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NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

Tuesday
November 12, 2002 at 7:00 pm
Legend Trail
Community Center
 (see directions on page 3)

COPP Board of Directors

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Is Scottsdale a City Divided?

Much has been written of late about a North-south split in Scottsdale, much of it fueled by an editorial in the *Scottsdale Republic* titled “Can Scottsdale remain whole amid divisiveness?” – an editorial that tended to create a lot of heat without shedding much light on a subject that seems to have a life of its own based more on emotional fervor than factual support.

Let’s look at the facts. Scottsdale is a city that stretches some thirty-one miles from north to south and only eleven across at its widest point. The geographical center is just north of the CAP Canal. The southernmost portion of the city was established over fifty years ago, but the area north of the CAP canal was only annexed around 1980. The focal point of commerce was in downtown Scottsdale, but it has now gravitated to the north and is centered around Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard, Route 101, the Airpark and the Perimeter Center, with a lot more to come.

At the same time and starting in the

mid-1990s, residential construction boomed in the north with DC Ranch, GrayHawk and McDowell Mountain Ranch providing over 10,000 new homes just north of the CAP canal. This, along with other residential developments stretching to our northern border, including several new resort and golf course communities.

All of this happened by decisions of city administrations that have long since left the scene. One can now argue that such growth should have been better planned and managed, but reality is that it happened and we have to deal with it. Our civic organization, COPP, was formed in response to the negative effects of such rapid growth and found a very supportive membership who were and are vitally interested in keeping all of Scottsdale a unique place in which to live, work and recreate.

Given this tremendous build-out of the north commercially and residentially, it is quite understandable that the

(see “Scottsdale” on page 2)

November Calendar of Events

November 5 Election Day! Be sure to vote either early by mail-in ballot or at your polling place on November 12. Every vote counts!

November 12 COPP Member Meeting – On the Agenda:

- Please bring a donation for the Vista Del Camino food bank (see article on page 3)
- Scottsdale City representatives will discuss and answer questions about the North Scottsdale Flood Plain Delineation Study

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.

Scottsdale

(continued from page 1)

downtown business district would suffer. The changes began with Fashion Square and continued to march north with new shopping venues within easy highway access to draw retail sales and tourism away from downtown. Additional retail and commercial development around the 101 intersections planned for the very near future will only accelerate the process.

Do downtown and the older parts of the city have a problem? Of course they do, but it is a Scottsdale problem not one that the residents of the south should solve alone, or one for those who live in the north to simply ignore because it doesn't directly affect them. Anything that goes wrong within our borders should be the concern of all citizens because Scottsdale is a very special place and it will not remain so if any one section of the city withers and dies.

Our history and heritage does not allow for such inaction. To ignore the problem is to invite the demise of what made us the premier city in the Valley, the state and a world renowned destination.

So, let us agree to stop talking about a "divide" or other discordant comments that only serve to distract us from the task at hand. We must work together to assure the citizens of the south that they are not forgotten and enlist those in the north to support plans to revitalize those sections of the city that need help. We are one city and the sooner we all agree to work for a common purpose, the sooner we will be rid of comments that separate us instead of bringing us together.

The Board of Directors

COPP Cares About Downtown and South Scottsdale

While COPP was organized as a neighborhood response to numerous development excesses that were threatening northern neighborhoods and the desert environment, we have a long history of involvement in downtown and South Scottsdale issues.

In our September, 1999, newsletter we opposed the Canals Redevelopment project because it would "destroy Scottsdale's Historic District and put many small merchants out of business." During the Canals election campaign we donated thousands to Save Old Scottsdale to cover the cost of a Canals "questions" mailer that went to 23,000 households.

In our October, 1999, Newsletter opposing the Hockey Arena at Los Arcos, we wrote: "In our northern neighborhood, surrounding homeowners are currently concerned about the height and visual impact of a shopping center which includes a planned Target store. It's an important and legitimate concern. But don't we owe a similar measure of concern to the neighbors in the south who would see their homes demolished for the benefit of out-of-state developers and wealthy athletes?" We also contributed time, resources, knowledge and thousands of dollars to prepare a campaign mailing opposing the arena and stadium funding mechanism.

In our May, 2000, newsletter we urged the City Council to repair the kink in Scottsdale Road, stating: "The merchants to the west of the Galleria have for far too long had access to their businesses impaired as a result of the deal the city made with the original owners of the Galleria. It's time that mistake was rectified."

