

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 18, 1999
MAG Offices
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chairman
Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Vice Chairman
Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler

Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale
Mayor John Keegan, Peoria

* Not present

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Neil Giuliano at 12:15 p.m.

2. Approval of September 13, 1999 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Mayor Skip Rimsza moved, Mayor Jay Tibshraeny seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the September 13, 1999 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

3. Apache Junction Request for Representation on MAG Boards

Chairman Giuliano introduced Apache Junction Vice Mayor Anne Surra and City Manager Curtis Shook, who attended the meeting to address Apache Junction's request to become non-voting members of MAG. He mentioned that Mayor Scruggs had sent a letter voicing concerns on additional issues.

Mr. Shook thanked the Committee for their invitation to the meeting. He handed out an information sheet showing details of Apache Junction's request for membership. He stated that Apache Junction sent a letter in April 1998 requesting membership. Mr. Shook indicated that Apache Junction is involved in many of MAG's programs, such as transportation, air quality, population, open space, and building and engineering standards. Mr. Shook indicated that Apache Junction staff participates on MAG committees. Mr. Shook stated that a portion of Apache Junction falls within Maricopa County and provides services to approximately 500 Maricopa County residents. He stated that Apache Junction is impacted by the Maricopa County sales tax. He mentioned that presently they may participate in discussion on regional issues only as members of the public. Mr. Shook stated that Apache Junction is not requesting a voting membership, but that they have a place at the table for discussion of issues that could impact their City. He stated that Apache Junction requests that the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee recommend extending an ex-officio seat to Apache Junction. Mr. Shook introduced Vice Mayor Anne Surra.

Vice Mayor Surra thanked the Executive Committee for considering Apache Junction's request for membership. She mentioned that she has many dealings with Maricopa County. Vice Mayor Surra indicated that she would like represent her City more fully represented on issues that may impact them, more than as a member of the public. Chairman Giuliano thanked Vice Mayor Surra and Mr. Shook for attending the meeting.

Mayor Tibshraeny asked if Apache Junction receives information from MAG. Mr. Shook replied that MAG staff is very good about sending meeting information to the City. He indicated that a representative from Apache Junction represents the City at meetings for public comment. Mayor Tibshraeny clarified that an ex-officio member is defined as a non-voting member.

Mayor Scruggs asked the impact to MAG committee work if Apache Junction were added. Chairman Giuliano stated that appointments would be made to MAG committees as ex-officio members. Dennis Smith stated that Apache Junction has participated in the Street Committee in the past. Mr. Bourey mentioned that Apache Junction is a part of the TIP area.

Mayor Keegan stated that he does not oppose Apache Junction, and expressed concern for setting a trend for other constituencies to request memberships. He mentioned that he and Mayor Scruggs frequently receive requests from Sun City and Sun City West for membership in MAG. Mayor Keegan noted that the 500 Maricopa County residents in Apache Junction are represented by Maricopa County, CTOC, and the State Transportation Board.

Mayor Rimsza indicated that Sun City and Sun City West are not incorporated cities with elected officials. However, Apache Junction is an incorporated city with elected officials. Mayor Keegan stated that Sun City and Sun City West feel they have a quasi-government that holds elections. He indicated they feel their substantial population should be represented. Mayor Keegan asked the population of Apache Junction. Vice Mayor Surra replied that Apache Junction has approximately 26,000 residents. Mayor Keegan explained the difficulties that may arise with Sun City and Sun City West if Apache Junction were granted membership. Mayor Tibshraeny mentioned that the Sun Lakes community in the Chandler area is similar to Sun City and Sun City West. He asked about the structure for representation of Sun City and Sun City West. Mayor Keegan replied that he was not certain, but it could be a homeowner's association type of structure that may have a type of designated authority. Mayor Rimsza asked for clarification of the reasons for not granting Sun City and Sun City West a non-voting membership. Mayor Keegan replied that if a city wants to participate as a government, then a city should become a government.

Chairman Giuliano stated that the distinction between Apache Junction and other communities is that Apache Junction is a city involved in MAG programs. He stated that we need to find a way to give them a type of associate membership to allow them to participate in the process.

Mayor Scruggs commented on the possibility of many more cities requesting membership as a result of growth. She indicated that a decision on the best way to accommodate these requests needs to be made, by creating a new class of membership for these cities.

Chairman Giuliano stated that MAG membership could be discussed at the Regional Council Retreat. He stated that MAG could become proactive in determining types of memberships to others than incorporated cities within the County.

Mayor Rimsza moved to forward a recommendation to the Regional Council to add Apache Junction as a non-voting member of MAG. Mayor Tibshraeny seconded.

Before a vote was taken, Mayor Rimsza commented on the membership of CTOC, since they are not elected officials. Mr. Smith stated that CTOC was created as a member of MAG by Executive Order to oversee the funding of the MAG regional freeway system.

Mayor Tibshraeny stated that it is healthy to include those who want to participate. He commented that including all who desire participation could eliminate criticism. Mayor Tibshraeny indicated his agreement that associate memberships should be considered.

Mayor Scruggs stated that a full examination of the makeup of the Board should be done first. Mayor Keegan mentioned his previous statements that he is not opposed to Apache Junction, but the effects of allowing memberships in exceptional cases.

Chairman Giuliano asked for a vote on the motion to forward a recommendation to the Regional Council to add Apache Junction as a non-voting member of MAG. The motion passed with Mayor Scruggs and Mayor Keegan voting No.

