

Open Space Alliance Council Meeting

February 15, 2006

Meeting called to order by President Tom Pettit at 5 pm.

Present: Tom Pettit, Charlene Craig, Libby Majors, Ed Parry, Warren Zager, Bob Luzius, Howard Mechanic, Elisabeth Ruffner, Ron Smith, Jim Lawrence, Laurel Freeman, Jeannie Flood, Ashley Fine.

Announcement: New stationery and envelopes are now available. They are attached. If you need some envelopes printed up and you can't do it yourself, please contact Howard.

Executive Committee Actions: Green to Gold scholarships were discussed. They are below on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report is below. Balance is \$3426.05.

Bills submitted for \$33.53 by Tom Pettit were approved for reimbursement.

Correspondence: Yavapai Community Foundation will have a session to explain grant applications in March. If someone would like to go, please notify Tom.

Open Space Advisory Committee's last meeting was an executive session, so there is no report.

State Trust Lands Initiative has at least half the required signatures needed. We have until July. If anyone is willing to circulate petitions, or know of events where circulators should go, please notify Elisabeth at Elisabethf19@aol.com

or 445-5644.

We will be going as group to various events to circulate petitions. This will make it easier for many people to circulate if they would otherwise feel uncomfortable, or would rather work with others.

Elisabeth discussed the status of the private lands and possible Open Space lands in the Granite Dells area. She contacted Tom Guice of the City of Prescott regarding this issue.

Motion approved to pay Charlene \$25 for her work on layout.

We will be looking for someone to head the Wildlife Symposium to be held next spring. There will be pay for this coordinator position. We will have a detailed job description after Earth Day. If anyone is interested in this position, please let us know.

Citizen Empowerment Meeting: Ed said he thought that the event was well attended and achieved the initial goals. A follow-up meeting was held last week and a general meeting will be held in early April. The summary of the event is below.

Earth Day: Libby met with Kevin Kapp of the Prescott Unified School District. He agreed to distribute notices to the principals, who will distribute to all teachers' mail boxes. She also met

with a teacher at Skyview, and will meet with a teacher at Mountain Oak. Libby will ask an art class at Kestral High School to design a poster for the event.

She wants to have “Water Talks” in advance of the event at various venues. The event will be April 22.

Green to Gold Scholarships: The Executive Committee Recommended Libby Majors, Larry Bickford, Tom Slaback, Charlene Craig, and Ashley Fine go to the event March 23 and 24th.

Suzy Q’s Property: Warren presented a proposal regarding using the old Suzy Q property as a “Living Machine” entrance to the Creeks areas. A Living Machine is essentially a biological waste-water treatment facility. There would be about four dwellings to produce enough waste water that would then be cleaned and then reused.

There will be a Forest Health Symposium on March 21.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Howard Mechanic.

OSA

15 February 2006

Treasurer’s Report

Unreconciled Balance Forward \$3439.42

Income

Memberships and Related Contributions 480.00

\$3919.42

Expenses

AZ Corporation Commission 10.00

Reimbursement to Elisabeth Ruffner 33.37

Green to Gold Conference Registration 450.00

Unreconciled Balance –general funds available \$3426.05

Badger P Mountain Fund:

YTD Interest 2005 - \$47.04

Balance – \$6915.07

Earth Day Account:

Expenses: \$39.00 – postage stamps

Income: 0

Balance - \$1581.14 – checking

Balance - \$916.84 - savings

January 21, 2006 Citizens' Empowerment meeting

The Citizens for Reasonable Growth steering committee hosted a Citizens' Empowerment meeting at the Prescott College Crossroads Center on Saturday, January 21. There were approximately 80 attendees representing groups throughout the region.

Gil Shaw from Gil Shaw Law was the primary meeting facilitator. The meeting started with brief introductions from a spokesperson from each group represented. Gil Shaw then conducted a visioning and brainstorming exercise to elicit issues important to the attendees. Attendees were then given six dots and they voted for the six issues of most importance to them.

Next Gil Shaw and the six break-out group facilitators grouped the issues into categories and tallied the votes. This resulted in six major overarching issues. Six break-out groups then developed action items associated with these issues.

We then reconvened as a group of the whole and each group's spokesperson presented their findings using flip-chart pages.

Chris Hoy conducted the closing ceremony and thanked the many volunteers that helped make this meeting a success. He then polled the group to find out how we felt about establishing a coalition to work on the issues identified at the meeting. Most attendees favored a coalition. George Karsa then played a CD recording of a song about Prescott from a friend of his (**Richard Aberdeen**) that moved from Prescott to Nashville. The day ended with laughter and humor.

In transcribing sheets from the six break-out groups I found some common themes across groups:

§ Publicizing governmental meetings and encouraging citizens to attend/monitor/report.

§ Networking and relationship building.

§ Database to keep track of meetings, volunteers, issues, etc.

§ Website with public and private sections for our coalition

Attached are the transcriptions from the break-out groups recap sheets.

Jack D. Wilson

Citizens for Reasonable Growth

Group 1: Political actions and elections

Facilitator: Lindsay Bell

Presenter: Jack Wilson

Action: Elect Responsive Candidates

What	How
§ Find candidates	§ Candidate selection committee
§ Candidate support during elections (campaign management, fund raising, help with election finance forms, canvassing, etc.)	§ Post openings
§ Appointed electors (commissions and boards)	
§ Get them elected	

Action: Lobby: Local, city, state and regional

What	How
§ Education	§ Organized communications networks
§ Appoint lobbyists	§ Build relationships
§ Network/ relationship building	§ Coalitions
§ Identify and prioritized issues	

Action: Resources for political actions

What	How
§ Fund raising	§ Network: Link to institutions, corporations, atypical groups (arts was an example)
§ Volunteers	
§ Network	
§ Research data	
§ Public relations/media/marketing	

§ Identify strategies and issues	
§ Infrastructure	

Action: Build participation and transparency into decision making processes

What	How
§ Publicize all meetings/processes by posting	§ “Town hall” meetings
§ Access intellectual capital of retirees	§ Interactive website
§ Survey public	§ Poll public and present findings
§ Encourage disclosure	§ Appoint to position
	§ Monitor meetings

Action: Organize grassroots troops

What	How
§ Network with common groups	§ Educated volunteers:
§ Organize volunteers	Fliers
§ Database	PowerPoint
	Talking points
	§ Website hub

Action: Monitor local meetings and processes

What	How
§ Identify meetings and schedules	§ Communications trees
§ Database to maintain information and manage troops	
§ Critical analysis – pull out key conclusions	
§ Volunteers matched to meetings and processes	
§ Encourage better media coverage	

Action: Government accountability to the public good

What	How
§ Ongoing dialogue on what “public good” is § Proactive process and dialogue with public in defining “good” § Network and collaborate with groups	§ Independent reports on government actions in the form of a report card or balance sheet. § Reports from boards, commissions and expert groups. Example: Open Space Alliance reports on open space efforts in the previous year.

Group 2: Develop criteria for evaluating growth

Facilitator: Paul Katan

Presenter: Howard Mechanic

Criteria

§ Affordable housing – Define, develop, inter-governmental statistics and programs (such as 20% of project should be affordable to those earning at or below 50% of median income)

§ Open space preservation

§ Aesthetics (architectural standards)

§ Public transportation: bike, pedestrian and traffic impact

§ Water: safe/sustainable yield, conservation, recharge, water quality

§ Foster diversity – cultural and economic

§ Educational impacts and benefits – jobs for residents

§ Finances (county and city)

§ Quality of life – Definition, assessment

§ Public health

§ Alternative proposals (the alternative may be worst than the primary proposal)

§ Environmental: air, soil, water eco-diversity, Verde watershed

Organizational

§ Citizens Advisory Committee that is representative of public interests

§ Monitor sustainability

§ Zoning reform

§ Long range planning

Group 3: Education

Facilitator: Tom Cantlon

Presenter: Tom Pettit

Issues

- 1) Sustainability
 - a) Transit
 - b) Water
 - c) Slow food^[1]
 - d) Eco
 - e) Commons
- 2) Tools of democracy

Target Groups

- 1) Electorate
- 2) Schools (children educate their parents)
- 3) Policy makers and candidates
- 4) Other groups (NGOs^[2])
- 5) Media

Actions

- 1) Create education committee
 - a) Research, assess and identify local experts and steal “best practices”
 - b) Define messages
 - c) Create tools:
 - i) Print materials
 - ii) TV show
 - iii) Speakers
 - iv) Videos
 - v) DVDs

Group 4: Communication

Facilitator: Rita Cantu

Presenter: Rita Cantu

1) Coalition

2) Platform

3) Communication strategy

a) Internal

i) List serve

ii) Coalition meeting

iii) Private website section (password protected)

The above is a committee process that results in a decision and requires two way citizen input to maintain message relevancy.

