



COGS BOARD 2015 Annual Report

COGS E-Newsletters—51 issues were e mailed to city-wide readership and COGS members.

The following issues resulted in Position Papers and COGS speaking before Council & Commissioners:

Bond Election

Pre-ballot stage: Supported the following-- line item ballot; reduction to non-maintenance projects; “Conversation with Council/Town Hall” open discussion sessions with public rather than 3 minute Kiva speaker limit

Post-ballot: *Spoke at Kiva/city hall...* Reminded Council of their unsuccessful public support record i.e. Nov 2010 Transportation Bond defeat 51%...Nov 2010 Public Safety Bond defeat 52%....March 2012 GP 51% defeat WHY? Because they continue to ignore the voters’ messages.

Diamond Estates Project COGS met in the homes of area homeowners multiple times. Area leaders got 100% Legal Protest signatures on all sides of the site. Residents and COGS spoke at the Planning Commission and city council (twice). Result: Planning Commission voted 5-2 to not recommend the project to Council. Council denied it 7-0.

Los Gatos and Camelot Homes COGS met with Los Gatos leaders and other area neighbors. The final project east of Pima Road was reduced from 100 homes to 50 homes with acceptable stipulations.

RockBar windows and alley lease COGS worked with Craftsman’s Court merchants’ issues for several months including individual meetings with council members. COGS represented them at council meetings. Result: 18 ft. wide windows must be closed during live entertainment. Result: The missing kitchen for the “dining alley” was to be installed. Result: In spite of 4 years of lease violation, Council did not terminate the alley lease or increase the rent to market value. Result: On 11 Jan 2016, COGS questioned council’s definition of a “kitchen”. Is the installed microwave, sink and roasting oven a “restaurant kitchen” as required by the terms of the lease? According to staff, the city has no definition for a kitchen. The meager finger foods kitchen was accepted.

The Outpost Six COGS Board members worked with residents in opposition to a gas station, retail and restaurant, attended developer open houses, and spoke at Planning Commission and City Council. Result: Rural area residents lost as city council approved the rezoning of the NW corner of Dynamite and Pima Road to Commercial Zoning in a 5 to 2 council vote. Councilman Littlefield and Phillips voted no in support of residents.

Fate Brewery COGS toured with the owner during construction. Neighbors were concerned about a building feature—a tall “silo” on the SW corner. Result: The owner listened to neighbors and willingly painted the silo a plain color plus planted trees along the south sidewalk to reduce silo view. Result: Project approved at City Council 7-0.

General Plan 2035 The entire COGS Board and COGS volunteers worked many months on editing and writing recommendations that were key changes to Land Use and Character and Design issues in the Task Force 2035 draft. The protection from decreasing Rural areas, neighborhood Character Area policies and firming definitions to correctly direct council and commissioner decisions were the focus. Multiple meetings were held with city Planning Staff and individual council members. COGS’ final Land Use matrix and edits were delivered to be included on 28 Sept 2015 for the city council work study report. Result: Awaiting pending council study sessions in 2016

Arts District Concerns COGS hosted a meeting in April with Councilwoman Korte and 4 Art District representatives. Concerns were street maintenance, city market funds needed, and competing canal pop-up tents. This morphed into a full-blown 5th Ave/Stetson, Marshall Way, Main Street 200 business member petition to rescind now and not renew the Artisan Markets tents on the Marshall Way Bridge. COGS hosted and/or attended multiple Arts District, Mayor and staff meetings to explain the issues and actions requested. Result: Artisan Market’s 2015-16 existing Marshall Bridge Special Events approved use was terminated Dec. 2015 by the Director of the Planning Department. Result: The bridge was freed for trolley and pedestrian traffic. Result: The city was not supporting out of town vendors and they were no longer taking business from established brick and mortar area businesses. Result: Artisan Market’s second request for a Special Event permit for February and March 2016 was rejected in January 2016 by the Special Events Committee.

Transportation Master Plan 2016 COGS alerted the downtown merchants and Villa Monterey leaders of the proposed narrowing of Scottsdale Road through the Downtown and widening Chaparral Road from Hayden west to the bridge. The Downtown merchants and property owners gathered petition signatures and arranged a meeting with the acting city manager. Citizen speakers were organized with body signs and filled the Transportation Commission meeting. Result: Director, Paul Basha, promised to remove both from the proposed TMP but advised that the Transportation Commissioners have kept them both in for further discussion. Result: Everyone continues on alert and is encouraged to attend the City Council hearing when on the 2016 agenda.

Special Events Ordinance. Many COGS members attended all Arts District and Special Events Ordinance public work sessions over a 4 month period. COGS Board members also attended smaller conferences with staff teams. Our earlier complaints to city council members forced the Special Events group to stop writing their staff-generated ordinance and to open to greater public input. Individual council members met with COGS and were advised of examples such as the RockBar with 48 “special event” approvals plus the tent vendors on the Marshall Bridge as inappropriately defined as “special events”. Result: City Council directed staff to hold multiple public input sessions and to provide updated commentary on the city website including Special Ordinance Drafts. Result: February 2016 council will see a final draft.

