

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 17, 2003
MAG Offices
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek, Chair	Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa, Vice Chair	* Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix
* Mayor John Keegan, Peoria, Treasurer	* Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise
	Mayor Woody Thomas, Litchfield Park

* Not present

Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 12:17 p.m.

2. Call to the Audience

_____ Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr stated that no public comment cards were received.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Thomas moved to approve the consent agenda items #3A Approval of the October 20, 2003 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and #3B Amendment to the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Accept Additional Federal Transit Administration Funding. Mayor Hawker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3A. Approval of the October 20, 2003 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Committee, by consent, approved the minutes of the October 20, 2003 meeting.

3B. Amendment to the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Accept Additional Federal Transit Administration Funding.

_____ The Executive Committee approved, by consent, amending the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to add \$21,270 in FY 2003 Federal Transit Administration 5303 planning funds. The Arizona Department of Transportation has notified MAG that the amount of

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5303 planning funds for 2003 has been increased by \$21,270. This funding needs to be added to the FY 2004 MAG Work Program.

4. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Dennis Smith stated that Eric Anderson will give an overview of discussions at the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) meeting on November 12, 2003. He also mentioned the joint meeting with MAG, Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG) on November 20, 2003 at the Casa Grande Holiday Inn.

Mr. Anderson stated that there was a lot of discussion on the definition of a major versus a minor amendment to the Plan. Mayor Berman suggested that an amendment should require a positive vote of 12 members, which had the support of the group. Mr. Anderson stated that this was a major step forward. He also noted that he and Mr. Smith have been meeting with legislators over the past three to four weeks. Mr. Anderson stated that there was a very good discussion with East Valley delegates of the Legislature, as well as the editorial board of the East Valley Tribune. Mayor Manross asked who attended the editorial board meeting. Mr. Anderson stated that Bob Schuster, Karen Whittmer and Jason Emerson were in attendance. He explained that the Tribune was running anti light rail articles and it was perceived that the Tribune did not support the Plan. The Tribune clarified that it is the light rail component only that they do not support. Mr. Anderson stated that there was also discussion about the five year review and that the meeting went well. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that they said they will focus on the measures and accountability. Mr. Anderson stated that he expects to see a story in the Tribune clarifying their position. He also noted that there was discussion regarding the May 18th vote and that Maricopa County does not have the money to hold a May election. Mr. Anderson stated that there has been some discussion at the legislature of splitting the Plan into two element – light rail and everything else.

Mr. Smith stated that he has been contacted by Maricopa County 2020 and was told that a special event for the legislature is still planned. Mayor Thomas asked for clarification on the funding regarding light rail. Mr. Anderson replied the funding for the first 20 mile segment of light rail is largely funded by Phoenix and Tempe. The voters in Phoenix approve the 20-mile segment. Mr. Anderson explained that the bulk of the money is post 2010 and that the rail would be in full operation in 2007. Mayor Manross asked if there was enough RARF money to hold an election. Mayor Hawker stated that he believes that it costs approximately \$2-\$3 million for a countywide election. Mr. Smith explained that it would be written in the legislation that RARF money would cover holding the election.

Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Anderson for their update.

5. Status Update on the June 30, 2003 Single Audit and Management Letter Comments. MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and OMB Circular A-133 Reports (i.e., "Single Audit

Becky Kimbrough reported that MAG implemented the Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) 34 this year, which is a new method. The main focus for MAG was on the reporting of fixed assets. Ms. Kimbrough also reported on the 2003 MAG audit. She stated that the audit is

presently not completed, but to date, there are no reportable conditions, material weaknesses, management letter comments, or single audit findings, and an unqualified Audit Opinion is expected.

Mr. Smith asked Mrs. Kimbrough to report on the GFOA Award. Ms. Kimbrough stated that MAG received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Budget Award for FY 2004. Mr. Smith noted that one comment from a GFOA reviewer was that it is the “best budget document he has read.”

6. Continuum of Care Update

Earnest Calderon, Chair of the Continuum of Care, thanked the Executive Committee for their time and interest in this important issue. He stated that there would be no cooperative effort without MAG. He noted that the Regional Plan to End Homelessness was completed in February 2003 and provides the blueprint to effectively address the causes of homelessness and for ending homelessness for a specific population. Mr. Calderon explained that the first goal is to try and prevent homelessness by increasing affordable housing to people under 30 percent median income. The second is to remove the barriers to accessing services. He explained that it is also important to create a dedicated source of local funding for the development of housing and support services. Mr. Calderon stated that data collection is fundamental to the on-going evaluation. He noted that we need to develop hard data to show the cost effectiveness of the interventions.

