

BASIS

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stone, Lawrence said that the district's three pieces of vacant land will also be receiving an appraisal alongside the former Four Peaks campus.

"Once that's done, then we can talk about properties as a whole, individual properties and what have you," he continued.

"Until then, we don't know the current value of what we have, so that needs to be done first."

Lawrence said that the next step would be for the board to discuss what it wishes to do with the prop-

erty in question.

"If they want to sell the property or properties, then that needs to go on a voter ballot and there are certain parameters as to what money gained from a sale could be used for," Lawrence added.

"If they want to lease the Four Peaks site, we'd most likely move into a 'request for proposal' process to identify the facility and the types of things we're looking for, so folks can express interest under our conditions and with the fair market price."

"We have to make sure those things are in place moving forward, whether it's BASIS or some other organization we're talking to."

Lawrence said that FHUSD is currently in talks to begin the appraisal process.

Currently, a local church is leasing a portion of the Four Peaks campus, which Lawrence said must also be considered.

"With regard to our current tenant, the district doesn't want to lose sight of our obligation to them in this process," he added.

"As for previous inquiries, we've had organizations show interest in the past, but those never panned out for one reason or another."

Downtown developer takes a step

When the Town Council meets this week it is expected to take its first action related to a new proposal for downtown development.

The property owner, Park Place Properties LLC, has asked the council to consider the termination of a development agreement. The agreement was originally approved in 1997 with MCO Properties.

That agreement, among other items, transferred the property now the site of the Civic Center (Town Hall, Community Center and Library/Museum) as well as transferring Fountain Park to the town.

Since most of the goals of the agreement have either been accomplished or become obsolete, Park Place is asking for a termination of the agreement to allow for its planned new development.

Staff is recommending the council approve the termination stating any outstanding issues related to the agreement are outweighed by the benefit of potential development in the downtown.

The council will also be considering a request by SRP for five special use permits to accommodate construction of smarter router equipment (see separate story).

There is also consideration of accepting an invitation to bid from Nickel Contracting for Fountain Park Phase 6 improvements in the amount of \$697,280. The town had budgeted \$1.4 million from the CIP for this project.

The council has on its agenda a discussion and resolution that would sunset the town's Public Safety Advisory Commission.

The terms of three of the PSAC members expired as of Dec. 31, 2014, two others have resigned leaving just two active members for the commission.

The Fountain Hills Kiwanis clubs will be recognized for their years of service in the community, 40 years for Noon Kiwanis and 39 years for Sunset Kiwanis. Also, there will be recognition of Noon Kiwanis United Blood Services Hero Award for organization of blood drives.

P&Z supports SRP poles

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Planning and Zoning Commission has given its unanimous support to a Salt River Project request to install routers for its smart meter system in Fountain Hills.

At its Feb. 12 meeting the commission considered five special use permit requests from the utility that will allow it to install router antennas on five private lots.

The five sites requiring the special use permit are also high visibility and SRP will be using faux saguaro antenna.

James Horvath, president of the SunRidge Canyon HOA, told the commission they had been working with SRP regarding changes to a location on Sundown Drive.

Horvath said SRP has been cooperative in discussing the different site. He recommended the commission support the request.

SRP's Mariann Ward explained that the upgrade in the smart meter infrastructure will allow customers to

better manage their power consumption. Customers can see power use in near real time and make adjustments in price plans.

Ward said the real time data helps customers use up-to-date information to enroll in "time of use" plans.

She said the smart meter infrastructure also provides greater security with an SRP-owned system rather than having data transmitted by cellular provider as it is now.

The technology also provides greater system reliability with increased visibility of outages and faster response times.

The Smart Grid modernization places the router antennas at certain elevations to provide optimum communication, according to Ward. There are 14 sites in Fountain Hills where the routers will be placed. Some of those will be on existing infrastructure such as existing SRP poles, private security lights or municipal streetlights.

Three are already installed in Fountain Hills.

Resident Dina Galassini told the commission she had just learned about the

meeting the day prior and wondered whether residents had enough time to prepare for such a discussion.

Galassini noted data indicating radio waves from smart meters could have harmful effects on health.

She provided the commission with a study and legal documentation related to the issue.

In his motion to recommend approval for each permit, Commission Vice Chairman Mike Archambault directed staff to provide the information Galassini presented to the council.

Archambault also asked Ward how old the technology is. She said the smart meters have been in use in Fountain Hills and other service areas since 2008. She added that data is broadcast every 15 minutes.

The Town Council will consider the special use permit requests when it meets Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers at Town Hall.

The meeting is open to the public, and the permit requests will each include a public hearing.

Adero

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access to a myriad of desert hiking trails into McDowell Mountain Park and Scottsdale.

The development plan calls for a paved public street through the PAD area with an all-weather improved roadway continuing to the preserve boundary.

Once that access is in place the town can proceed with a plan for a trailhead at the preserve entry.

There is already a design and set of construction plans for the trailhead, as well as nearly \$2 million in designated construction funds.

The money was set aside from development fees collected for open space projects,

which is no longer a category for which the town can collect development fees.

With Adero Canyon development beginning, the town can start making budget plans for the trailhead construction.

Town Community Services Director Mark Mayer said they will need to wait for MCO to have a construction schedule firmly established before making specific plans for the trailhead.

The McDowell Mountain Preserve Commission is the advisory board that will make recommendations related to the trailhead.

The MMCP is set to be consolidated into the Community Services Advisory Commission at the end of 2017, or upon completion of the trailhead, whichever comes first, Mayer said.

Drones

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2012 Congress told the FAA to provide for "safe integration" of UAS by the end of September 2015.

This is to be an "incremental process" according to an FAA website. It will likely provide for

regulations, standards and policies for commercial use.

There is already a regulatory process for commercial and research use in place, but currently has very limited use.

At this time, Town Attorney Andrew McGuire declined to comment on the legal issues related to drones.



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