Dear Council of Representatives and Alternates,

**BPRCC Regular Meeting for July has been CANCELLED

The next meeting is Thursday August 11th, 9am via ZOOM**

**COMMUNITY NEWS:**
Sunset Point Rest Area Closure: The Arizona Department of Transportation is advising Interstate 17 drivers to plan for the extended closure of the I-17 Sunset Point Rest Area approximately 10 miles south of Cordes Junction beginning Monday, July 11, through spring of 2023.  During this time, the facility will be closed to the general public.The existing rest area parking lot will remain**open to commercial truck traffic only.**

YC College Survey:  For quite a long time we in the Verde Valley have sought better services from Yavapai College (we do after all pay taxes for the College).  We made some headway by getting a Dean for this side of the county who actually lived in the Verde Valley, but she has now left. The college has restructured and it feels like we have gone backwards in representation at the decision making level. Please make your voices heard if you also feel we should have better services for our tax dollars.  Thank you.  Carolyn Fisher, member of the now dissolved advisory committee  for the Verde Valley to the YC Governing Board.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YCDean](https://bigparkcouncil.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1d84ec59cba91b5dec0eec85b&id=d8a1abb451&e=13e034e6d4)

**INFORMATION you will need for discussions/votes at the August meeting.  Please download and review.**

* Draft Minutes for BPRCC Meeting, June 9th - Click [HERE](https://bigparkcouncil.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1d84ec59cba91b5dec0eec85b&id=37322af35d&e=13e034e6d4)
* Treasurer's Report for June - Click [HERE](https://bigparkcouncil.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1d84ec59cba91b5dec0eec85b&id=3d56478c10&e=13e034e6d4)
* Strategic Plan & Leadership Development Committee proposal for a Nominating Committee procedure.  Click [HERE](https://bigparkcouncil.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1d84ec59cba91b5dec0eec85b&id=841a23e85e&e=13e034e6d4) to download.  This proposed procedure will be discussed and **VOTED** on at the August meeting, before the Nominating Committee is appointed by the Council.
	+ After reviewing the proposed procedure, think about who you would appoint to serve on the Nominating Committee.

**Committee Reports:**
**PLANNING & ZONING:** Mary Morris reporting:
**New P&Z Member**We are pleased to welcome Bob Marriott as our newest and highly qualified P&Z member.  He has also volunteered to be the lead Big Park council rep for VOCA. Bob retired 7 years ago.  He and his wife moved to the Village in November 2020. Bob’s education encompassed degrees in Architectural Urban Design, Building Science, and Rural Resource Planning.  His career spanned over 20 years as a professional land use planner in Maryland.  Bob was the deputy of planning for Baltimore County, Planning Director for Montgomery County Maryland and served 3 terms as president of the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association. Prior to holding these positions, he was involved in academic medicine as associate dean of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and consulted for many other major universities in the area of institutional planning for the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC).

**Collective Use Permit**
When we receive an official land use application from Yavapai County, we typically have 30 days or less to submit our response.  This can be challenging depending on when the documents are received and the when the P&Z and council meetings are scheduled.  Because there can be changes between the time the County reviews an application and it’s sent out for our comment, generally we don’t schedule our BP P&Z meeting or distribute the application information until the County forwards it to us with their staff report and we know the meeting date for the County hearing.

To be proactive, prior to receiving the application review request from the County, last month our committee reviewed the application as submitted to the county and presented to us by the applicant’s law firm at our June 17, 2022, P&Z Committee mtg.  Assuming this application does not change after it goes through the county reviewing agencies, our committee took a non-binding, straw vote and unanimously approved the application.  When we receive the official document to review from the county, if there are changes, we will either review again or if no changes it will simply be a vote to bring it to the full council.

**AT&T Cell Tower Application**
We have learned this application was submitted to the County on July 8, 2022.  Public comment period doesn’t begin until the County releases the application - then 30 days available for comments.  They don’t do that until they have a staff report and have a scheduled County Planning & Zoning Commission hearing date.

**BP Planning & Zoning July 15, 2022 Meeting Cancelled.**The county is backlogged with lack of staff, reports are taking a long time. The Collective has been waiting a long time, more than a month at this point for the County to do their part.  This one will go behind that one…. so, there’s no telling how long it might be.  The BP Planning & Zoning Committee currently doesn’t have any official County applications to review.  Therefore, the July 15, 2022 P&Z meeting is cancelled.

**APS Powerline subcommittee**, Duane Thompson reporting:  On June 27th, the U.S. Forest Service informed interested parties, including Big Park Council, that it has scheduled a meeting August 30th to share information about its draft decision regarding approval of the APS proposed Oak Creek to McGuireville transmission line project.  APS says the project would create a ‘loop’ that would make it easier to restore power in either community in the event of an outage.  Public release of the draft decision will likely follow in a few days.  The USFS calls this decision a ‘draft’ because it is not final if opponents file objections against the project.  If one or more objections are filed within a 45-day period after public release of the draft decision, an additional review process would then be undertaken by the Forest Service’s regional office in Albuquerque prior to construction.  This review process could take several more months.  We understand that the Coconino National Forest is likely to approve the 14-mile route with some of the powerline buried in critical viewshed areas, and we expect to get additional details during the Aug. 30th meeting.

Big Park Council’s APS subcommittee will then review the draft decision and compare it to the Council’s position, approved in May 2021, that calls for burial from the VOC substation (at the corner of Highway 179 and Jacks Canyon Road), and then along Kel Fox Trail south of the Village to Beaverhead Flat Road.  The Council’s position also calls for burial along Beaverhead Flat Road along that entire stretch of highway to the intersection with Cornville Road.  This would comprise burial of about two-thirds of the proposed route.  Big Park Council’s position also recommended that the Forest Service consider a feasibility study of a community microgrid as an alternative to a powerline, but this option was not included in the USFS draft Environmental Assessment.  After its review, the APS Powerline Subcommittee plans to make a recommendation to the Council on whether to file an objection with the Forest Service’s regional office.

**Emergency Preparedness** (EPPiC) Mary Pope reporting: Minutes from June, including a summary of USFS meeting can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](https://bigparkcouncil.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1d84ec59cba91b5dec0eec85b&id=52aec23cd8&e=13e034e6d4).  On July 8th, the committee met with Mackenzie Rodgers, Northern Arizona Division Director, APS and Wade Ward, Fire Mitigation Specialist, again confirming the close working relationship of all frontline responders in Yavapai County.  APS focuses on prevention, mitigation and response.  Vegetation is kept clear along APS right of ways and all poles and overhead wires are inspected annually with repairs and upgrades made as needed.  Wade confirmed that firefighters use the APS right of way to access remote areas and to move equipment to fight fire.  Mackenzie encouraged all to sign up at APS.com for APS text and email alerts regarding outages and to report unplanned outages to APS so that they can pinpoint the area and make repairs more quickly.  She also recommended that homeowners install a full home surge protect device to protect their electronics in case of a nearby lightning strike.  Although APS utilizes lightning arrestors on their overhead lines, many strikes occur elsewhere and can be extremely dangerous.  During a fire incident, APS works closely with the first responders and will cut power at their request, to make a specific area safe for them and residents.  Before power is cut, APS contacts key accounts such as medical facilities and cell phone providers to alert them to engage back up power.  It was an extremely informative meeting and additional information will be included in meeting minutes.  After the APS discussion, the committee welcomed Bob Marriott, Big Park Council Representative for VOCA, as its newest member. (See P&Z report above for Bob's credentials!)