hydrologists who study water flows in the Sonoran Desert have acknowledged that attempts to alter the natural flow of washes and drainage will be met with catastrophic results. As more homes are built in the north, the frequency and intensity of drainage problems will increase if diversion of the flow of water is permitted to continue.

The policy which the city has been following does not adequately protect current or future residents because it allows too many opportunities for error or violations of the city's drainage regulations and too little city oversight of the process. Moreover, it causes more resident complaints and unnecessary work for city staff as functions appear to be unfocused with responsibility spread over several departments.

We are encouraged that the city is moving forward with a new Storm Water Management Plan that was approved unanimously by City Council on December 4, 2007. Highlights of this plan include the following provisions:

- To provide enhanced drainage review, the city is hiring two Storm Water engineers, one whom is a hydrologist and two new drainage inspectors.
- To provide regular inspection of all watercourses in the city, including north of CAP on a regular basis to check for ordinance compliance. Inspectors will walk the washes to provide careful and detailed inspection.

Other points that the Storm Water Management Department has been developing did not require City Council approval are as follows:

- To require Storm Water specialists to review all drainage plans on building sites submitted to the city. Following construction, stringent checks will be in place to assure that what is built is what was approved.
- To provide specialized training to all city drainage inspectors.
- To educate the public through outreach programs about the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (ESLO), the Natural Area Open Space (NAOS) and the preservation of the washes (50 cfs or greater to remain in their natural state).

We are hopeful that these newly approved measures indicate a strong commitment of the city, working successfully with the Coalition, and other concerned residents to assure sound drainage oversight and approval.

Message from the Scottsdale Police Department

Identity Theft

The Scottsdale Police Department recommends the following tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of the rapidly growing crime of identity theft.

- Collect your mail daily. If your monthly statements are unusually delayed, check with your bank and billing institutions.
- Mail checks or sensitive information inside the post office.
- Never carry your social security card with you unless you need it for a specific purpose.
- Secure your financial and personal records. Shred all papers with your social security number, credit card numbers, and other personal information.

For additional information on identity theft prevention please visit www.ftc.gov/idtheft

Officer Jason Glenn
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Phone: (480) 312-8297

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District 3 Commander
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 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** (Make check payable to COPP, Inc.)
 COPP Political Committee Donation of \$ _____ (Make check payable to COPP Political Committee)

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Alternate Address

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 Phone (_____) _____
 Fax (_____) _____
 Start Date _____ End Date _____

In what neighborhood/HOA do you live? _____ In which city do you vote? _____

Comments/Suggestions _____

Office Use Only

12/07

Have a question? Call the **COPP Hotline** at: 602.230.5233 or E-mail us at: **COPPeak@coppeak.org**
 Make your check(s) payable as indicated above. Please return this form and your check(s) to:
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