

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

March 15, 2000
Maricopa Association of Governments Office
Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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| Leon Manuel, El Mirage, Chairman | * Tom Mattingly, Mesa |
| * Ken Sowers, Avondale | Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley |
| Bob Lee, Cave Creek | * Ibrahim Maslamani, Peoria |
| Alex Banachowski, Chandler | Alan Olson, Phoenix |
| * Patrick Davis, Fountain Hills | * Tim Wegner, Queen Creek |
| * Ralph Vasquez, Gila Bend | * Dave Potter, Scottsdale |
| JoRene DeVeau, Gila River Indian Community | John Guenther, Surprise |
| Ray Patten, Gilbert | Michael Williams, Tempe |
| Pam Wertz for Deborah Mazoyer, Glendale | Mario Rochin, Tolleson |
| Steve Burger, Goodyear | * Skip Blunt, Wickenburg |
| * Vacant, Litchfield Park | Red Miller, Youngtown |
| * Tom Ewers, Maricopa County | * Rus Brock, Home Builders Association |

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ben Cox, Gilbert	Tina Morgan, Goodyear
W.A. Griffith, Glendale	Harry P. Wolfe, MAG
Chad Hurlburt, Gilbert	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. by Chairman Leon Manuel.

2. Approval of February 16, 2000 Meeting Minutes

Leon Manuel asked if there were any comments on the meeting minutes. Mike Williams stated that the date on the minutes, February 16, 1999, was incorrect and should be changed (to February 16, 2000). It was moved by Mario Rochin, seconded by Alex Banachowski and unanimously recommended to approve the minutes as amended.

3. Call to the Public

Leon Manuel asked what AZBO was doing with the code change hearings in Alabama for April. Steve Burger said that the last thing that AZBO did was to submit an Appendix Chapter for Residential Group Care Facilities (I-5) which was voted down in St. Louis.

Steve Burger announced that AZBO would be holding its annual educational institute in Prescott during the fourth week of May (May 22-26) and that curriculum information would be mailed shortly.

Leon Manuel reported that the Building Inspectors/Plans Reviewer Group had finished three reports establishing standards for items that were referred to them by the MAG Building Codes Committee. The reports addressed:

1. R-3 and attached Garage separation standards
2. Flue dampers
3. Truss markings

He indicated that the reports would be presented to the MAG Building Codes Committee for approval in April and that he would have the reports forwarded to members of the Committee in the near future.

Leon Manuel also informed the Committee that it appears the R-3/Garage separation standards appears to be assuming the separation wall is considered as being a true fire-rated wall and that is a major issue that this Committee will need to consider in its discussion of the separation wall standard.

Pam Wertz expressed concern that a relatively few number of cities had attended the last meeting of the Building Inspectors/Plans Reviewer Group. She said that the only representatives in attendance were from Goodyear, Glendale, Gilbert, Scottsdale, Chandler and Surprise. She said it was important for more cities to be represented in order to have good input.

Steve Burger asked which member agencies would be going to the International Codes within the next year to 18 months. Representatives from the following cities said that they would be pursuing adoption of the International Codes: Glendale, Gila River Indian Community, Tolleson, Chandler, Carefree, Goodyear, Phoenix, Tempe, El Mirage, Paradise Valley, and Surprise.

Alan Olson said that perhaps this issue should be addressed within the topic of Smart Permitting.

Leon Manuel responded that last year the Building Codes Committee looked at adopting a base set of codes and that this year amendments would be examined.

4 Update on the Proceedings of the Permit Technicians Group

Bill Griffith, the Chairman of the Permit Technicians Group provided an update of the Groups activities. He explained that the Fire Marshal from Fountain Hills discussed propane tanks and the benefits of sprinklers. He also noted that a female contractor discussed the issue of women in construction.

John Moll from the Registrar of Contractors talked about enforcement and the types of licenses required of contractors.

Steve Burger provided an update on ICBO's Permit Technician's certification.

Barbara Morse from the Department of Revenue explained bonding requirements for contractors for contracts above \$50,000.

Bill Griffith said that the Group wanted to visit each jurisdiction to see how they conducted their business.

Mr. Griffith said Ron Dalrymple from the Arizona Board of Technical Registration talked about his agency.

He added that the Group has a number of interesting topics that will be address in future meetings, including:

1. A structural engineer speaker in March.
2. Visiting a residential construction site in April
3. Inviting an architect to speak
4. Having a captain from the Police Department to discuss violence in the work place.
5. Code enforcement
6. Relationships between building departments and planning departments.

John Guenther asked whether a pay survey for permit technicians had been conducted. Bill Griffiths responded that one had been done in 1998. He suggested that an 8-10% adjustment could be made to estimate current pay rates.

Mr. Guenther asked whether a permit technician certification process was in place. Steve Burger responded that technician classes had been held in the past, but that we are going beyond that.

Members were encouraged to send their people to the Permit Technician meetings.

