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City Council Approves SonRise School

The City Council decided to approve a settlement agreement with SonRise Church that will reverse the Council's July, 2005 denial of a K through 8 private school at the Church's site on Scottsdale Road, south of Dixileta. Faced with a recommendation to settle from its legal department and the possibility of significant court and other legal fees if it didn't, the City Council capitulated and granted a Conditional Use Permit for the school.

It was not without a huge turnout of interested COPP members and neighboring residents who opposed the school because of traffic concerns and a general feeling that it does not belong in a low density, residential neighborhood. The church was not the concern because residents and COPP had welcomed the SonRise church,

as it did a number of other churches in the area. It was primarily the traffic safety concerns created by students being dropped off and picked up at the site off Scottsdale Road that residents opposed

SonRise sued the city last fall claiming its constitutional rights were violated. They also invoked a Federal law that is designed to protect churches from over-zealous land use regulations that would interfere with religious activities. The law is called the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUPA), and it cloaks churches and other religious activities with land use advantages that are not available to other land owners.

Churches are permitted to locate anywhere in a Scottsdale's residentially

(see "SonRise" on page 2)

Calendar of Events

- June 4 WestWorld General Plan Amendment Open House (1-GP-2007), City Water Campus, 8787 E. Hualapai Drive, on the southwest corner of Hualapai Drive and Pima Road., 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Refer to Development Updates, page 3.
- June 5 Final budget to be adopted by City Council, City Hall Kiva 3939 North Drinkwater Boulevard, 5:00 pm, contact the City Budget Office at (480) 312-2873 or email: citycouncil@scottsdaleaz.gov. Refer to story, page 2.
- June 6 Celebrate National Trails Day at Pinnacle Peak Park, a presentation on desert safety tips will be followed by a guided, sunrise hike. Trail mix, water and fruit will be provided. To register and receive further information, please call (480) 882-4636.
- June 29-30 Heard Museum North Opening, refer to article on page 2.

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.

SonRise

(continued from page 1)

zoned neighborhoods, but private schools require a Conditional Use Permit, which is what the City Council had denied for SonRise in 2005.

While many residents and COPP members are disappointed with the Council's reversal, it was not due to the lack of opposition. While we weren't successful in convincing the Council not to settle with SonRise, we were able to secure additional concessions from the Church that will better buffer the neighbors to the east from the School activities.

We thank all who wrote emails, letters and otherwise contacted the Mayor and City Council members to register their concerns. In the end, SonRise prevailed with its threats and with RLUPA on its side. There is no question that the school would not have been approved if it was not religiously affiliated.

The Board of Directors

Budget Priorities: Maintain Trails Planner in the Preservation Department

Over the past several months of budget deliberations and establishment of priorities, the Coalition has gone on record as requesting the City Council to give careful attention to four critical areas which contribute to our city's quality of life: Public Safety, Code Enforcement, Preservation, and Good Planning Practices.

A major concern is a preliminary budget proposal to move the Trails Planner out of the Preservation Department and into the Transportation Department. We believe that this will undermine the city's preservation efforts and erode public confidence in our commitment to open additional access areas in the Preserve and to appropriately manage those areas.

At this juncture, there are only two field staff members of the Preservation Department. As we open up more access areas and trails, we will require more, rather than fewer staff members to support the Preserve effort.

The city needs to meet the needs of the Transportation Department without negatively impacting the work of the Preservation Department. We have urged the city to allow the Trails Planner to remain in the Preservation Department. By doing so, the need for trails planning and construction, in and out of the Preserve, will be met and the trails program can go forward at a lower net cost to the city.

The final budget will be adopted by City Council on June 5. To indicate your support for this proposal, call the City Budget Office at (480) 312-2873 or write to: citycouncil@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Heard Museum North to Open

A dramatically new and expanded 11,000 square foot Heard Museum North, located at The Summit on the northeast intersection of Scottsdale Road and Ashler Hills Drive is nearing completion. Scheduled to open on June 29-30, the new location will replace its current eleven-year home at El Pedregal.

This expansion will provide 4,000 square feet of exhibition galleries, a 1500 square foot Interpretive Garden, a Museum Shop, as well as a café.

