



# COUNCIL MINUTES

February 10, 2016

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors at the La Casita Community Center on February 10, 2016 at 7:45 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor John Giles  
Dennis Kavanaugh  
David Luna  
Kevin Thompson

## COUNCIL ABSENT

Alex Finter  
Christopher Glover  
Dave Richins

## STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Jared Archambault  
Merry Bevill  
Scott J. Butler  
Andrew Calhoun  
Matthew Clark  
Kenneth Cost  
Cynthia Ezcurra  
Paul Hawkins  
Marc Heirshberg  
Lenny Hulme  
Beth Huning  
Ian Linssen  
Bill Jabjiniak  
Natalie Lewis  
Kari Kent  
Dee Ann Mickelsen  
Gina Nesbit  
Randy Policar  
John Pombier  
Marrisa Ramirez-  
Ramos  
Melissa Randazzo  
Jim Smith  
Michael Soelberg  
Alicia White

## DOBSON RANCH BOARD PRESENT

Susan Powers  
Sarah Funtowicz  
Stacy Holmstedt  
Ron Magaw  
Frank Mizner  
Sandra Murray  
Bob Radisch  
George Tihanyi

## DOBSON RANCH STAFF PRESENT

David Jones  
Emma Kroum  
Joanna Loftus  
Dennis Melgreen  
Mary Palmer  
Susan Richards  
Craig Wilson  
Jesse Wright

## SUB-ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Don Kozak  
Tim McElrath

## OTHERS PRESENT

Jerry Lewis  
Laurie Moe  
Jill Norgaard  
Bob Robson  
Stephen Sparks  
Ericka Winkle  
Ryan Winkle

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Dobson Ranch Executive Director David Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. He played a short video depicting Dobson Ranch Board President Susan Powers visiting a number of venues in and around Dobson Ranch.

Ms. Powers introduced her special guest, State Representative, District 18, Jill Norgaard, who was present in the audience. She also recognized Mayor John Giles, Vice Mayor Dennis Kavanaugh and City staff, all of whom she thanked for attending today's meeting.

Ms. Powers briefly highlighted a series of accomplishments that Dobson Ranch achieved in 2015, such as the completion of more than \$582,000 in capital improvement projects throughout the community. She also noted that many people who were raised in Dobson Ranch, which has a population of nearly 20,000 residents, are now moving back to the area in order to raise their own families. She added that Dobson Ranch creates "a sense of community" that individuals recognize and appreciate.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that from the City's perspective, Dobson Ranch offers an impressive number of amenities and services to its residents. He expressed appreciation to City staff for their commitment and hard work not only with respect to addressing issues and initiatives that might arise in Dobson Ranch, but also completing projects in the area in an efficient and timely manner. He further commented that since the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association (HOA) has proven to be such a successful model, he would love to see it replicated by other HOAs throughout Mesa.

Vice Mayor Dennis Kavanaugh recounted the successful partnership between Dobson Ranch and the City of Mesa over the years. He stated that in the near future, Mesa Channel 11 will air a new program featuring the Councilmembers titled "My City, My District, My Home." He noted that as a long-time resident of Dobson Ranch, he has enjoyed his service as a Boardmember and was also very proud to have represented the area during his tenure on the Mesa City Council.

Mayor John Giles concurred with Mr. Brady's remarks that he would love to see the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association model replicated throughout the City. He also recognized Vice Mayor Kavanaugh for his dedication and commitment to the residents of District 3 during his service on the City Council.

2. Introduction of City Councilmembers and City Staff.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh introduced Councilmembers Kevin Thompson and David Luna who were in attendance. He also asked City staff members who were present to stand and be recognized.

3. Introduction of Fiesta District & Dobson Metro Traffic Commanders.

City of Mesa Assistant Police Chief Mike Soelberg recognized Police Commander Kenneth Cost, who is stationed at the Fiesta District Police Substation. He also introduced Police Lieutenant Gina Nesbit, who serves as Commander of the Dobson Metro Traffic Division.