5. Update of the Arizona Propane Refueling Systems Forum

Leon Manuel reported that there were approximately 10 people who attended the forum. He said that there were representatives from the Propane Association, Fire Departments, State Fire Marshal's Office and others. The forum was created to develop requirements for the Arizona Department of Commerce's Alternative Fuel Grant Program specifically for propane as a automotive fuel source.

Mr. Manuel said that the forum was productive. He said that the Propane Industry and Fire Service wants to keep the requirements to a minimum. He noted that the alternative fuel program is administered by the Arizona Department of Commerce Office of Energy.

He explained that anyone wishing to install a propane fueling system needs to obtain a permit and therefore they need to contact his/her respective jurisdiction and that a state licensed contractor be used to install the tank and piping system. He said that the main issue that arose was what code to use.

Mr. Manuel said he was waiting to hear from the Department of Commerce who is gathering the public

comments to incorporate our comments. He said that tentatively the requirements will be endorsed by the Arizona Fire Marshal's Office, the Propane Association, the Arizona Fire Code Committee, and the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association.

6. Update on Smart Permitting

Harry Wolfe provided an overview of the smart permitting issue. He noted that the agenda packet had articles on "smart permitting" and that he had enclosed a questionnaire from John Guenther that surveyed the hardware and software that cities used for permitting. He also distributed the results of the questionnaire. Mr. Wolfe said that he would be considering the questions already asked in designing a questionnaire to be distributed to member agencies to determine their interest in the use of e-commerce and the Internet to facilitate the permitting process.

Alan Olson stated the "Smart Permitting" involves three activities: the use of uniform codes with minimum amendments and consistent interpretations; development of common processes or forms; and the use of technology to expedite the development process.

Mr. Olson said that Smart Permitting does not require the everyone use the same software and/or hardware. He indicated that the technology element involved putting information on the Internet, as well as applying for and obtaining permits, submitting plans and tracking the plan review process. He noted that the methods used in each jurisdiction could be different, but that the same information could be extracted.

Harry Wolfe asked for input on potential questions to be asked as a part of a survey of member agencies regarding the use of e-commerce and the Internet in the development process.

It was suggested that the survey ask member agencies what information they are collecting, why they are collecting it and where it is going. It was also recommended that member agencies be surveyed to determine the extent to which they are using on-line services.

Ben Cox stated if a developer could submit an electronic plot plan then information could be extracted from that plot plan.

Bill Griffith said that Glendale can e-mail applications.

Alan Olson said that the City of Phoenix is exploring options ranging from the use of fax to on-line services for submitting applications.

Mike Williams urged an examination of contracting with NetClerk as an intermediary for developers to submit permit applications. He also recommended considering Interactive Voice response (IVR) which allows individuals to access permit data from a touch tone phone. This can be used to determine the results of inspections and allows for requests on the status of inspections and plan reviews to be done after hours. Mr. Williams said that IVR offers another advantage. Information can be faxed or e-mailed back to the people accessing the database.

Ben Cox said that NetClerk had approached Gilbert about contracting with them to provide permitting services. Mr. Cox said that Gilbert examined NetClerk's proposal but determined that the Town could provide the services.

7. Update of the Development of the 1999 National Electric Code Amendments.

Alan Olson, Chairman of the AZBO Code Change Committee reported that at the February meeting of the Building Codes Committee he had presented a draft resolution urging all MAG member agencies to adopt the Electrical Code with a minimal amount of amendments. He said he had asked for comments and that the resolution would be revised and forwarded to MAG member agencies. The agencies could then have their legislative bodies consider action on the resolution.

Harry Wolfe asked when the NEC amendments would be completed. Mr. Olson responded that he anticipated that the Code would be finished by September 2000 and effective by January 2001.

John Guenther asked if Alan Olson would be preparing all new codes. Mr. Olson responded that he would only be preparing the electrical code amendments.

8. Update on the Development of a MAG Standard for the Americans with Disabilities Act

Alan Olson, Chairman of the AZBO Code Change Committee said that there was nothing to report. He noted that he and Steve Burger have not yet met with a representative of the Attorney General's Office on the matter.

9. State Plumbing Code Commission

Steve Burger distributed a bill which would establish a Commission to study the State Plumbing Code Commission and its accomplishments. Concern was expressed that the recommendations of the Commission, based on the 1994 Uniform Plumbing Code, had not been fully adopted, when the time was approaching to examine adoption of the 2000 Code.

10. Legislative Issues

Leon Manuel reported that in late December he was appointed to an Energy Committee. The Energy Committee only met once and decided not to require a mandatory state energy code.

11. Meeting Schedule for 2000

Leon Manuel commented that he had asked for a meeting schedule for the MAG Building Codes Committee for the duration of 2000 to be distributed to keep everyone informed on the timing of the meetings for the rest of the year. He referred committee members to Attachment Three.

12. Topics for Future Agendas

John Guenther asked that the next agenda include an item related to establishing a Work Program for the MAG Building Codes Committee. The purpose of the work program would be to outline issues and programs to address in the coming year. He also suggested circulating the Committee's mission statement and objectives for further review and discussion; and a review of the relationship between the MAG Building Codes Committee and other MAG committees..

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.