In May of 2001 COPP President Bob Vairo sent a letter to the Mayor and City Council commending the members of the Downtown Task Force for their efforts and agreeing with the Downtown Task Force that the logical first step would be to proceed with the Canal Bank Improvements. That letter closed with this paragraph:

"The city should look closely at the need for and value of the redevelopment designations that currently exist in the downtown area. It appears that the Redevelopment designation has served no useful purpose and in fact has been detrimental to the economic well being of many of our downtown businesses. If downtown property owners weren't operating under the cloud of potential condemnation, they might be more willing to make additional investments in their businesses and better able to secure financing for those investments.

A *Scottsdale Tribune* story published on August 3, 2001, quoted COPP Vice President Linda Whitehead as follows: "Encouraging City Hall to focus resources on improving downtown is one of the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak's most important objectives."

In December, 2001, on behalf of the Coalition, Bob Vairo sent another letter to the Mayor and City Council urging them to take immediate steps to move forward with the Canal Bank improvements.

In September COPP sent another letter to the Mayor and City Council urging them to remove the Redevelopment Designation from the downtown area, which they did by unanimous vote on September 9.

Yes, COPP was formed in response to threats to our northern neighborhoods, but our history of involvement in city-wide issues is proof of our commitment to the betterment of our entire community.

The COPP Board of Directors Recommends:

**Vote “No” on Proposition 101
Vote “Yes” on Proposition 300**

Proposition 101 would change the Arizona Constitution to allow the State Land Department to enter into land trades of State Trust Lands. Supporters of Proposition 101 claim that land trades could only take place with other governmental entities. However, nothing in the proposition would prevent three-way exchanges – an exchange with a federal entity with the federal entity then exchanging with a private developer.

Already, some of the federal land exchanges in Arizona have resulted in bad deals. In one exchange, the public received just over 600 acres, and the developer received 4000 acres.

The State Legislature has put similar measures on the ballot four times, and each time they have been defeated.

Proposition 101 would not ensure conservation of the land, and it would not guarantee adequate public review and input nor full environmental impact analysis. The last thing Arizona needs is more bad land deals, leading to unmanaged growth and sprawl.

The Board of Directors recommends a “NO” vote on Proposition 101.

Proposition 300: The purpose of Proposition 300 is to ensure that monies from the proceeds (sale or lease) of the State Trust Lands, including interest income, go to provide support to education, and that monies budgeted in the General Fund for education remain in education.

Although proceeds from the “Trust” do go to education, until this year the Legislature used “Trust” land revenues to offset the State’s responsibility to fund the schools. Or, to put it another way, until this year, the legislature simply subtracted an amount equal to the “Trust” land revenue from the General Fund dollars budgeted for education.

The current law would allow a simple majority of the legislature to change it back. Proposition 300 would require a two-thirds vote of the legislature to divert budgeted General Fund dollars from education.

This proposal is good for education, good for Arizona’s children, and good for Arizona’s future.

The Board of Directors recommends a “YES” vote on Proposition 300.

Food Donations Needed

The Vista del Camino food bank needs food items such as spaghetti sauce, pasta, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned tuna, canned meats, rice, dried pinto beans, jelly, soups, canned beans, boxes of macaroni and cheese and cereal. They could also use tooth paste, tooth brushes, bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, dishwasher soap, diapers and toilet paper.

Donations can be dropped off between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Vista Del Camino Center at 7700 East Roosevelt Road or the Via Linda Senior Center at 10440 East Via Linda. Or, bring your donation to the November 12 COPP Meeting, and we’ll deliver the items to the Vista Del Camino Center for you.

Development Updates

Granite Ridge

When the residents of the Desert Crest community at the end of East Happy Valley Road realized that that a proposed development on their border would bring heavy earth moving equipment and construction traffic through their narrow residential streets, they organized.

Led by COPP member and resident Jackie Corrigan and her neighbors, the problem was brought to the attention of the city council, the mayor and COPP. The problem was that the proposed development was land locked with the only access from Desert Crest streets that would cause severe disruption for many years until the project was completed.

Working with Jackie, we had meetings with the city staff, members of the city council, the developer and his attorney. For more than a year various solutions were offered, but all would still bring unwanted construction traffic through Desert Crest.

A solution has now been worked out with the city whereby Happy Valley Road will be lengthened so that access to the Granite Ridge project can be accessed from this major arterial street. Working with the city and the developer’s attorney, COPP was able to achieve a resolution that benefits the residents of Desert Crest while, at the same time, makes the project more appealing by providing access from a major street rather than a residential street hidden from public view. A win-win result!

Legend Trail Community Center directions:

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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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 Donation of \$ _____ I would like to volunteer

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

11/02

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