

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

March 21, 2001
Maricopa Association of Governments Office
Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Leon Manuel, Chairman, El Mirage	Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley
* Ken Sowers, Avondale	Neil Burning, Peoria
Bob Lee, Cave Creek	Bob Goodhue, Phoenix
Alex Banachowski, Chandler	Tim Wegner, Queen Creek
Patrick Davis, Fountain Hills	Tom Barrs for Dave Potter, Scottsdale
Ralph Vasquez, Gila Bend	Forrest Fielder for John Guenther, Surprise
Wilfred Brown for JoRene Deveau Gila River Indian Community	* Michael Williams, Tempe
Ray Patten, Gilbert	Mario Rochin, Tolleson
Deborah Mazoyer, Glendale	* Skip Blunt, Wickenburg
* Steve Burger, Goodyear	* Steve Lawton, Youngtown
Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park	Tom Ewers, Maricopa County
* Tom Hedges, Mesa	Rus Brock, Home Builders Association

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Tibbett, Carefree	Richard Littler, Department of Health Services
Ben Cox, Gilbert	Tom Thliveris, Department of Health Services
	Harry Wolfe, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairman Leon Manuel.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2001

Chairman Leon Manuel asked if there were any comments on the minutes. Ray Patten commented that he did not believe that the MAG Building Codes Committee had decided to exclude from future discussion the HBAC accessibility standards and the Inspection Service Survey.

It was moved by Tom Ewers, seconded by Mario Rochin and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes as amended.

3. Call to the Public

There were no comments offered.

4. Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) Roof Access Provisions

Ben Cox reported that the UMC Roof Access Provisions had been discussed yesterday and the Building Inspectors Forum. He indicated that the members of the forum concurred with the Building Codes Committee position on the requirement for two handrails and that the interpretation would be submitted at the April meeting of the Building Codes Committee. Leon Manuel requested that the interpretation be prepared using the standard MAG format.

5. Update on Adoption of the 2000 Codes

Ben Cox indicated that the AZBO Code Change Committee held their last meeting in Gilbert. He said that the Committee moved forward with recommendations on code changes; about 20 in all. Mr. Cox added that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on April 6, 2001 in Prescott.

Forrest Fielder asked why the Building Codes had not adopted the International Electrical Code as the means for achieving adherence to the 1999 National Electrical Code. It was noted that the IEC was the administrative section of the Code and it made reference to the 1999 NEC.

Pat Davis said that when it was recommended that the 1999 NEC be referred to AZBO, the IEC was not a public document.

Forrest Fielder said that all the I Codes have an opening chapter on administration.

Neil Burning said that Peoria did not adopt the IEC because it references International Codes which we have not yet adopted. He added that Peoria retained the 1996 NEC Uniform Administrative Code Provisions.

Forrest Fielder said that the IEC is Chapter one with a reference to the 1999 NEC.

Bob Lee said the objective of the 1999 NEC committee was to develop common amendments. He said that cities could use any method they wanted to achieve that objective.

Forrest Fielder said that perhaps there was no difference between adopting the NEC and the IEC.

Neil Burning asked how many cities adopted the 2000 Codes. It was noted that the Codes had been adopted by Tucson, Pima County, Marana and Oro Valley.

6. Establishment of a Standard for Adult Care Homes

Forrest Fielder said that the Department of Health Services had expressed an interest in working with cities to establish a model for setting up licensed adult care homes. Mr. Fielder noted that the MAG standards notebook shows an R-6 classification for this type of occupancy. He asked for some background on the standard.

It was recommended that Forrest Fielder confer with Derek Horn who was involved in establishing the standard. It was noted that the standard was designed for a higher level of care and larger facilities than what Surprise is considering.

Ray Patten said that Gilbert issues permits for units of 5 or less and that for this category there is no distinction between ambulatory and non-ambulatory residents.

Forrest Fielder said that in Surprise they get applications for five people, but then the applicant increases the occupancy. Debra Mazoyer responded that Glendale bases its standards on what the license will allow, not what the applicant reports as the number of occupants. She also urged Surprise to avoid using terms such as personal care or effective care, because those terms are subject to change.

Forrest Fielder said that Surprise wanted to tailor its local ordinance to state requirements.

Bob Lee expressed concern about imposing overly stringent requirements on facilities that are supposed to be like homes and have a home environment. For example the requirement to have a sprinkler system installed. He also recommended that Mr. Fielder check his Arizona Revised Statutes citations for accuracy.

Mr. Lee mentioned that if you are already limiting the number of people at the home, why limit the square footage. He asked what was wrong with people having more room. He also mentioned that the Code has traditionally allowed a single exit for less than 10 occupants.

Leon Manuel said that the state had a pilot program and that the Department of Health Services approached the MAG Building Codes Committee to develop a standard. MAG referred this to the Arizona Chapter of ICBO which developed the R-6 standard.

It was moved by Forrest Fielder, seconded by Alex Banachowski and unanimously recommended to refer the establishment of a standard for adult care homes to the AZBO Code Change Committee.

7. Status Report on Initiatives on Establishing a Common Permitting Process

Leon Manuel reported that Phoenix had established a Smart Permitting Forum for establishing a common permitting process.

Harry Wolfe asked if anyone knew when the next forum meeting would be held. Neil Burning said that the Forum subgroups are now carrying out their tasks.

Harry Wolfe noted that a member of the MAG Telecommunications Advisory Committee had recommended that the forum be opened up to rapidly growing communities like Surprise and Gilbert. He indicated that he had passed that information on to Alan Olson of the City of Phoenix.

8. Legislative Issues

Rus Brock reported that he had talked with Suzanne Gilstrap and that she indicated that House Bill 2407 had been killed. House Bill 2407 was the bill that required consensus based standards for delegated responsibility.

Bob Lee noted that House Bill 2407 had been tabled but was still on the agenda.

9. MAG Building Codes Committee Standards Notebook

Harry Wolfe mentioned that at the February 21, 2001 MAG Building Codes Committee meeting, MAG staff requested assistance in assembling a final MAG Building Codes Standards. He noted that it was recommended that an informal working group be established to provide direction to the project and would assist in gathering information necessary to finalize the notebook.

Mr. Wolfe explained that on March 13, 2001 a working group convened and provided direction on how to proceed with the preparation of the Building Codes Committee notebook. He said that the group recommended that copies of the notebook be distributed at the March meeting to members of the Building Codes Committee who did not already have a copy; and that after review, the MAG Building Codes committee would develop recommendations on what should be included in the notebook. The working group would then begin to develop standard cover sheets for each of the sections in the notebook providing any necessary information and background.

Leon Manuel said that the Group might want to consider removing the Glass and Glazing Section of the notebook because it is already included in the Code.

Patrick Davis asked how the Public Works standards were published. Harry Wolfe responded that hard copy volumes were produced and sold in their entirety.

Bob Lee pointed out that public works standards are used by every contractor and therefore the contractors want it available. He said the building codes standards are different, because people might only be interested in one portion of the notebook.

Leon Manuel stated that the format for disseminating the notebook would be determined by MAG staff.

10. Plumbing Code Commission

Bob Lee said that he received an e-mail from Terry Vosler encouraging people who supported the I Codes to go to the next Code Change Hearing.

11. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

Harry Wolfe asked that anyone with revisions to the MAG Building Codes Committee membership roster, report them to him.

12. Topics for Future Agendas

Topics for future agendas that were raised included, dust control, UMC roof access provisions, and the Building Codes Standards Notebook.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.