



COUNCIL MINUTES

February 12, 2014

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 12, 2014 at 8:45 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT	DOBSON RANCH BOARD PRESENT	DOBSON RANCH STAFF PRESENT
Mayor Scott Smith Alex Finter Dennis Kavanaugh David Luna Dave Richins	Christopher Brady Jared Archambault Polly Bonnett Dan Cleavenger Cynthia Garza Marc Heirshberg Beth Huning Bill Jabjiniak Kari Kent Natalie Lewis Ian Linssen Kathy Macdonald Charlotte McDermott Amanda McKeever Dee Ann Mickelsen Frank Milstead Randy Policar John Pombier Jodi Sorrell Debbie Spinner Mark Wesselman Alicia White	Stacy Holmstedt Ron Magaw Laurie Moe Sandra Murray Susan Powers Bob Radisich Wade Swanson	David Jones Shiva Babae Maria Clark Sam Cocciarella Doug Kelton Emma Kroum Joanna Loftus Dennis Melgreen Susan Richards Emily Sherman Carole Stabile Jesse Wright
COUNCIL ABSENT			
Christopher Glover Scott Somers			

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Councilmember Kavanaugh thanked everyone for attending and asked the City Council and Dobson Ranch Board of Directors to introduce themselves.

Mayor Smith expressed his appreciation to Dobson Ranch for their example of excellence, elevated standards, and partnership in our community.

2. City Updates.

City Manager Christopher Brady provided an update on the new Chicago Cubs Stadium and explained that the first spring training game will be held on February 27, 2014. He indicated that today will mark the grand opening of the stadium with the official ribbon cutting ceremony. He added that beyond spring training, the new facility offers additional amenities for the community with the new Riverview Park, including an urban fishing lake, splash pad, and climbing tower.

Mr. Brady reported that renovations to Fitch Park and Hohokam stadium began in December 2013 and will take one year to complete. He explained that the Oakland Athletics will be the new tenant beginning with Spring Training 2015.

Mr. Brady expressed his appreciation to the Board and thanked them for their continuing partnership and support.

3. Economic Development & Engineering.

Economic Development Director Bill Jabjiniak indicated that Upper Iowa University opened in August 2013 in the old Borders building and explained that the owner will renovate the rest of the facility for office use.

He provided an update on other economic development efforts within the Fiesta District, including remodeling of an empty building into class A office space; a new 378 unit, 3-story, quality urban housing development; the conversion of the old Circuit City/Bed Bath and Beyond building to mixed use office space; and future mixed use development of the Fiesta Mall area.

City Engineer Beth Huning outlined several upcoming projects along Southern Avenue in the Fiesta District, including overhead power lines to be moved underground, pedestrian paths along Southern Avenue, and five pedestrian nodes on Southern Avenue, four on the south side and one on the north. She added that the nodes will be areas where people can walk, enjoy the shade, take a break, and possibly have activities within the nodes. **(See Attachment 1)** She indicated that the nodes are funded by a federal grant and the other projects are funded as part of the 2013 Bond Election and should be complete in fall 2014.

4. Animal Control.

Assistant to the City Manager Natalie Lewis explained that Animal Control is a team of five employees that cover the needs of the entire City. She provided an update on the feral cat issue and how City staff is actively working to resolve the issue by capturing the feral cats, taking them to participating animal clinics to have them neutered and return them to the neighborhood. She commented that this procedure diminishes the feral qualities in cats and increases the likelihood that they will be cared for.

Ms. Lewis indicated that the Animal Defense League has received a grant from Petsmart to provide TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Return) services for approximately 1,000 cats and added that the 85201 (which includes Dobson Ranch) and 85204 zip codes are being targeted for this service due to the large number of feral cats. She explained that the City's partnership with non-profit organizations and local animal clinics help reduce TNR costs and that the City will continue to work with Dobson Ranch on this issue.

5. Police Department.

Police Chief Frank Milstead explained that eight weeks ago the FBI released their Uniform Crime Report for Cities with a population over 400,000 and the City of Mesa came in as the 3rd safest City in the nation, and 4th for property crimes. He added that this is a result of a change in the City's crime fighting philosophy, repositioning of human assets within the Police Department, and how calls are handled. He commented that there are 782 sworn positions in the department and approximately 131,000 calls for service per year.

Chief Milstead indicated that the new Fiesta District Substation opened in September 2013 and that the Dobson station will be remodeled to serve as a traffic bureau station.

6. Transportation Update & Light Rail Update.

Management Assistant II Amanda McKeever commented that the signs in the Fiesta District conform to the Fiesta District Design Handbook and are unique signs that are the first step in creating a sense of place, so people know they are in a unique and distinct portion of the City.

Transit Services Director Jodi Sorrell explained that the Central Mesa Light Rail expansion project, which will extend light rail to Mesa Drive, is under construction; starting the week of February 28 there will be intersection restrictions at Alma School and Main for three weekends; beginning May 1, downtown construction will increase, but access to downtown will be available from 1st Avenue to 1st Street; and that the Central Mesa extension is scheduled for completion in November 2015.

Ms. Sorrell added that the next phase of light rail is under preliminary design and will extend light rail from Mesa Drive to Gilbert Road and is scheduled to be completed in April 2018.

7. Parks and Recreation Update.

Parks Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department Director Marc Heirshberg commented that Riverview Park is now open and has become the gem of east valley parks and that once spring training is complete, construction will begin on six multi-use fields that will provide areas for many sports including soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse and quidditch. He explained that other projects include the redevelopment of Kleinman Park, improvements to the former Powell Junior High (West Mesa Sports Complex), including lighting improvements and the addition of community baseball/softball fields and additional parking. He added that these improvements are made available through the 2012 Parks Bond program.

8. Water Resources Director Introduction.

Water Resources Department Director Dan Cleavenger explained that the water line flushing pilot program took place in October 2013 and that staff tried to minimize disruption by conducting activities from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. He added that over time, construction activity causes sediment to deposit in water lines, and is more prevalent in Dobson Ranch because it is the lowest elevation in the City's water system. He explained that the process involves opening up fire hydrants and flushing the system. He commented that 1800 segments of pipe were flushed for a total of 62 miles.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

ALEX FINTER, 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 Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors held on the 12th day of February, 2014. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


Dated this 12th day of February, 2014

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

dm
(attachment – 1)



LEGEND



-Proposed Node Location

Paseo Node Locations

Fiesta District

January 2014

