



COUNCIL MINUTES

April 15, 2019

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community at the Scottsdale Community College Indigenous Cultural Center, 9000 East Chaparral Road, Scottsdale, Arizona on April 15, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT	SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESENT	OFFICERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT (CITY OF MESA)
John Giles Mark Freeman Jeremy Whittaker Francisco Heredia Jennifer Duff David Luna Kevin Thompson	Martin Jarvier, President Cheryl Doka Diane Enos Wi-Bwa Grey Deanna Scabby	Christopher Brady Dee Ann Mickelsen Jim Smith	Ramon Batista Scott Butler Natalie Lewis Ryan Phillips Aaron Raine
COUNCIL ABSENT		OTHERS PRESENT (SRPMIC)	
None		Kent Andrews Karl Auerbach Gary Bohnee Ana Cuddington Jennifer Giff Angela Williford-Salazar Donna Young	

Items were discussed out of order but for purposes of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.

1. Opening Blessing.

Invocation by Katiri Kiona Herrera, Miss Indian Scottsdale Community College 2017-18.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

2a. Overview of the new Indigenous Cultural Center by Scottsdale Community College staff.

Dr. Donna Young, Scottsdale Community College (SCC) Vice President of Student Affairs welcomed the Mesa City Council, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Council and their staff members. She encouraged meeting attendees to look around the campus to see many of the culturally significant architectural designs.

She explained that SCC serves approximately 8500 students and 440 Native Americans with 72% of students that attend part-time. She stated that the partnerships created today will continue to boost opportunities for students and the surrounding community.

Ana Cuddington, SCC Manager of American Indian Programs explained that the Indigenous Cultural Center (ICC) is currently working on a strategic program, including a Native American student survey to determine the needs of students. She highlighted some of the unique features of the ICC building and grounds.

2b. Comments by SRPMIC President Martin Jarvier

Martin Jarvier, SRPMIC President, welcomed the Mesa City Council and staff.

2c. Summary of current events by City of Mesa Mayor John Giles

Mayor Giles explained the importance of meeting with SRPMIC, not that there were pressing issues to discuss, but to ensure the ongoing open dialogue and continued partnership. He highlighted the shared resources between the two communities and extended his thanks to SRPMIC for the grants provided related to critical needs in Mesa, such as public safety and school readiness.

3. Discussion Items.

3a. Discuss and consider SRPMIC's and the City of Mesa's efforts to combat homelessness in their respective communities.

Karl Auerbach, SRPMIC Chief of Police, highlighted the increase in homelessness and the transient population that travel from Mesa along the river bottom to SRPMIC. He stated that transient individuals pose a number of health, safety, and welfare concerns to all. He indicated that law enforcement has the primary responsibility for the safety and protection of our communities, but they do so with dignity, respect, and compassion. He explained that they try and look for the root cause of some of these issues and try to look beyond the enforcement aspect of homelessness.

He discussed the high activity areas:

- Riverview - Salt River bottom and Loop 202
- Salt River Wetlands – 101/202 North of Riverview

He explained that the Wetlands are a sacred area with animals and vegetation that also serve to attract the homeless. He added that littering and refuse also becomes a big concern in this area as does the removal of trees and shrubs that would otherwise be used for cultural traditions. He stated that recently there was a large fire in the river bottom that is indicative of the misuse of this land.

He discussed the educational and enforcement actions related to the homeless population. He stated that daily sweeps are completed that covers 10 miles of river bottom and have proven to be effective and successful. He added that proactive measures are very important due to the fact that once homeless camps are setup, they create significant safety hazards.

He highlighted the methodology used in coming up with real time solutions for long-term and sustainable results. He stated that all organizations are working collaboratively on housing, employment, and healthcare solutions.

He outlined the SRPMIC partnership with the City of Mesa Fusion Center for the last 10 years. He explained that there are approximately 75 Fusion Centers across the United States, and the one housed in Mesa is the only one in the Country that has representation of Tribal, Municipal, County, State, and Federal resources.

Vice Mayor Freeman thanked Chief Auerbach and explained that about a year ago he worked with the Mesa Police Department and SRPMIC Police on a sweep of the river bottom utilizing horses and found many encampments from Mesa Drive to the Loop 101/202. He thanked the Chief for his continued work.

Mayor Giles highlighted the Mesa Community Court and explained that it will change the way we interact with the homeless making the court process less of a punitive approach and more of a therapeutic approach.

Police Chief Ramon Batista explained the challenge in working with the homeless is that the work is focused on three areas, drug use, homelessness, and mental illness. He stated that instead of placing the homeless in the criminal justice system, the community court provides an opportunity to utilize the services they need.

Police Officer Aaron Raine indicated that the criminal justice system wasn't the most viable option for the homeless so Police Department policies were restructured into Project Mainline, which was a pilot program in coordination with non-profit agencies and faith-based groups to contact people that were experiencing homelessness and connect them with services. He stated that they educated them on the services available, what behaviors get a response from the community and law enforcement, and ultimately enforcement if necessary. He added that the information was provided and while they didn't always seek assistance immediately, 20% of the time they did seek out those services on their own within a short period of time.

He explained that if the enforcement model is used and they end up in community court, they meet with a public defender and a navigator. He stated that a navigator is an individual that has been homeless and assists the individual with the social service system and mentors them through the process. He added that the public defender and the navigator work with the individual to help them improve their life.

3-b. Discuss and consider the 12% Gaming Grant Partnership and the programs funded in the City of Mesa by the gaming grants.

Gary Bohnee, SRPMIC Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator explained that the 12% derives from the Gaming Compact that was executed by the Governor, the Tribes, and the State. He added that the Indian Communities are in the process of talking to the Governor about how the Compact will look going forward.

3-c. Discuss other programs and activities that affect and connect the City of Mesa and the SRPMIC.

This item was not discussed.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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 Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community held on the 15th day of April, 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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