

WHY A GREEN VALLEY COUNCIL

The Green Valley Council is a unique entity like no other in the United States. Green Valley is not incorporated. It has no professional Manager. It is a self-managed community with the Green Valley Council acting in a “quasi-government” capacity. It thrives, and survives, solely because volunteers give their time, wisdom and energy to making it happen.

Our residents comprise the most highly educated community in Southern Arizona and our volunteers bring that education, plus years of applying their knowledge, with them when they move to Green Valley. They then share their talents with the rest of us to create—not a retirement community—but a community of primarily retired people.

IMAGINE IF THE COMMUNITY VOICE OF GREEN VALLEY WENT SILENT

Imagine if the Council had closed its doors 5 years ago (as it almost did)...

Camino Del Portillo, Círculo De Las Lomas W. Rio Altar, West Camino Encanto and W Calle Tres would not have been repaired. First, there would have been no Council-led drive to convince the Board of Supervisors to allocate \$600,000 more for Green Valley roads. Homeowners would have received a whopping \$1.89 in benefits from a special property tax of \$.25 per \$100 valuation on your house. Second, there would have been no Council Road Prioritization Committee to choose which roads needed repair the most. The County would have paved whatever it wanted.

The Canoa Hills Trails Open Space Park would not have come into being. The County had been inclined to reject the gift of the abandoned golf course. There would have been no Council Park Task Force to convince the County otherwise. Not only did Green Valley, in general, want the park, but all the surrounding HOAs wanted the park.

There would have been none of the following.

- No updates on HOA law; no classes to teach new Presidents, Treasurers and Secretaries what their jobs entailed and tips on how best to work with other Board and community members; and
- No opportunity to file service requests and have them tracked to completion; and
- No mediation of HOA Board or homeowner/Board disputes; and
- No updates on what is happening in the Board of Supervisors so that the Council and residents of Green Valley could voice concerns and take appropriate action; and
- No Community Forums on any topic.

Imagine if the Council has to close its doors in 2022...

As noted above, the Council would not be able to continue to provide services and negotiate with Pima County. Even more sobering, its Foundation, that is, The GVC Foundation, Inc., would have no administrative or logistical support. Without such support, the Foundation's management groups—e.g., the Friends of the Canoa Parks, MedianGreen, Good Deeds Done Together, Green Valley Economic Development—and other programs would struggle to survive, and in the end, the Foundation would probably lose its charitable, nonprofit status.

In addition, other organizations would be negatively impacted.

- Our hospital would lose Council support and the public outreach it provides free for the hospital; and
- The HOAs would not have the resources listed above, plus there would be no Presidents' Roundtables, Architectural Chair Roundtables; and
- Pima County would find it very difficult to coordinate presentations on important issues such as roads, parks, and the environment. There would be no organization to ask to host and run the meetings; and
- There would be no Environmental Committee to spearhead or coordinate with Freeport-McMoRan on recovering from a major release of dust from the mine or to demand Freeport-McMoRan account for what happened and what would be done to prevent future releases; and
- There would be no Traffic & Arroyos Committee or Road Prioritization Committee. The County would get no coordinated input from Green Valley. Our roads would be redone in whatever order the County chose; and
- Organizing to fight for more road money, if the money was inequitably distributed within District 4 or by the Board of Supervisors, would be more difficult, especially with regard to communication; and
- Without the Planning and Architectural Committee, the County would issue building permits if they met "the County Code or regulations." The GVC committee voices concerns about "view shed" protection, community ambiance, safety and other issues when making recommendations to Pima County about the issuance of permits. If not for the Planning and Architectural Committee, Green Valley commercial buildings would slowly become a hodge-podge of styles, heights and colors (or be corrugated iron like the Tractor Store normally erects).

In sum, many of the things that operate together to make Green Valley the place you love to live would disappear. Instead of one unified voice representing a population in excess of 22,000 individuals, Green Valley voices would compete with over 300,000 other voices also living in unincorporated areas of Pima County.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE AND LONG-TERM STABILITY

As our populations' interests and knowledge bases change, the Green Valley Council has to be nimble enough to entice newcomers to participate in this unique experiment in managing a community without the power to force things to happen. With community support—and appropriate revenue—the Council is confident it can meet the new challenges. It has done so for 47 years.

The annual reports and other informational brochures prepared by the Council and its communication through the website, face book, electronic newsletters, and other Green Valley news media describe how the Council works and list its achievements. The Council is meeting and exceeding its objectives, its vision, mission, and values.

The biggest challenge facing the Council, today, and in 2022, is its long-term financial stability. For over 20 years (1992-2012), the Green Valley Council was supported financially through membership dues and the production of a telephone directory for Southwestern Bell, ATT, SWB. and other earlier publishers. Membership dues over those 20 years held steady at \$5.50 annually for each rooftop in a member HOA. In 2013, the Council started to consider the need for other sources of revenue and raised the annual membership dues to \$7.50 annually.

In 2016 a new revenue source was added, that is, the five-year renewable contract for services with Pima County, the Service Line Warranty Services increased its Green Valley clientele with a concomitant increase in referral fees to the Council, and membership dues were again raised in 2018. Also in 2016, the GVC administrative Financial Development Committee was formed to better inform the Council of its short-term and long-term financial future. The Committee now includes members of the Executive Committee and the Council's Board of Representatives. This Committee assesses the income and expenditures of the Council, making recommendations and seeking new revenue opportunities. Last year, this Committee recommended, and the Board of Representatives, voted to raise the annual membership dues in 2021 to \$12.00 per rooftop.

Unfortunately, the Council had to dip into its accumulated reserves in 2015 and again in 2019. *Fortunately*, it had the funds to do so. *Unfortunately*, the Council is again operating on a deficit budget to meet expenses in 2020, and the reserve funds have yet to be replenished. The reserves at the end of 2016, after the \$70,000 deficit occurring in 2015, totaled \$103,982. With the deficit in 2019 and the one likely of occur in 2020—the total estimate for the two years falling between \$25,000 and \$35,000—the Council will not be able to sustain another sizable deficit and remain operational.

**THE COUNCIL WILL RECOGNIZE
ITS 50th YEAR OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN 2023**

If community members continue to recognize and support the civic functions of the Green Valley Council, the Council will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2023. Yes, there may be other governance options in the future, but the research and planning necessary to define these options have not begun in earnest. To this end, the Green Valley Council has formed a Futures Committee to envision possible futures.

What we have at this point is the Green Valley Council, a quasi “Town Council” that enables the community to engage as an equal player on many municipal and governmental levels. So let’s keep our voices united and meet our vision of making Green Valley a premier community where people retire to live, work, play and invest.

1361 words

4 photos