- Gallery displays will include diverse Native American art forms, including jewelry, carving, pottery, beadwork, sculpture, and textiles.
- Interpretive Garden – In conjunction with Desert Botanical Gardens, an Interpretive Garden will display an array of native plants, sculpture by Native American artists, a water feature, and educational and interpretive information.
- Arcadia Farms, will provide contemporary southwestern cuisine, with indoor and patio dining that will be integrated into the desert garden setting. It will be open daily from 9:30 am-4:00 pm.

- The Museum shop will highlight authentic art and handcrafts featuring the art forms on view in the galleries.

The mission of the Heard is to provide community outreach, service, and education. This expansion is most welcome as the Heard has stated their continuing partnership with the growing North Scottsdale community. Residents are invited to participate in the grand opening festivities which will include a community preview on June 29, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm as well as the public celebration on June 30, 10:00-5:30 pm. On July 1, the Heard will officially open to the public. Regular hours are 10:00 am-5:30 pm daily, and Noon-5:00 pm on Sundays.

The Heard Museum North Scottsdale –
Community Welcome Reception
Friday, June 29, 2007 • 5:00 - 8:00 pm
32633 North Scottsdale Road
just north of Ashler Hills Drive in the Summit at Scottsdale

Please RSVP to (602) 251-0209 ext. 6405
by June 22 if you plan to attend.

Development Updates

General Plan Amendment: WestWorld (1-GP-2007)

Scottsdale has recently submitted an application for a Major General Plan Amendment to expand the existing boundaries for WestWorld. The request is to extend the boundary from the 94th Street alignment to approximately the 96th Street alignment just north of Bell Road, and south of Bell Road into WestWorld along the eastern boundary of the facility.

Currently the land is partially leased by the city, and the other part is owned by the Bureau of Land Reclamation which provides flood protection and promotes recreational land use, most notably equestrian.

The General Plan Amendment request is to double the available acreage to the city facility at WestWorld to approximately 420 acres. With the expansion of this "Regional Use Overlay", the city hopes to link more effectively city-owned parcels and reinforce the regional, recreational aspect of West World.

As more details become available, we will keep you informed.

Fire Protection and Summer Drought

Since its inception two years ago, the Scottsdale Fire Department is continuing to provide all firefighting, safety, and fire prevention activities within the city's boundaries. Arizona is anticipating a hot, dry summer which will exacerbate the current twelve-year drought conditions.

As in previous summers, the Fire Department recommends preventative actions to protect natural area open space (NAOS).

Guidelines:

- Create a 30-foot fire safety zone of "Defensible Space" that should be free of dried or dead grass and vegetation.
 - Trim trees and remove dead branches and leaves.
 - Keep a rolled up garden hose with a working nozzle attached to outside hose valve connections.
 - Do not stack wood or other flammable materials within the 30-foot "Defensible Space."
 - Keep gutters, eaves, and roof clear of leaves and other debris.
 - No Smoking allowed in NAOS.
- In other outdoor areas, make certain to dispose of cigarettes properly.

- Coordinate brush clean up with the solid waste brush collection schedule in your area. For the service schedule, refer to www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Recycle/Brushguidelines.asp
- Do not start any open fires without obtaining a permit and following the safety information. When camping, follow Forest Service guidelines for campfires.
- Add spark shields to off-road vehicles.

Scottsdale Fire Department

Contact Information:

- 911-Emergencies
- (480) 312-8911, non-emergencies
- (480) 312-FIRE (3473) Public information (free home inspections, station tours, school tours, school visits, CPR classes, etc.)
- (480) 312-5650, Scottsdale Fire Hydrant Issues

For safety tips as well as general updated information, you can request The Scottsdale Fire Department email update to be sent to you regularly from the department's website at www.ScottsdaleFD.com.

Message from the Scottsdale Police Department

Education and Enforcement in Preserve and State Land

To promote enforcement efforts, the Scottsdale Police Department is working in conjunction with the State Land Department to improve user signage. The city will begin posting signs that will include the specific city code that addresses illegal and improper use of the Preserve and State Land. In addition, the police department will patrol the area monthly. Electronic message boards have been placed at the main entrances to the Preserve and State Land indicating the need for permits and adherence to all applicable laws.

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

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
5/07

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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