

MINUTES
Joint Retreat and Forum
MAYOR and COUNCIL
and the
YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
CVMO TRAINING ROOM
646 S. First Street
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Working Together for the Future

Dinner and Conversation:

All Council members were present and Tribal Council members Billy Garner, Cora-lei Marquez, and Roberta Quail were present when dinner began at 6:45 p.m. Tribal Chairman Thomas Beauty and Vice Chair Norman Smith joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Staff members present included: Yavapai-Apache Nation Clerk Karla Reimer, Town Manager Michael Scannell, Assistant to the Town Manager Carol Brown, Deputy Clerk Virginia Jones, and Town Clerk Deborah Barber.

Welcome and Opening Comments: Mayor Gioia called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. & welcomed Tribal Council Members. He thanked the members of the First Assembly of God Church, Norma Garrison, and staff members for the dinner. He then opened the meeting for discussion.

Note: The conversation flowed freely and the agenda was not followed. The following is a summary of the discussion of the agendized items.

- **Our respective community visions, challenges, and needs**
There was no discussion concerning this matter.
- **Improving Communication**
There was no discussion concerning this matter.
- **Developing a Partnership/Relationship to enable a positive legacy for future generations to include:**
 - **Protection of the Verde River and Water Resources** (This item was raised following SR 260).
Mayor Gioia advised that the City of Williams is getting legislation that will allow pumping from the Verde River Watershed Basin and that even though SRP and ADWR agreed to allow it; the governments should stand strong against it. He invited the Nation to the meeting with Verde Valley Mayors and the City of Williams Mayor tomorrow regarding this issue, noting that this one tiny little piece of legislation would set a precedent.

Chairman Beauty stressed that it seemed illogical that we all fight over water, yet we continue to allow development to come in. He said that the Town allowed 1,000 homes to be built and use up all the water for the benefit of a developer. He said that he did not understand. He said that we should be planning and building homes, not to generate revenue, noting that the Nation builds just enough homes for their people.

Vice Chair Smith said that we need to focus on conservation, noting that as a farmer himself, he knows about conservation. He said there are other ways to farm than irrigation, such as green house growing. He said that the Nation is attempting to get a

CAP allocation and advised that the Native Americans use less water than the average American. He said water is like gold, it is as valuable as the air we breathe.

Garrison noted that the Verde River is common ground and needs to be protected.

Gioia advised that the Council recently directed staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission to come up with conservation measures. He also advised that he had appeared on the Fox News Network regarding the Wild and Scenic designation for Fossil Creek, noting that he had told them that the Yavapai-Apache Nation started the effort.

➤ **Access Management for SR 260** (This item was discussed first.)

Councilor Smith said that it was important for the two governing bodies to stand united and have a joint voice when it came to ADOT's plans for SR 260. He noted that both the Nation and the Town were dependent on this area for our future economic development. Smith spoke of the proposed bypass that would essentially derail Camp Verde's economic corridor.

Chairman Beauty responded that the two bodies should have talked to ADOT long ago because they have already started construction and it is too late to change. He advised that the Nation had worked closely with ADOT and were able to accommodate their plans. Later in the meeting, Beauty advised that they did not want to tell the Town what they were doing, but that the bypass might or might not be beneficial to the Tribe, and that they must always consider what is best for their Nation.

Vice Chair Norman Smith said the Town needed to work with the property owners on the corridor. He said that ADOT worked with the Nation as a community, but that it was important for the Nation and the Town to work together on common issues.

Gioia reiterated that the Town and the Nation must come together on this and present a united voice, and that ADOT would come around because it did not make sense with all the environmental concerns, to build a road across the mountain when they could build it right where it is.

Norman Smith agreed and noted many issues facing both governments including water, air quality, and growth.

➤ **Transportation Services between Clarkdale and Camp Verde**

Councilor Smith advised that he had spoken with the grants writer at a conference last year and learned that there is \$5 million available to Tribal entities for transportation. He noted that all of the citizens needed transportation between Camp Verde, Clarkdale, and Cottonwood, and suggested that the two governments could work together to accomplish this. He suggested that the Nation could apply for the grant and the Town could keep it funded with our LTAF monies, noting that transportation services, though essential, are never a profitable venture.

Vice Chair Smith said with regard to grant applications, plans had to be made first, and that you had to consider the funding cycles. He agreed that this was an issue that needed further consideration.

Councilor Smith suggested that we bring the County in on the discussions. He said that if we did not start somewhere, we would never get to the finish line.

Ron Smith then advised that he had received several comments about including a Cultural Language component in the new public library. Tribal members spoke against

this idea, stating that it was part of their lives and history, and it would not be fitting. Tribal Councilor Cora-lei Marquez noted that they are working on a grant for a library and their elders would make the decision to keep this within their community.

➤ **Community Park**

Councilor Smith advised that the Town had purchased the parkland and would be beginning the public planning process. He invited the Nation to participate in the planning. He also advised he had spoken with several friends and contractors who would volunteer their equipment and time to build the park.

Vice Chair Smith said that he had thought of a park for the Cloverleaf area years ago, but then they got involved with the Town over the Sand and Rock issue.

Councilor Elmer said it would take about one year to complete the Master Plan and advised that the Town planned to apply for grants to develop the park in stages. He noted that he has coached Little League teams for years and the T-ball teams have yet to experience a ball field.

The group acknowledged that our citizens make use of the ballparks in Cottonwood.

• **Closing Remarks**

Chairman Beauty noted that it had been years since the two governing bodies had talked. He said we can sit, eat, and talk, but putting talk into action is a different story. He explained there are some things that the Nation does not want others to know about that would benefit them and if it got out in the public, it could jeopardize their government and their people. He said there were some things that we could work on together, but SR 260 was not one of them. He expressed concerns that when people say, "Let's work with the Tribe", they really mean that the Tribe is paying the bill. He said that there are things the two governing bodies have in common and that they needed to be put on the table to be analyzed and strategized to determine who would benefit, who would be paying the bill, if we are meeting half-way, or if the Nation is doing all the work. He said that he did not like to mince words and he did not mind working together as long as the Nation is not doing all of the work.

He spoke of the "green bus" that the Town used to have and told a story of his Mother and son riding the bus all around the Town with no other riders. He said that we needed to begin with 'baby steps' and not get too many things in the fire. He said we should pick one common issue that benefits both well, noting that the two boards can be a role model for government. He said that he could see that happening.

Vice Chair Smith said that he grew up in Clarkdale and Sedona and therefore, had a different view of the community. He explained that his opinion was we needed to work together. He explained he owned the Shell station and a few other businesses, so he knows what it takes to make things happen and that it was not just one, but a whole community. He advised that he never saw 'color' as he was growing up and that is what we need to convey to the community, as we have the same issues.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.


Deborah Barber, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING, minutes are a true and accurate accounting of the discussion of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde during the Retreat/Forum held on the 26th day of February 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 6 day of March 2008

Deborah Barber
Deborah Barber, Town Clerk