CVS Pharmacy VS Scottsdale Ranch HOA (PLUS 4 other impacted HOAs) COGS joined the Scottsdale Ranch Director and Board members several times in conferences with the CVS attorney and his team. They want a new “Retail Support” zoning category for the CVS **tenant** on the SW corner of 96th St. and Shea Blvd. They describe their project as placing a full service CVS pharmacy “for the convenience of their employees but open to the public”. If approved, this would change 5 other Scottsdale HOA neighborhoods with the current Commercial-Office zoning protection that is a required land use transition zone to residential neighborhoods. Result: Scottsdale Ranch is using its newsletter to provide the proposed project facts. CVS attorney team did a door-to-door “survey” without full disclosure of their intent to place retail on the SW corner of 96th and Shea Blvd. Residents’ survey responses are therefore skewed without complete knowledge. Current status: No recent contact from CVS representatives.

Wireless Towers Issue COGS attended the Navajo Grade School area meeting hosted by T-Mobile. They have strong opposition to a Type 4, and excessive 50 ft. pole in the church yard south of the school and immediately adjacent to homes SE of Camelback Road and Granite Reef Rd. City ordinance “requires” co-location on approved towers, however the tower on Camelback Rd at SAAR facility just 2 blocks away will not allow adding T Mobile to their pole. Recently, another tower was erected just one block north of the T Mobile site in Open Arms Church. T Mobile now proposes placing the tower and service building in the church front yard on Granite Reef Road. Another wireless tower has been approved at Pima Rd and Mc Donald Drive. Result: Neighborhood opposition continues and the city is not enforcing its co-location requirement.

Shoeman Lane Office & garage building north of Galleria COGS has met with the developer, spoken at two Design Development Commission hearings, met with two council members and two area property owners. The building is too large for the site (goes to property line with no setback unless it takes city sidewalk and street parking as requested...also it rises vertically 72 ft. without step back). Result: Development Review Board 1st hearing was continued with directives of changes needed. Councilman Smith chaired this hearing and stated his objections to the project. At DRB #2 hearing chaired by Councilwoman Milhaven it was approved 5 to 2. ..Now it goes to Planning Commissioners without change.

Text Amendment companion to Shoeman Lane office/garage case Requests additional 6 feet on all Downtown Overlay Planned Block Development buildings for HVAC etc. Takes Shoeman bldg. to 96 ft. *The council-appointed Downtown Taskforce Policy Recommendation was no project could exceed a set zoning building height.* COGS spoke to DRB in support of that policy. Result: no DRB action. Planning Commissioners will hear the Text Amendment proposal and send their recommendation to City Council.

Tourism Advisory Task Force A COGS Board member attended all 2015 TATF 4 hour monthly sessions at SkySong. This council-appointed committee is developing a 5 year tourism plan that includes festivals, events, activities for locals, venue location improvements etc. We spoke periodically on hot issues (eliminating “mall” from Civic Center name, supporting Arts District with bed tax funds, better defining and more appropriate TATF promotion of what is a “special events” Results: Chairman Holsworth was not supportive of the Arts District, 5th Avenue and Marshall Way merchants and property owners opposition to the Marshall Bridge vendors. Actions: They have paid The Webb consultant \$75,000 to identify types of festivals in other USA cities which they presented in a PowerPoint. Actions: They have approved \$75,000 and \$65,000 for one and two day Polo and Rugby events. No funds have been proposed/approved to supplement the city’s \$18,000 for the annual marketing of the Arts District or Old Town District.

Round-a-bouts There will be a round-about on Cattle Track north of Chaparral Road. Under construction is another round-about on Chaparral Road west of Scottsdale Road. Multiple public and neighborhood meetings were attended by COGS. Result: After tweaking, both projects received residents’ approval.

Residential-condo-apartment projects summary:

Results: In Northern Scottsdale--There is Planning Department support to approve high density and higher elevation complexes along Loop 101 in northern Scottsdale. They also recommend mixed development on the eastern side of Scottsdale Road.

Results: In Southern Scottsdale—. The Las Aquas, Brie Scottsdale, and Taylor-Morris/Paddock Pool units are rising quickly. Clayton Property’s two apt. buildings south of Osborn have topped out. The large project at NEC 64th St/McDowell Rd. will be working through DRB soon. The McDowell Corridor has 3 more clustered/multifamily complexes in application on the eastern side of Scottsdale Road.

2015 was an extremely busy year for hosted neighborhood conferences, attorney and developer meetings, public hearings, council and commission presentations, and sitting through hours and hours of council, Task Force and commission hearings. This does not include all those smaller meetings in Stop One lobby during pre-application with some 2016 planned project teams. COGS Board appreciates that many developers contact us in the Pre-Application stage. We can then host conferences with neighborhood leaders to provide early input **toward the goal of supporting an appropriate project that will benefit the neighborhood and the city.**