

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 28, 2000

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a joint meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors at the Neighbors Garden Cafe, 2740 S. Alma School Rd., Suite 13, on March 28, 2000 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh

COUNCIL ABSENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Pat Pomeroy

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Wayne Balmer
Jack Friedline
Barbara Jones
Wayne Korinek
Ron Krosting
Jeff Martin
Keith Nath
Ellen Pence
Dave Plumb
Tom Remes
Jan Strauss

DOBSON DIRECTORS/STAFF

Phillip Lowry, Board President.
Jeff Axberg, Vice President
Bob Sassano, Treasurer
Wendee Murietta, Secretary
Bob Griffith, Boardmember
Richard Larson, Boardmember
Sherri Harris, Boardmember
Laurie Nichols, Boardmember
Dale Douglas, Executive Director
Faye Bristow, Executive Asst.
Donna Chapman, Editor
Lynda Bailey, Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT

Betty Beard
Myron Brown
Ben Fernandez
Tom Taussig
Michael Whalen

Dobson Ranch Board President Phillip Lowry welcomed everyone to the meeting and stressed the importance of these annual meetings and the benefits derived.

Dobson Ranch Executive Director Dale Douglas introduced the candidates for the upcoming Dobson Ranch Board of Directors' election. Mr. Douglas apprised those present that Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh would be conducting the meeting on behalf of the City of Mesa.

Councilmember Kavanaugh concurred that the meetings serve as an excellent forum in which to exchange ideas, express concerns and implement pilot programs and requested that everyone present introduce themselves prior to discussion of the agenda items.

1. Update on placement of entry signs into Mesa.

Public Works Manager Jack Friedline relayed his appreciation to Dobson Ranch for their willingness to implement pilot programs and commented that the success of these programs throughout the City is based on the high level of cooperation that is demonstrated by Dobson Ranch in the initial stages of the programs.

Mr. Friedline distributed photographs of the two proposed "Welcome to Mesa" signs that will be located on Price Road and Baseline and Price Road and Guadalupe Road and stated the opinion that the signs will be installed by mid-July.

In response to a question posed by Dobson Ranch Boardmember Laurie Nichols relative to landscaping surrounding the signs, Engineering Director Keith Nath reported that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will be landscaping the portion of the median on Baseline Road as part of the freeway project and subsequent to their completion of the project the City of Mesa will landscape around the odor control facility.

2. Discuss U.S. 60 widening project.

- a. Freeway landscaping
- b. Noise mitigation

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin advised that Maricopa Association of Governments' (MAG) is prepared to embark on the second phase of the U.S. 60 widening project, which involves design and noise mitigation issues. Mr. Martin emphasized his commitment to work closely with Dobson Ranch relative to these issues over the next couple of years.

Transportation Director Ron Krosting distributed photograph simulations of various segments of the US 60 freeway and pointed out that the photographs depict the existing conditions of the freeway and a theoretical illustration of its anticipated expansions. Mr. Krosting noted that it is the intent of ADOT and the City of Mesa to retain mature landscaping wherever possible and stated that the photographs depicting the enhanced landscaping clearly emphasize the importance that has been placed on the aesthetics of this project.

Mr. Krosting informed those present that ADOT is currently in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process and that interested parties are required to submit their qualifications in response to a design/build concept for construction of the project. Mr. Krosting pointed out that a design/build concept involves a consortium of engineers, designers and contractors working together in a cooperative manner to design and subsequently build the project. Mr. Krosting advised that this type of building concept expedites construction and said that it is anticipated that the project will commence in 2001 and be completed within approximately three years. Mr. Krosting emphasized that the City of Mesa will continue to work closely with ADOT to ensure that the project remains on schedule.

Mr. Martin stated that meetings that were recently held between Dobson Ranch and the City of Mesa have resulted in discussions relative to the necessity of forming a committee to meet with ADOT representatives to address noise mitigation issues and visual aesthetics for the freeway project.

Executive Director Dale Douglas stressed the importance of Dobson Ranch's involvement in associated freeway issues such as air quality and noise that may negatively impact the neighborhoods.

Councilmember Hawker suggested that during the designing phase of the proposed twelve-lane freeway, options be explored with ADOT relative to the feasibility of incorporating a freeway lane for a light rail transit corridor or dedicated bus lane.

Board President Phillip Lowry concurred with the comments made by Councilmember Hawker and requested that the City consider appointing an individual from the Dobson Ranch area to serve on the City's Transportation Committee.

3. Update on street improvements for Dobson Road and Baseline Road.

Transportation Director Ron Krosting provided an update on the widening of Baseline Road to accommodate the development of dual-left turns for east and west traffic directions and a southbound right turn lane on Dobson, inclusive of bus pullouts. Mr. Krosting stated that ADOT has scheduled the bidding process for the project to begin in May and anticipates that construction will commence in July and be completed within five months.

