

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

October 20, 2004
Maricopa Association of Governments Office
Cholla Room
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Lee, Cave Creek	*Unappointed, Mesa
Ken Sowers, Avondale	V - Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley
Phil Marcotte, Buckeye	David Nakagawara, Peoria
*Mike Tibbett, Carefree	*Tom Wandrie, Proxy, Phoenix
Alex Banachowski, Chandler	Tim Wegner, Queen Creek
*Jeff Sterling, El Mirage	Larry Francis, Salt River Pima Indian Community
*Unappointed, Fountain Hills	David Potter, Scottsdale
V - Lynn Farmer, Gila Bend	Forrest Fielder, Surprise
*Jo Rene DeVeau, Gila River Indian Community	A - Roger Vermillion Proxy, Tempe
A – Ray Patten, Gilbert	Mario Rochin, Tolleson
*Deborah Mazoyer, Glendale	*Lyle Murdock, Wickenburg
Steve Burger, Goodyear	Bob Cooperider, Youngtown
*Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park	Tom Ewers, Maricopa County
	Rus Brock, Home Builders Association

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
A-Those members participating via audioconference
V-Those members participating via videoconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michelle Green, MAG
Constance Kish, MAG

Cheryl Levandowski

1.

Call to Order

The Chairperson, Bob Lee, Town of Cave Creek, called the meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee to order, at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. September 15, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Mario Rochin moved to accept the minutes; Tom Ewers seconded the motion. Mr. Lee asked if there were any comments prior to taking a vote. There were no comments, a vote was taken and passed with David Nakagawara of Peoria abstaining.

4. Call to the Audience

This agenda item was changed to comments from the committee because there were no members of the public there to speak and because the item inadvertently left off of the agenda for this meeting.

David Nakagawara took a moment to inform the committee of the passing of Joe Hernandez who was a Senior Plans Examiner for the City of Peoria. He explained that Mr. Hernandez lost his 7-8 month battle with lung and then brain cancer. The committee recognized a moment of silence in his honor.

Cheryl Levandowski then provided the committee with an update on the September 21st, 2004 Building Inspectors/ Plans Examiners Forum. Cheryl presented the minutes of their meeting to the committee and then chose a couple of items from the meeting to focus on.

Cheryl noted that most jurisdictions are requiring Hi Pot Testing for 1000amps or more. She noted that Avondale and Cave Creek have not seen 1000amp services yet but if they did, she indicated that they would require Hi Pot Testing.

Cheryl then referred to the fact that eight inches is required for notching of top plates rather than six. She added that there is concern that this will damage the structural integrity of the top plates.

Bob then added that the issue might be with the length of the strap.

Cheryl agreed indicating that some are making their own straps. She stated that some jurisdictions are now requiring and approved strap be used.

Forrest then discussed the recall of breakers, suggesting that it would be helpful to have building officials and builders develop a solution.

Bob then added that there is not enough information to identify which ones are recalled.

Ken then posed the question; how should the committee handle asking?

Forrest added that he had spoken with Square D and they indicated that they are recalling serial numbers CN to JN and he added that they have a blue tag. The new tags, he stated, are green. He then explained that the company began shipping replacements on October 6 and they will be shipping as many as necessary to replace the defective ones. Holding up finals, he said, to wait for these should be ok.

Bob agreed with Forrest that it is definitely within the code to hold up final approvals.

Rus stated that he would be willing to put an article in their newsletter and he suggested that water bill stuffers might also be a way to get the word out. He added that the homebuilders played a more active role in the sprinkler recall in Scottsdale; however, he explained it is more difficult in this instance for homebuilders to go back and determine whom the owner is.

Bob then said that he would take a nodding of heads as an indication that the issue is to be addressed at final approval. Committee members then nodded in agreement.

David Nakagawara then referred to the issue of energy codes and how Building Officials and Inspectors handle them. He gave the example that if a jurisdiction adopts the IRC without amendments then the IECC is automatically adopted. He added that the design community is not sure where jurisdictions stand on this issue.

Bob then referred to Sections 313.1 and 313.2 of the UPC and recalled a decision that was made by the Building Inspectors/Plans Examiners Forum that determined that the only fill that could be used was grout.

Cheryl clarified that the decision referred only to the tub.

Steve Burger suggested that the BI/PE forum might discuss the concept of undue stress means and bring the discussion back to the Building Codes Committee.

Bob then moved on to the topic of imported building products such as special glass. Bob asked the committee for any suggestions on how to determine whether or not a glass product from somewhere like China for example, is tempered.

Steve Burger suggested that the Building Official in that case would be well within their right to request information that confirms the fact that a product conforms to the appropriate building code.

Bob then asked if everyone received a guide to performance based codes and then asked if anyone was considering using this approach in their codes. Nobody said that they were.

Bob then referred to ENR Magazine where he found an article from a Washington based group that suggested that building codes need to be cleaned up. The article, he explained referred a study that was done which blamed a fire in Chicago on the State for not enforcing state codes within the city. Bob then noted that the code game is often a political football.

A State Energy Code Advisory Committee was cancelled because there was no quorum. This committee has a report intended to address energy in the State will go before the Governor. It was noted that some people understood that this code is a commercial code; however, it was noted that it may be more than that.

5. Conductor Sizing

Bob Lee referred to table 310.13 of the NEC and noted that different correction factors are being used around the Valley. It was his opinion that the correction factors could all be the same since the temperature does not vary that significantly throughout the Valley.

Steve responded by stating that the City of Phoenix uses a range of 105 – 113

Cheryl Levandowski then responded by stating that the problem could be related to the fact that attics can be much higher in temperature than the remainder of the house.

6. Plan Review Survey

Dave Potter indicated that Scottsdale does not do individual electrical, plumbing or mechanical review of. He then added that they do in cases where there is something unique or the project is large.

Bob added that he sees significant corrections to drawings.

Dave Potter then clarified his point by stating that he is not advocating that these reviews not be done, rather he is was merely explaining the way that it has always been done in Scottsdale.

Cheryl then added that a review is required in Peoria.

The consensus is that most jurisdictions do separate reviews.

7. Water Heater Permits

David reported that he has most of the information and will bring a more finalized version to the next meeting for review. He indicated that he would add caveats that the permit prices and phone #'s are applicable at the time of printing.

8. Update on the State Plumbing Commission

Steve suggested that the meeting announcements be sent out with the meeting minutes.

Bob Lee expressed disappointment at the lack of representation on this committee by Mr. Sullivan. Bob then added that he had heard statements that indicate that Mr. Sullivan believes he is representing Phoenix, when in fact, he is supposed to be representing Central Arizona.

9. Building Codes Compilation and Web Addition Project.

Michelle noted that the job description was circulated at the ASU School of Construction and interviews will be set in November.

10. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

Changes were noted and an updated roster will be circulated next month.

11. Update Survey of Code Adoption

Changes were noted to the Survey of Code Adoption. These changes will be made prior to the next meeting of the Building Codes Committee.

12. Topics for Future Agendas

A representative of the Steel Fabricators will present.
Mr. Fizzell, President of AZBO will address the Committee.

13. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on December 16, 2004 at 2 pm in the Cholla Room. Mario Rochin made the motion to adjourn, Ken seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 pm.