

## SCHOA GETS TO WORK—FEB. 1961

In October, readers were reminded that historically the Recreation Centers of Sun City and the Sun City Home Owners Association were initially one and the same but for only one month. With the acceptance of ownership of Oakmont Recreation Center in January 1961, the split into a recreation association and a civic association happened immediately with each having separate goals and a separate mission.

SCHOA's first experience with representation in matters of government began with a discussion of whether SCHOA had a role in the political process. Agreement was not unanimous. SCHOA's Board deliberated as to whether the community should be represented on the Peoria School Board. There were five members on that board in 1961 with four living in Peoria and the fifth from Youngtown. The new Sun City Republican Club ended the debate by announcing their candidate, and SCHOA quietly endorsed their selection.

Next up for SCHOA was involvement in a controversy over rates being charged by the water company owned by the Del Webb Development Company. (DEVCO) Sunburst Water charged each residence \$5.01 for the first 5,000 gallons of water, while in Youngtown residents bought 5,000 gallons for \$4.00. SCHOA asked the Arizona Corporation Commission (A.C.C.) to intervene and to begin an investigation. It was the first interface between SCHOA and the A.C.C. That relationship has lasted for 61 years.

The final example from 1961 for this report involved SCHOA supporting DEVCO's request to Maricopa County to change the zoning for DEVCO's property at 111<sup>th</sup> & Olive Ave. from "Agricultural" to "Special Use." The new zoning would allow for increasing the size of their two open pit sewage holding ponds to accommodate future Sun City houses. The City of Glendale opposed because of the potential for "fouling" the air and for fear the ponds would contaminate groundwater from sewage seepage. Maricopa County refused the zoning. DEVCO shifted gears and build new ponds at 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Olive next to the New River. Flowing river water would theoretically wash away seepage flowing through riverbed sand. That premise was tested over and over for more than a decade before a permanent fix was achieved. That story's conclusion will be saved for later.

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Del E. Webb Sun Cities Museum