

PORA OPEN MEETING

6/19/23

Ralph Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:30 & introduced the Board of Directors who were present. Bob Senelly & Rosemary Dougherty were absent. Board Directors present then gave brief reviews of events they cover.

Bud, Govt Relations:

Provided an update on EPCOR events & presented info on HB2298. Regarding former, lawyers representing RUCO are supporting a partial consolidation with a 3 tier cost structure (industrial, residential & ?), which supports Tonto, Rio Verde, Sun City & Sun City West's position. Decision due October. (HAVE NO IDEA WHAT FOLLOWING IS ABOUT) 303 EPCOR proposal decrease from \$220 to \$100.

Jim O'Riley at Rec Ctr contacted Bud about the new HB2298 that involves the scope of Community Authority over its roadways. Communities now are allowed to decide to what extent residents want to modify current procedures regarding who has authority over such items. For instance, should PRIDES continue to be responsible for the medians? A joint Rec Ctr/PORA/**other?** committee will meet in July to draft a proposal and then vet it with the community.

Kate, Transit:

She addressed PORA Transit & Other Transit Activities. Regarding the former, she notes the SCTC has been inactive since the last advocacy push for PROP 400.

Two items for Other Transit activities. First Northwest Valley Connect: Kate resigned from the Board due to medical issues, but will continue to collaborate with the agency going forward; the executive director Kathy Chandler retired, the newly hired one recently resigned; a contractor has been hired to provide guidance on administration, organization & financial issues; and the agency has insufficient volunteers & has to decline taking new customers for now.

Prop 400: ½ cent tax that funds a large portion of AZ streets, highways, transit & other services: the Legislature approved putting it on the ballot, & consumers approved the tax in 1985 & again in 2004. Legislature approved it again in 2022 along with provisions that included 2 members from unincorporated jurisdictions to serve on MAG's Policy Committee & added circulators to the definition of public transportation. Unfortunately Governor Ducey vetoed the bill.

Mayors & businesses support Prop 400 because it will help to improve necessary connections & rehab of current transportation infrastructure. Would allow \$37 billion investment in Maricopa Co over 25 years of which \$19.95 B would be from the sales

tax. It opens the door to billions in federal grants that require a state match like Dial-a-Ride programs & other transportation services for seniors & PWDs. But the Legislature's Freedom Caucus objects to the proposed distribution of how money would be spent & wants none to go to the light rail.

Dave, Water:

Stated that water is in 3 areas: surface, groundwater (SCW) & recharged water. He then displayed a power point that among other things showed the AMA vs the Phoenix area, & said much of the current publicity is confusing the two areas – Phoenix water is sound.

He stated several ongoing water concerns: Fugitive water wherein residents and businesses allow water to spill onto sidewalks & the streets for various reasons, wasting this resource. He is working on this issue in SCW. Also regarding SCW, he noted that recharged ponds clear SCW wastewater what is then returned to our aquifer. EPCOR has 10 wells serving SCW.

Random Comments: He stated his concern that expansion in Surprise, Glendale & Peoria will expend water more quickly than currently accounted for.

EPA changed regs regarding acceptable arsenic quantities in water that cost EPCOR a lot of money to monitor this reg.

There was discussion around various loop holes in the provision to prove a 100 year water supply existed before building.

Darwin, Visitors Ctr: No Comments

The June 30, 2022 tax return form 990 is available for review.

Ralph: made concluding remarks discussing random major historic topics of accomplishment and adjourned the meeting.