Discussion ensued relative to the feasibility of providing drinking water for patrons or bathrooms at the bus shelters. Mr. Krosting advised that maintenance is an issue with these types of facilities and that research indicates that such amenities are not practical or viable. Mr. Krosting stated that the City is currently researching the possibility of installing shade panels on existing bus shelters.

In response to a question posed by Vice President Jeff Axberg relative to the curbs that are no handicap accessible in the older sections of Dobson Ranch, Mr. Krosting commented that the City responds immediately to any individual requesting a curb modification and automatically modifies every curb when an overlay project is initiated in a neighborhood.

4. Discuss wastewater odor control at Price Road and Baseline Road.

Utilities Manager David Plumb advised that the contractor has completed several of the major elements of the odor control facility and anticipates final completion of the project by the end of May with the installation of the filters. Mr. Plumb emphasized that an extensive period of time was spent on resolving this issue because of the difficulties surrounding ADOT's various right-of-way agreements.

5. Stormwater issues in Dobson Ranch.

a. Water run-off into lakes at Baseline Road.

Engineering Director Keith Nath stated that extensive information has been provided to the Dobson Ranch Association in the past six months relative to water run-off into lakes located at Baseline Road. Mr. Nath advised that the City's Utility Division tests the lakes on a semi-annual basis and that noted that Christine Nunez from City's Utility Operations Department can provide information on the results of those tests.

Mr. Douglas discussed a problem that is occurring at one specific lake where the outflow of the storm drain is below the operating level of the lake and subsequently retains an enormous amount of water. Mr. Douglas stated concern relative to increased toxicity levels in the water and noted that a large number of fish in that lake died over the past summer. Mr. Douglas commented that a firm was hired to test the water and confirmed that environmental problems do exist in the lake. Mr. Douglas stated his appreciation to the City of Mesa for their willingness to assist Dobson Ranch in resolving this problem.

6. Law Enforcement Programs in Dobson Ranch.

Police Chief Jan Strauss discussed a pilot program in which Mesa Police Officer Ed Wessing, who is assigned to Dobson High School, serves as a mentor to other school officers and has developed a crisis response program for the school. Chief Strauss stated that Officer Wessing has also provided 2,000 students with classroom instruction on topics such as the manner in which to respond to the police, and the illegal use of firearms, alcohol and drugs.

Vice President Jeff Axberg stated concern relative to the number of complaints that are being received from Dobson residents regarding alcohol and illegal drug use in park areas and inquired as to the procedure followed by the Mesa Police Department in responding to situations that occur in private areas such as parks. Chief Strauss informed Mr. Axberg that such incidences are reported to the Community Action Team and said that the members of that team assume a proactive approach in eliminating these types of problems.

Executive Director Dale Douglas posed questions relative to the staffing of police during working shifts throughout the City. Chief Strauss assured Mr. Douglas that all City beats have assigned patrol officers covering them during any given shift and added that should an officer be out on vacation and/or sick leave, another officer is assigned to cover his/her beat until they return to duty.

7. Discuss improvements and renovations to the Dobson Golf Course and Carriage Lane Park.

Community Services Manager Wayne Korinek, through the utilization of visuals, provided an update on three projects currently under development and/or in the design phase of construction at Dobson Ranch Golf Course. Mr. Korinek stated that construction has commenced on the first project involving Phase 7 of a ten-year project and reported that the phase will be completed in approximately 45 days. Mr. Korinek added that the improvements require the redesign and reconfiguration of hole #14 and a large portion of #15. Mr. Korinek pointed out that these renovations will improve the overall aesthetics/play of the golf course and advised that construction of Phase 8 has been tentatively scheduled to begin during the next budget year.

Mr. Korinek noted that the second project encompasses an entire sprinkler renovation process that will ultimately disrupt the utilization of the golf course for approximately six months. Mr. Korinek advised that this project had been included as part of last year's proposed golf course improvements but was delayed. Mr. Korinek stated that the entire project will take approximately 150 days to complete and noted that the work has been scheduled to occur during the off-season. Mr. Korinek emphasized the importance of the sprinkler system renovations and noted the extensive water and electrical savings that will be realized as a result of the project.

Mr. Korinek outlined the third project that is currently underway involving the redesign of the entire area surrounding the twenty-six year old clubhouse. Mr. Korinek also discussed improvements to the parking areas and the proposed increase in size of the pro shop merchandise area. Mr. Korinek stated that the parking improvements may require the removal of the tennis courts but pointed out that there are numerous tennis opportunities at locations in the immediate area.

8. Adjournment.

Councilmember Kavanaugh thanked the members of the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association for hosting the meeting and stated appreciation to everyone for their attendance.

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Without objection the meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, 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 28th day of March, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2000

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK