

Ahwatukee planning panel no longer meets regularly

by **Cathryn Creno** - Jan. 25, 2011 08:30 AM
The Arizona Republic

A year after Phoenix City Councillman Sal DiCiccio replaced about half of the members of the Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee with people he said would be "dynamos," the committee struggled to get a quorum at its first meeting of 2011.

Members on Monday night spent 15 minutes calling and texting nine absentees. By 6:15 p. m., the group finally had 11 people - enough to approve an update of the Phoenix General Plan and elect a new chairman and vice-chair.

Doug Cole, who was unanimously re-elected chairman, said the committee has not met regularly in 18 months, and many members are out of the habit of attending its meetings on the fourth Monday of every month. Ahwatukee attorney Melanie Beauchamp was unanimously elected vice chairwoman.

"Back in the day when Ahwatukee was still developing. we were meeting every month," said Cole, a government affairs consultant and longtime committee member.

"But in the last 18 months there hasn't been much development in Ahwatukee. I don't want to meet just to meet."

DiCiccio has said he is disappointed that the group has not met more and taken more initiative on community issues in the last year.

The committee also unanimously approved

an update of the 2000 Phoenix General Plan, which is expected to be voted on by the Phoenix City Council in March, then go to Phoenix voters for approval in the August general election.

It also suggested to city staff a number of 2011 meeting topics, including changes to the route of the planned South Mountain



Freeway if the Gila River Indian Community agrees to move the planned freeway to tribal land, plans for a new city park southwest of 19th Avenue and Chandler Boulevard and a possible medical complex on vacant land east of 50th Street and Chandler Boulevard.

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