4. Development/Planning.

**Update on the Guadalupe Road landscaping project**

City Engineer Beth Huning reported that the initial Guadalupe Road landscaping project was revised in order for City staff to address the issue of overhead power wires and cable lines at the site. She explained that the City collaborated with Salt River Project (SRP) in this regard, which resulted in the lines being installed underground. She noted that as part of the landscaping project, SRP agreed to replace the sidewalk in the area. She added that she would anticipate that the landscape project will commence next week.

**Drainage improvement project for bus stop on the southwest corner of Dobson and Baseline**

Ms. Huning commented that with a history of street flooding in this area, staff will soon begin construction of a storm drain with a larger line. She noted that the estimated cost of the project is \$70,000.

Transportation Department Director Lenny Hulme pointed out that a major rain event in this area becomes a priority for the City to address. He assured everyone that this project will, in fact, remain a priority until it has been completed.

**Fiesta District streetscape**

Ms. Huning remarked that the Southern Avenue streetscape project, which began in 2012, has been completed. She stated that last fall, additional park nodes were installed at the entrances to Fiesta Mall. She also commented that the streetscape from Sycamore to the Tempe Canal is currently under construction and added that it is scheduled for completion by September of this year.

5. Parks and Recreation.

Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department Director Marc Heirshberg highlighted a series of upcoming park projects in the Dobson Ranch area as follows:

- Development of the Fiesta Sports Park, which is located at the site of the old Powell Junior High School. A Little League baseball complex is being constructed. The City is working with the Chicago Cubs and Mesa Hohokams on the project, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of this year.
- Replacement of the Dobson Ranch playground equipment. The existing equipment will be donated to one of Mesa's Sister Cities, Guaymas, Mexico. The park will include activities for every age group and a wide range of physical abilities. Ramps will be provided for wheelchairs; a zip line platform will enable individuals confined to wheelchairs to transfer to the ride and enjoy the experience; and various panels situated throughout the park will address sensory issues to assist children with autism. Commencement of the project will begin in mid-April and should be completed in approximately 90 days.

6. Transportation.

**Information on the smart light (Signal light) system and why Guadalupe Road between Dobson and Alma School lights change when there are no cars on the feeder streets.**

Mr. Hulme explained that the light signals near Dobson High School are programmed on recall, meaning that they change every cycle during school hours (7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.). He stated that the pedestrian button provides pedestrian clearance every 60-second cycle, enabling students to cross the street during school hours.

Mr. Hulme, in addition, discussed the City of Mesa's CityLink app, which enables citizens to use their smartphones and notify staff with respect to any questions or concerns they might have with issues such as pot holes, traffic signals, streets and power lines. He also remarked that with respect to the Fiesta District, the street signal system senses traffic flows and adjusts the timing of the signals accordingly.

7. Economic Development.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh briefly highlighted an upcoming economic development opportunity at Broadway and Dobson Roads, which is the former site of a Motorola plant. He stated that the proposed international marketplace, consisting of 50,000 square feet of retail space, will include a variety of businesses and restaurants with an international flavor.

Economic Development Department Director Bill Jabjiniak offered a short synopsis of a series of economic development projects in the Dobson Ranch area as follows:

- 827 West Grove – National General Insurance is located at the property and anticipates hiring more than 500 employees over the next three years.
- Dobson and Broadway – Two properties have been constructed in the last year, one with 150,000 square feet and the other with 60,000 square feet. An announcement will be made in the near future to reveal the name of the company that will occupy the larger space, initially with 200 employees and eventually up to 500 workers.
- Fiesta Mall – The area is transitioning from retail uses to an employment center and office space.
- Three Fountain Plaza – The City is receiving interest from the development sector regarding this property. The goal for the use of the site is “urban, dense and walkable.”

8. City Clerk.

City Clerk Dee Ann Mickelsen provided a timeline with respect to various 2016 elections as follows:

- March 22, 2016 – Presidential Preference Election
- May 17, 2016 – Special Election – Arizona Education Finance Amendment (Prop 123)
- August 30, 2016 – City of Mesa Primary Election for Mayor and Districts 1, 2 and 3 Councilmembers
- November 8, 2016, General Election (City runoff election, if necessary)

Second week of January, 2017 – Successful candidates for Mayor and Districts 1, 2 and 3 Councilmembers will take office

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

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JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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