

BCCA Annual Meeting: Good Neighbors & Diverse Opinions

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The Beaver Creek Community Association held their Annual Meeting Saturday 1/27/2018. About thirty members and area residents attended, along with Board members, County Supervisor Tom Thurman, and Jeff Thumm from Coconino National Forest. The theme of the meeting was “Good Neighbors”. Each person attending was awarded a blue ribbon designation as a “Good Neighbor 2018”, because, in the end, it’s our neighbors and the people who show up at meetings that make our community a great place to live. The meeting was upbeat, and included presentations by Jeff Thumm — who was introduced as the Forest Service manager who authorized the prescribed burn on October 24, 2017. He presented the many factors that go into prescribed burns in a straightforward and factual way, and by the end of his talk, there were lots of questions and comments, but all present agreed that a prescribed burn once in a while is better than the alternative: wildfire! Congratulations, Jeff, on a great presentation.



If you missed the meeting, you missed some good community conversations, as well as outstanding refreshments donated by Mike Nelson and Ron Melcher, arranged by supershoppers Sharon Olsen and Janet Aniol, and our perennial favorite secret recipe punch provided by Phil Edwards.

Long-time community leader Bob Burke was newly elected to the Board of Directors, as was Danice Bruno, an animal lover and financial wiz. The new Directors will replace Lisa Taylor, who is now out of state, and Alan Spacone, currently undergoing chemo and therefore unable to serve on the Board in 2018. The two new Directors were elected by acclamation, and will be valuable indeed to the BCCA. Janet Aniol presented the financial report for 2017, an update on projects from 2017, and a transportation update, highlighting this news: the grant for bus service routes including Yavapai Transit stops from Apache Nation to McGuireville, the Ranch House, and Rimrock has been accepted and may happen this year. 2017 projects included support for the Beaver Creek Trails Coalition’s new 6.2 mile trail system on Wickiup Mesa, public meetings with Arizona Water, followed by progress on hydrants and pipe.

Board member Sharon Olsen asked for members to pitch in and help in volunteering with park maintenance duties. She reviewed bids to trim trees in the park, which will be a large budget item for the BCCA, but is badly needed for safety reasons. Ron Melcher joined in asking residents for assistance with the fountain, gardening, clearing branches, and other park maintenance chores. Contact a Board Member if you have gardening or other skills we can use! Email : contact@lakemontezuma.us .

President Janet Aniol circulated copies of a petition to limit Bow Hunting in our area. The petitions would be sent to Arizona Game and Fish department. Neighbors and residents had various opinions, from those aghast at bowhunters in their backyards, to those who support hunters, people just like everyone else, who

generally respect their neighbors. There is current regulation which requires a resident to post "No Trespassing" sign or "No Hunting" sign on each lot. There were equally divergent opinions as to whether the signs were effective or reasonable in a suburban setting, and what measures could be taken by those whose property adjoins forest or open areas. The BCCA has not taken a position on the matter, but signs are available for those who wish to post, and petitions for those who wish to sign them.

County Supervisor Tom Thurman presented the case for renewal of a 1/4 cent property tax, devoted to maintenance of our (only) county jail in Prescott. The existing tax was passed to handle overcrowding conditions, and will expire in 2020. The renewal of the tax at the same rate, Thurman stated, is needed to provide half of the cost of maintenance to the facility, which now houses up to 600 inmates, and is currently overcrowded by as much as 60 heads per night. Members asked questions and received solid answers to the issues from Supervisor Thurman.

Thurman also predicted a population surge in our area over the next 2-3 years, with the work on Highway 260 complete and other transportation changes making Beaver Creek more accessible. He stated that real estate values in our area have increased significantly, good news for all residents.

Check this website for the official minutes coming soon, but to get all the scoop firsthand, come out to the next Board meeting, February 12, 2018, and speak up!