b) External

i) Create media relationship

ii) Material submission to media

(1) Print

(2) TV

(3) Radio

(4) E-media

(5) Micro media

iii) Government relationships

iv) Documentary and Public Service Announcements (PSA)

4) Funding

Group 5: Planning for Quality of Life

Facilitator: Leslie Hoy

Presenter: Leslie Hoy

Develop Common Vision

§ For area covered by Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO). Website at: <http://www.cympo.com/>)

§ Develop criteria for a regional integrated master plan

§ Develop criteria for integrated master plans for each community

§ Develop criteria for integrated master plan for the county

§ Encourage citizen attendance at CYMPO meetings. Next meetings:

CYMPO Technical Committee: Thursday, February 2, 8am, Prescott City Council Chambers (expect rankings of Transit Study consultants to be revealed and discussed)

CYMPO Executive Board: Wednesday, February 15, 6pm at Yavapai County Bldg, 1015 Fair Street, Prescott

§ Elect officials who share our common vision

§ Encourage citizen attendance at all government meetings

Elements of Sustainability

§ Economic – Lifestyle

People, jobs, tourism, industry?

§ Infrastructure – enough \$ in community to sustain community services

§ Liveable wage

§ Water

§ Affordable housing

§ Wage/housing cost correlation

§ Air quality

§ Transportation

§ Biodiversity

§ Sense of place

§ Quality of life

§ Healthcare

Mind Mapping: Vision of Quality of Life

Environment

" Water

" Air quality

" Biodiversity

" Wildlife

Economy

" People

Ø Retired

Ø Working

" Jobs

Ø Liveable wage

Ø Wage and housing correlation

" Diversity

" Industry

Ø Tourism

Ø Clean

Transportation

" Affordability

" Multi-modal

Sense of Place

" Aesthetics

Healthcare

Education

Mind Mapping: Action Plan

Develop Political Awareness

Develop Common Vision

" Regional

" Revisit every 5 years

" Neighborhood and Home Owner Group meetings

Government thru citizen involvement

" Regulations

Ø Change

Ø New

Ø Federal

Ø State

Ø County

Ø Local

" Create regional master plan

Ø Water

§ Conservation

§ Availability

§ Management

Develop criteria for master plan

" Diversity

Ø Housing

Ø Affordable housing

Ø Commercial

Ø Industrial

§ Concern for environment

§ Liveable wage

· Support ballot proposition on minimum wage increase

Ø Open space

Ø Agricultural

Ø Rural

“ Transportation

“ Water

Ø Availability

Ø Management

Ø Conservation

Develop Regional Cooperation

“ Transportation

“ Citizen Involvement

“ Water

Ø Availability

Ø Management

Ø Conservation

Group 6: Water

Facilitator: John Danforth

Presenter: John Danforth

Conclusions/Recommendations

“ Support and access existing water subject matter experts

“ Create a structure for synthesizing and prioritizing this information and solutions

“ Create political arm (e.g., PAC with lobbying capability) to implement sound water management policy (501 (c) (3) organizations are limited in their lobbying)

Water Notes – 1

“ Arizona Senate election – Need Tom O’Halloran

Republican Primary is likely to decide election, so strong argument for registering as Republican or Independent in time to be eligible to vote in this primary

“ Need knowledge/education re:

Ø Quantification of availability

Ø Flows into Verde and impacts of pumping on all streams

- " SRP Priorities – How do they affect us?
- " What processes are being used to allocate Big Chino Water Ranch water?
- " How much can conservation do to handle scarcity and how do we make it happen?
- " How does water availability relate to growth?
- " What really is the Yavapai County policy re: golf courses?
- " What rules influence water use in rural areas?
- " Need to recognize important distinction between Groundwater law and Surface Water law in Arizona
- Ø Not a distinction for Federal law

Water Notes – 2

- " Need to improve/add teeth to Arizona's Growing Smarter law.
- " Need to understand who is driving water policy in Arizona.
- " Need to lobby for changes in State and local water rules/law/policies.
- " Need to advocate for retention and enforcement of Federal statutes influencing water use and quality (Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, etc.).
- " Identify and work with allies on these issues.
- " Support efforts to become informed and educated on use and hazards associated with effluent.

Water Notes – 3

- " Need to influence state and local elections.
- " Consider use of Initiative to adopt new, improved Arizona water laws
- " Need to increase public sensitivity to water scarcity.
- " Who is educating our legislators today on water issues?
- " Hiring lobbyists?