Mayor Scruggs stated that the issue is much broader than granting Apache Junction associate membership. She referred to the two additional issues she outlined in her letter. She indicated that it was her understanding that the discussion by the Executive Committee on this agenda item would concern resolving the issues she mentioned in her letter, rather than recommending Apache Junction for membership. Mayor Scruggs commented that this is a very serious concern and if ignored, could become a problem. Chairman Giuliano stated that an extended discussion of Mayor Scruggs's concerns raised in her letter would be on the agenda at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Mayor Rimsza stated that Apache Junction would be given an ex-officio, or non-voting membership. He indicated that if Sun City, Sun City West, or similar unincorporated cities want to join MAG, membership would have to be at a lower level than a city such as Apache Junction. If unincorporated cities within Maricopa County do incorporate, they would then be granted a voting membership.

4. Update on the Final Report of the Growing Smarter Commission

James M. Bourey stated that the Growing Smarter Commission passed their recommendations on September 1, 1999. He stated that the Management Committee was updated on the report at their meeting on October 13, 1999. The Management Committee recommended waiting one month to develop further statements on principles. Mr. Bourey stated that these principles would then be considered by the Management Committee on November 17, 1999 and the Regional Council on December 8, 1999.

Mayor Rimsza stated that caution be exercised in the wording used in private property laws to avoid being perceived as taking away private property rights. He noted that interest is not in taking away private property rights, but protecting the rights of those existing property owners vs. those requesting changes. Mayor Rimsza stated this is an issue of balancing property rights.

Mr. Bourey commented that legislation could be developed before the Legislative session begins. Mayor Rimsza stated that a formal position should not be taken until the legislation is reviewed. Mayor Scruggs indicated that she agreed with Mayor Rimsza regarding review of the legislation. She indicated that a statement of our position be sent before legislation is drafted. Mr. Bourey replied that a statement could be drafted. Mayor Rimsza stated that the wording “staff recommends opposition” in the document be carefully worded so as not to appear to be in opposition to individual property rights. He stated that mayors may support the Sierra Club legislation if negativity appears to be associated with the Growing Smarter legislation.

5. Valley Vision 2025 Update

Mr. Bourey handed out a packet of information on Valley Vision 2025 and stated that a series of public input forums are scheduled to receive comment on the draft vision goals. He indicated that the initial attendance at the forums was less than anticipated, but that additional advertising and flyers were being distributed. Mr. Bourey stated that the Greater Phoenix Leadership (GPL) said they would sponsor the forums and the telephone survey.

Chairman Giuliano stated that he recently met with Quentin Smith, Chairman of the GPL. He said that Mr. Smith indicated the support by GPL for the project. GPL would like the entities represented by 2025 and the Brookings Institute to join together with GPL on this project. Chairman Giuliano indicated that GPL feels the project should now be private sector-driven with MAG as a partner. He indicated that a partnering is needed for the project results to be of value.

Mayor Rimsza asked for clarification of GPL’s funding. Chairman Giuliano replied that they fund as a group and as individuals. Mayor Rimsza asked if a motion was needed to recommend the partnership. Chairman Giuliano replied that a motion was not required. Mayor Rimsza indicated that GPL could attend a meeting to inform the Committee of the partnership details. Chairman Giuliano stated that a letter from GPL outlining the concise details would be appropriate, followed by GPL’s attendance at a Committee meeting. Mayor Rimsza commented that the letter needs to confirm the level of financial commitment. Mr. Bourey indicated that this could be a topic of discussion at the Regional Council retreat.

6. Update on Transportation Funding Estimate

Mr. Bourey stated that in April, ADOT met in Casa Grande with transportation officials from throughout Arizona to agree on a new set of guiding principles for Arizona’s transportation planning and programming process. The Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC) was formed as a result of this meeting. Mr. Bourey stated that the purpose of the RAAC is to annually recommend estimates for the distribution of future state and federal revenues to MAG, PAG and the remainder of the state. A series of RAAC meetings has been held and recommendations were made. Mr. Bourey handed out a report outlining the RAAC recommendations. He stated that the

MAG share of 1999 to 2003 Program was 10.5 percent. According to dollar in, dollar out return, MAG should receive 38 percent of discretionary funds. Mr. Bourey stated that ADOT proposed 17 percent for the region last year, and MAG proposed 24 percent. Mr. Bourey indicated that over the next five years, our region will receive funding of 28 percent. Mr. Bourey stated that if additional funds should become available, it is anticipated that MAG and PAG would share the funds. He referred to item number 10 on page 4 of the handout. Mr. Bourey indicated that Mary Peters, ADOT Director, had committed to this and mentioned that the State Transportation Board had passed the recommendations. Mr. Bourey stated that legislation had recently been signed that would provide an additional \$1.57 billion in transportation dollars. He indicated that analysis is still being done and factors are being considered on distribution of the money. Mr. Bourey indicated that the allocation would be considered by the Management Committee and the Regional Council. Mayor Rimsza remarked that last year's allocation, this year's allocation, and next year's expected allocation be detailed in the language.

7. Preliminary Planning for the Regional Council Retreat

Chairman Giuliano stated that the Regional Council Retreat is scheduled for January 7, 2000. He asked Committee members for suggestions on topics for discussion.

Mayor Rimsza stated that sources of transit funding needs to be discussed. He commented on funding needed by smaller communities to assist them in providing transit service. Mayor Keegan stated that physical constraints, as in the San Francisco Bay area, or large bases of money received from high gas prices, in the \$3-\$5 per gallon range, seem to be the conditions that make transit work. Mayor Rimsza indicated that a more reliable source of transit funding, other than the lottery, is needed.

Mayor Keegan stated that a recognized expert in planning for the future could speak at the Retreat. This would broaden ideas and stimulate imaginations. Mr. Bourey stated that the issue of governance would be discussed at the Retreat. He mentioned a representative from Collaborative Economics who could be considered an appropriate speaker on this issue at the Retreat.

Mayor Scruggs asked the time of the Retreat. Mr. Bourey replied that the Retreat is scheduled for all day on January 7th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary