



## **Moving Forward with the Desert EDGE**

At a Work Study Session last Monday, the Scottsdale City Council moved forward with the long anticipated Desert EDGE project. Many topics were covered at the meeting, here are a few highlights:

City Staff gave detailed and complimentary reports on their review of the Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale's proposal for the Desert EDGE. The Council requested further detail on the partnership with Arizona State University at the Desert EDGE and further analysis of the business and staffing plans.

The City Council gave direction to move forward with a "Construction Manager At-Risk" request for proposals to more fully understand the capital costs of the facility.

The subject of a public vote was discussed, but no consensus was reached by the Council.

Ultimately, the Council had each expressed support for the project, but had differing opinions on the appropriate location for the Desert EDGE. Hence, the Council requested a study of alternate locations within and

outside the Preserve. Several previous studies have concluded the Gateway as the ideal location for the Center, and it has been envisioned at the Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for decades (including an approved site plan as part of the original trailhead approval in 2008). However, we applaud this prudent research as a next step for the Desert EDGE. Criteria for site evaluation would include capital and operating costs, maintenance, accessibility and quality of experience.

Kudos to the Scottsdale City Council for their support of the Desert EDGE.

Read on for more community support of the Desert EDGE...

**I encourage the Scottsdale City Council to vote for the Desert  
EDGE**



By Ken Travous

I have been following the Desert Discovery Center saga for the past few years, and I don't envy the situation now before the Scottsdale City Council. In one respect, I've been there myself.

I was the director of Arizona State Parks during the purchase, study, planning, development, opening, and, for the first 10 years, operation of Kartchner Caverns State Park.

During the planning and development stages there were voices of difference on what should and, as importantly, what should not be done with the resource. A resource that was quickly designated as one of the top 10 caves in the world from a mineral diversity standpoint, not to mention that it was a "living cave," a dripping wet cave just below the Arizona desert.

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