



COUNCIL MINUTES

February 9, 2011

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 9, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Scott Smith
Christopher Glover
Dina Higgins
Dennis Kavanaugh
Dave Richins

COUNCIL ABSENT

Alex Finter
Scott Somers

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Scott Butler
Dan Cleavenger
Linda Crocker
Miranda Culver
Jack Friedline
Marc Heirshberg
Beth Huning
Lenny Hulme
Kari Kent
Natalie Lewis
Kathy MacDonald
Charlotte McDermott
Frank Milstead
Patrick Murphy
John Pombier
Jerry Quarles
Fred Rhuland
Katherine Sorensen
Patricia Sorensen
Debbie Spinner
Chad Townley
Mark Wesselman
Christine Zielonka

DOBSON RANCH BOARD PRESENT

Ted Disbrow
Barry Hegrenes
Lynda Bailey
Sandra Murray
Susan Powers
Joanne Smith
Guy Wolf

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD

L. Jay Jones

DOBSON RANCH STAFF PRESENT

Michele Ray-Brethower
Faye Bristow
Donna Chapman
Kimi Towery
Others

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Board President, Ted Disbrow, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the City for the many Improvements that have taken place in the Dobson Ranch area, including completion of the Rhodes new aquatic center featuring the Flowrider; maintaining the Dobson Golf Course and ensuring that it is one of the most popular courses in the Valley; installing the new bus turnouts, removing and trimming trees following the major storm in October and revitalization efforts to improve and enhance the Fiesta District.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Disbrow for the positive comments and noted that Dobson Ranch is an important part of the Mesa community and represents the good things that can and are happening in the area.

2. Economic Development Update.

City Manager Chris Brady addressed the group and highlighted new businesses that are coming to the City, including Crescent Crown Distributing, which will provide 400 jobs and the expansion by PCT International. He stated that the revitalization of the Fiesta District continues with new street signs in place and work continues on streetscaping on Southern Avenue. He added that there are plans to enhance pedestrian access with a pathway and the first component will be in the areas of Alma School/Southern and Dobson to Longmore. He said that the new Fiesta District Police Station will enhance the area and research continues on the athletic complex at Mesa Community College, which will be a shared project with Mesa Public Schools.

3. Police Department Update.

Police Chief Frank Milstead reported that crime is currently down in Mesa and throughout most of the nation. He advised that criminal activity occurs in cycles and will most likely increase again but the goal is to curb criminal activity now and make Mesa the last place where crime levels will rise again. He noted that the Police Substation at Westwood and Glover will be situated on four acres, has an eight-to-ten month design phase and is expected to open in 2013.

Dobson Commander Mark Wesselman addressed the group and explained that crime incidents in 2010 totaled 5,300 and in 2008 there were 6,000. He noted that Dobson Ranch is a safe place overall.

4. Transportation/Utilities Update.

City Engineer Beth Huning addressed the group and discussed the Dobson/Guadalupe intersection. She explained that the rubberized surface in the area is being monitored closely to determine its quality once temperatures increase and said that to date there have not been any problems.

Transportation Director Dan Cleavenger advised that Mesa currently has five driver speed feedback signs (signs that show the vehicles' current speed) in use, including those that have been placed by Rhodes Junior High School. He said that they are being studied to determine their overall effectiveness in reducing speeding.

Water Resources Director Katherine Sorensen explained changes that have been made to the waste treatment facility to eliminate the odor near Baseline Road and the Loop 101. She encouraged anyone who detects an odor to report it and its location by calling 480-644-3373.

5. Parks & Recreation Update.

Parks, Recreation & Commercial Facilities Director Mark Heirshberg discussed the new irrigation system for the City park near the Library, using water from the City lake near Dobson Park. He reported that the project has significantly reduced water costs and noted that the City will be sharing information with the Association for possible future use by the Ranch.

6. Update on Projects/Events.

Discussion ensued relative to various City projects and events including the Waveyard project at Riverview, which has been scaled back because of the new Chicago Cubs complex at the site; the fact that poor economic times have delayed the project but discussion regarding the plan is still on-going; the fact that the Gaylord project has also been delayed but that project is “still alive;” the fact that it is anticipated that groundbreaking for the Chicago Cubs project will take place in November or December 2011 and the opening will occur 18 months later; improvements that will be made to Riverview Park and associated integration with community development in that area.

It was also noted that “big box retail” and “strip centers” simply do not work anymore and new design plans need to be urban mixed use. Mayor Smith stressed the importance of the Fiesta District having a unique look and challenges associated with bringing property owners in that area “on board” regarding the new approach.

Mayor Smith encouraged residents to check out the new iMesa program (www.mesaaz.gov/imesa) and provide feedback and suggestions to help create the type of community they would like to have (click on the feedback tab).

President Disbrow again thanked the Council and City staff for their on-going support and efforts to improve the Dobson Ranch community as well as the City as a whole.

Mayor Smith thanked President Disbrow and the members of the Association for hosting the meeting and said he looks forward to many future successful partnerships with Dobson Ranch.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners’ Association Board of Directors adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, 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 9th day of February, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2011

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK