



# Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Inc.

## PMPC ACTIVITIES UPDATE: OCTOBER 27, 2017

\*\*\*\* PMPC Executive Board & Patrick McMullen, PMPC President \*\*\*\*

**HELLO PMPC MEMBERS:** The *PMPC ACTIVITIES UPDATE* is an informative summary of PMPC's current priority topics and their status. We issue these updates between our full newsletters to keep our members informed and knowledgeable. We welcome and encourage you to send PMPC the protection topics and issues you believe need more attention, monitoring, and/or tracking. Please e-mail PMPC at [pmpcaz@gmail.com](mailto:pmpcaz@gmail.com) Thank you!!

### **SAVE THE DATE!! PMPC Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner, November 6<sup>TH</sup> at 6:30 PM:**

The PMPC Annual Membership Dinner is set for Monday, November 6th, at 6:30 at the North Mountain Visitors Center. Journalist Ray Stern will be giving a talk about the "Beauty of Camelback." A light dinner will be served. RSVP if attending to [pmpcaz@gmail.com](mailto:pmpcaz@gmail.com). Other local organizations and the City of Phoenix are invited to keep us up-to-date on relevant topics.

### **PMPC Representatives attend Public Meeting and actively monitor the following Plans & Projects:**

- (1) South Mountain Freeway - Update:** The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard the oral arguments in the case for PARC (Protecting Arizona's Resources and Children) and GRIC (Gila River Indian Community) against ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) and the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration). The hearing held on October 19, 9:00 AM at the James R. Browning Courthouse, San Francisco. PMPC is one of the plaintiffs being represented by PARC. Each side had approximately 20 minutes to present their arguments. The hearing has been archived and can be heard at: [Watch recording for Protecting Arizona's Resources v. FHWA, No. 16-16586](#) (turn up the sound). The final ruling probably will come out a few weeks after the hearing. Hopefully, this case will be settled before the end of the year. To learn about PMPC's efforts to advocate and protect SMPP against the Loop 202 alignment, see the "202 Freeway" link on the <http://phoenixmountains.org/> website or visit Protecting Arizona's Resources and Children's website at <http://protectazchildren.org/> for more information about the struggle to preserve this iconic city recreation area.
- (2) North Mountain Access Road Update:** PMPC Representatives have attended the City of Phoenix Public Meetings and to keep PMPC Membership updated on the North Mountain Access Road. UPDATE: The City *continues to make updates* to replace the existing structures, and the existing access road is in a state of disrepair and needs substantial improvements to control drainage. INPUT NEEDED: Parked cars in the utility road access area have blocked tower service vehicles needing access. The future of this utility parking area is currently under consideration, with public safety and hiker safety both high priorities. Albert Granillo is the City of Phoenix contact and welcomes our ideas and our participation in a survey. Please e-mail [agranillo@gciaz.com](mailto:agranillo@gciaz.com) to participate.
- (3) Shaw Butte Access Road Update:** PMPC representatives attended the Public Meeting on the Shaw Butte Access Road. UPDATE: APS has replaced the Shaw Butte Towers with new towers. Currently, other communication companies continue to use the access road to connect new updated equipment to the new towers. The access road remains open to hikers. PMPC trail monitoring will continue.
- (4) South Mountain Trails Master Plan:** PMPC representatives have been attending public meetings and monitoring the development of the draft South Mountain Trails and Trail Names master plan. The Draft Trails Master Plan has been officially reviewed by Parks Board and final approval granted. PMPC trail monitoring will continue. Visit the City of Phoenix website at: <https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/southmntntrailplan>
- (5) Camelback Mountain House Construction Objection:** Currently the PV Board of Adjustment has postponed all Board Action until the current lawsuit between the Home Builder and the Local Home Owners is resolved – most likely in 2018. For local updates and action items, please visit the non-profit organization *Save Camelback Mountain* web site - <http://savecamelback.org/>

### **Updates & Information about upcoming events in our Preserves:**

- (6) Homelessness in the Desert Preserves:** Street homelessness in Maricopa County has risen nearly 60 percent in two years, increasing the numbers of homeless camps in the Preserves. The City of Phoenix Police Department now has a "Bike Squad" that allows the Police to survey the Phoenix Desert Preserves for homeless camps in the Preserves. If you see a "homeless camp" in the Preserve, please contact Sergeant Joseph Roberts at (602) 261-8996, or email at [joseph.roberts@phoenix.gov](mailto:joseph.roberts@phoenix.gov) to let them know the location of the homeless camp, and the Police will deal with the situation.
- (7) 22nd Annual National Trail Trek: Jan. 27, 2018:** On-line Registration opens, Saturday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM. Registration will fill quickly! Celebrate South Mountain's "National Trail," a historic and beautiful 15.5 mile trail from Pima Canyon to San Juan Lookout ridgeline. See Sonoran desert flora, native wildlife, and maybe ancient hidden Hohokam petroglyphs. Registration Fee (\$55) includes commemorative hiking shirt, lunch, refreshments, transportation to-from South Mountain Activity Complex. Information: <https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/ntt>

***PMPC fights the battles needed to keep these natural places intact so YOU can experience all of your favorite outdoor recreational activities in the Phoenix Mountain Preserves.***