Mr. Calderon noted examples of cities and agencies successful strategies to end homelessness. He noted that the City of Tempe declared that it will develop and implement a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, and Health Care for the Homeless Clinic and Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation are collaborating to develop 100 units of housing for chronically homeless persons with disabilities. Mr. Calderon then explained where we go from here. He stated that we need to look at membership, which currently is primarily municipalities and social service based. He suggested incorporating the business community and bringing new members to the table. Mr. Calderon stated that a faith-based initiative has begun, along with a speakers bureau to spread the message. He noted that the Regional Continuum of Care Committee engaged in a Strategic Planning Retreat in September 2003 that resulted in goal setting and prioritization for 2004. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Calderon for his report.

Mayor Thomas referenced the subsidized housing issue in the Valley’s cities. He noted that the need far exceeds what is available and some cities are closing their voucher lists. The average wait for a voucher in the Valley is one to five years. Mr. Calderon stated that he would look into it. He stated that we need to know if we are not meeting the demand. Mayor Thomas noted that the faith based organizations are already involved and that we need to focus on strengthening and expanding their programs. Mayor Manross stated that the 2004 goal to have a speakers bureau is critical and part of the education process. She emphasized the importance of having a strong, cohesive message. Mr. Calderon agreed that the focus needs to be on developing a simple, clear message.

Mayor Hawker stated 12,000 homeless out of 4 million people in Maricopa County is amazingly low. He noted that the Continuum of Care Committee supports the efforts to end homelessness, and believes that even 12,000 homeless people are too many. Mayor Hawker replied that it

depends on the definition of homeless. Debra Determan explained that the general homeless population is undercounted with a current count of 12,500. She stated that those hardest to count are the chronically homeless, such as those with drug abuse problems and mental illness. Ms. Determan noted that the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will help to more accurately count the homeless. Mayor Hawker stated that communities will always have some homeless, such as those with chronic drug abuse or mental illness. He explained that at some point, there needs to be a concentration on those you can help. He also believes that a goal to end homelessness is unrealistic. Mayor Hawker replied that the key may be in prevention and early intervention. Mr. Calderon agreed prevention and early intervention is necessary as supportive services. He also noted that the Continuum of Care Committee is a MAG Committee and has taken, and will continue to take direction of the MAG Regional Council. Mr. Calderon explained that the volunteers on this Committee believe that everyone has a social responsibility regarding homelessness. Mayor Hawker expressed his concern about social responsibility tying in with government.

Mayor Manross stated that she also believes that there should be focus on prevention and early intervention. She noted that this is a regional issue as one community may impact another community and the numbers of homeless may be very different but there is a social responsibility. Mayor Hawker suggested just changing the definition of success. Mr. Calderon stated his presentation was based on the Regional Plan to end Homelessness.. Mr. Smith stated we have had great success and other cities like Dallas are looking to mirror our process. He noted we ought to celebrate our successes – our ability to bring nearly \$16 million annually to help with this issue. Mr. Smith stated that we have had, and still have, some great volunteers working on this regional issue. Chair Feldman-Kerr agreed. She also noted that most MAG Committees are chaired by an elected official except for the Continuum of Care Committee. Mayor Thomas stated that he is pleased to be able to see the broader perspective. Mr. Calderon stated that the people that serve on this committee serve at the MAG Regional Council's pleasure, and will change course if the Regional Council wishes. Chair Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Calderon for his time and for his report.

7. Process for Executive Director's Performance Review

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that at the October 20, 2003 Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Smith was asked to provide a performance review instrument and the results of the Appreciative Inquiry survey completed by the staff. Chair Feldman-Kerr asked Mr. Smith to review the material. Mr. Smith stated that he modified an evaluation form to reflect such things as staff input, regional development programs and the budget process. He then requested guidance from the Committee on where to go from here. Mr. Smith noted the Executive Director's performance evaluation is done by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Regional Council, which also needs to be discussed. Chair Feldman-Kerr suggested a summary version of the performance evaluation form with a rating scale to be distributed to the Regional Council. Mr. Smith noted that he began with a rating scale but thought that might drive to a score. Chair Feldman-Kerr replied that it should not be a score, but she was concerned that one single idea would overshadow other responses or the lack of other written responses. Mayor Thomas noted that some members might not have the knowledge to answer some of the questions. Chair Feldman-Kerr agreed.

Mayor Hawker asked Mr. Smith what would be useful to him. Mr. Smith stated that he would prefer an executive session with frank discussion. Mayor Hawker commented on Mr. Smith's strength in knowing what the Regional Council members want, researching an issue, and not pursuing an issue that he knows will not work. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that the Appreciative Inquiry survey is also good information. She noted that it explains how the staff feels about MAG. Mayor Thomas stated that this would be a timeline, a document to prepare us for next year. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that there also needs to be a discussion regarding salary. She noted that salary negotiations is one area that a consultant sometimes helps.

Norris Nordvold noted that Mayor-elect Phil Gordon is interested in retaining a seat on Executive Committee. Chair Feldman-Kerr requested that legal counsel research the By-laws regarding filling the Past Chair position on the Executive Committee.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary