

**Democrats of Rim Country  
February 12, 2019 Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm.

Minutes of the January 8, 2019 were approved as corrected.

**Speaker – Payson Mayor Tom Morrissey**

Mr. Morrissey explained the Warming Shelter initiated for the first time in Payson through the efforts of Doug Stewart. This is a pilot project as a model for Gila County government, as well as the entire State of AZ. The 4 to 6 weeks project is to give a place for homeless people during part of the winter months instead of living in the forest. The main purpose is to gather data as to why people are homeless and share with State, County and Federal agencies in order to apply for Federal grants. Gila County is the only county in AZ that does not receive HUD funds.

The PPD is providing a military size tent to give the homeless a place to spend the night, and get a hot meal. In the morning, the tent will close and the people will leave and not return until 6 p.m.

Mr. Morrissey stressed that the homeless are people who have made mistakes and due to other circumstances are without a place to live, and this program is to give them a helping hand. The shelter will be staffed each night with help from the PPD and Fire Dept. The Mayor explained residents have expressed dissatisfaction with the project and the Town needs to better educate the people. He praised Doug Stewart for his work on this project.

Mr. Morrissey explained his role as Mayor is to be pro-active, anticipate issues and work for the citizens of Payson. He is initiating an open forum to answer residents' inquiries. It will be held at 6 p.m. on February 26th at the Nazarene Church on E. Tyler Parkway. There will be a ½ hr. open mike. The Town Manager will attend, but none of the Town Council in order to not violate the Open Meetings Act.

The Mayor opened the meeting to questions from DRC members, regarding the Broadband fiberoptic line in Payson, the Firewise issue for the Town, activities for the youth and projects for Rumsey Park.

**Treasurer's report presented by Denise VanKeuren**

December 2018 balance: \$1740.77

January 2019 balance: \$1988.68 (due to membership renewals)

Denise is looking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> P.O. Box key. Contact her if you have one.

Report approved unanimously.

Teresa McCarvill and Lynnette Brouwer reported on their attending the State Party Committee meeting. They met with a wide variety of people interested in speaking to both the DRC and the County Democrats. They will work to coordinate dates.

**Membership Committee – Elsa Romanowitz has been chairperson for a long time and is tendering her resignation. She will stay on to train a new chairperson. In addition, the Committee is looking for (2) new additional members. DRC is looking for a member to volunteer to take over the chairperson position.**

**Saying goodbye to David Kennedy as he and his wife move to Denver Co. He will be greatly missed for all of the outstanding work he has done for the DRC.**

**Open Discussion – Doug Stewart**

**Questions regarding the Warming Station:**

**Where is the station – 509 W. Frontier St. (tentatively).**

**When – February 25 for 5 ½ weeks**

**Homeless transportation – no, it is close to town and people will walk or use their own transportation.**

**How is food being provided? The Health Dept. regulations state only commercial kitchens can be used, working out the plan.**

**Needs – blankets and money**

**What else will be provided – fire dept. paramedics to give flu shots, Police volunteers, County Deputies with Narcan.**

**Meeting adjourned: 1:05 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Covert  
Secretary**