

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 12, 1999

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Dinner Meeting with the Gilbert Town Council and the Queen Creek Town Council at the American Grill, 1233 South Alma School Road, on May 12, 1999 at 6:30 p.m.

**MESA COUNCIL
PRESENT**

Mayor Wayne Brown
John Giles
Jim Davidson
Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy

**MESA STAFF
PRESENT**

C.K. Luster
Kevin Adam
Wayne Balmer
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Jeff Martin

**GILBERT COUNCIL
PRESENT**

Mayor Cynthia Dunham
Jo Albright
Maggie Cathey
Mike Evans
Phil Long

**GILBERT COUNCIL-ELECT
PRESENT**

Les Presmyk
Steve Urie

**GILBERT STAFF
PRESENT**

Kent Cooper

**QUEEN CREEK COUNCIL
PRESENT**

Mayor Mark Schnepf
Scott Berger
William Heath
Joyce Hildebrandt
William Meschede

**QUEEN CREEK STAFF
PRESENT**

Scot Rigby
Jennifer Robinson
Cynthia Seelhammer
Dee Ann Thomas

1. Welcome and introductions.

Mayor Brown welcomed all those in attendance and requested that each attendee introduce him or herself.

2. Discuss update to MAG Regional Freeway Program.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin provided a brief update relative to the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Freeway Program. Mr. Martin indicated that on May 5, 1999, with a vote of 23 in favor and 3 opposed, MAG tentatively adopted the Regional Program which outlines the freeway construction timelines. Mr. Martin emphasized that despite the controversial issue of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, freeway construction projects were accelerated anywhere from one to six years. Mr. Martin clarified that the handout distributed at this meeting does not reflect the recently expedited freeway construction schedule

directly attributed to the financial support that has been provided by the City of Mesa. Mr. Martin briefly highlighted the new construction schedule and noted that the Red Mountain Freeway from Country Club Drive to Gilbert Road, as an example, will be completed in 2001; Higley Road in 2003; and the San Tan Freeway at Power Road to the entrance of Williams Gateway Airport in 2006.

Discussion ensued regarding the environmental impact study which was originally anticipated to be completed in two years but which has been on-going for the past three years and the fact that the final version of the impact study is expected to be completed by the second week in October 1999.

In response to concerns that were expressed regarding congestion on freeway on-ramps, Mr. Martin stated that implementation of dual left lanes at intersections will provide relief. Mr. Martin added that Country Club Drive is the next location that has been scheduled for installation, followed by Mesa Drive in 2002.

3. Hear an update on the Gilbert Regional Library.

Gilbert Town Manager Kent Cooper announced that the Regional Library is open and proving to be extremely successful. Mr. Cooper reported on statistics reflecting that since the Library's opening, one-half of the library cards that have been issued belong to Mesa residents. Mr. Cooper stated that the entire building was funded by the Town of Gilbert but added that Maricopa County provides all of the staffing and covers all of the operational costs of this regional facility.

In response to a question regarding the unexpected temporary closure of the Library last Saturday, Mr. Cooper reported that lighting problems occurred and that the services of twenty-three electricians were required to correct the situation.

Councilmember Davidson commented on the Library's attractive appearance and the large meeting rooms that are available for multipurpose uses.

Councilmember Kavanaugh advised that he has received numerous inquiries regarding the possibility of allowing this facility to remain open on Sundays. Councilmember Kavanaugh stated the opinion that the extended hours would benefit the communities of Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek, and recommended that the County be contacted regarding the proposed operation of the Library facility on Sundays.

Discussion ensued relative to the possibility of generating funds to accommodate the proposal to provide library services on Sundays.

4. Discuss regional open space and the San Tan Mountain Regional Park.

Queen Creek Mayor Mark Schnepf stated that although the San Tan Mountain Regional Park is a Maricopa County park, the 8,000-acre facility is actually located in Pinal County. Mayor Schnepf commented positively on the fact that the park serves as a gateway entrance into Queen Creek. Mayor Schnepf advised that a portion of the area may qualify for State funding and added that staff is working with the Legislature in an effort to pursue the funding. Mayor Schnepf indicated that the County does not have the necessary funds to provide required park improvements, including infrastructure for increased visibility and fencing to establish the park's boundaries. Mayor Schnepf stated concern regarding the fact that the desert areas are being

destroyed and stressed the importance of hiring park rangers to protect this site. Mayor Schnepf emphasized that this park will be a multipurpose, equestrian facility that can serve the needs of residents in the entire East Valley.

5. Other issues of mutual interest.

In response to a request from Mayor Brown to speak on this issue, Gilbert Mayor Cynthia Dunham, who serves as Chairman of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, advised that a handout has been distributed that contains background information regarding Williams Gateway Airport. Mayor Dunham added that the Williams Gateway Airport Master Plan is currently in its final version. Mayor Dunham reported that neighborhood concerns have been addressed and commented that citizens' complaints appear to be diminishing. Mayor Dunham announced that Christine Eberhard is the consultant that has been selected to provide temporary Airport community outreach services pending the hiring of a full-time permanent coordinator. Mayor Dunham added that Ms. Eberhard will provide residents with information and address their concerns regarding the Airport and distributed copies of a job description for the full-time permanent position of Community Outreach Coordinator for Williams Gateway Airport.

Mayor Dunham commented on the number of national awards Williams Gateway Airport has received as a result of its progress and stressed the importance of continuing to provide up to date information and involving the residents and members of surrounding communities in the development of the Airport.

Discussion ensued regarding difficulties associated with determining the exact number of residences in the airport influence area and Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer offered to develop statistics on the number of homes based on building permits that have been issued in that area.

Queen Creek Councilmember Joyce Hildebrandt emphasized the importance of remaining consistent in zoning designations in areas surrounding the Airport and added that in order to remain compatible, careful consideration must be given to all development proposals. Councilmember Hildebrandt expressed the opinion that low density is the appropriate zoning for the areas surrounding the Airport and encouraged those present to review Queen Creek's San Tan Regional Study prior to voting on future zoning cases.

Queen Creek Mayor Mark Schnepf expressed appreciation to the City of Mesa for arranging this meeting and also thanked the Towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek for their continued cooperation.

Gilbert Mayor Dunham commented on the importance of the positive relationship which exists among the three communities and added that the benefits that are realized from this cooperative effort will assist in providing improved services to all constituents.

Mayor Brown stated that based on the fact that the communities share the same challenges and interests, the scheduling of a future retreat for Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek may prove beneficial. Mayor Brown thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Dinner Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Carried unanimously.

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 Dinner Meeting that was held with representatives of the Towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek and the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 12th day of May, 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK