



COUNCIL MINUTES

March 5, 2012

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on March 5, 2012 at 4:47 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Scott Smith
Alex Finter
Christopher Glover
Dennis Kavanaugh
Dave Richins
Scott Somers

COUNCIL ABSENT

Dina Higgins

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Linda Crocker

Mayor Smith excused Councilwoman Higgins from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the March 5, 2012 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on the iMesa Steering Committee recommendations.

Mark Schofield, Chairman of the iMesa Steering Committee, and Elizabeth Danielson, Vice Chairman, addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Schofield asked that the iMesa Steering Committee members who were present in the audience introduce themselves.

Mr. Schofield displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and reported that the Committee recently met on two occasions to select and finalize a list of recommendations to be presented to the City Council.

Mr. Schofield explained that iMesa is a grassroots, citizen-driven effort to develop transformative community projects that will "Build a Better Mesa." He stated that this process has given the citizens of Mesa "a voice" by allowing them the opportunity to take Mesa's future into their hands and create the kind of community that they want.

Mr. Schofield indicated that the Committee reviewed the ideas received from citizens and categorized them into community priorities as follows:

- Higher Education
- Vibrant Downtown
- Transportation Networks
- Arts/Cultural Vibrancy
- Sustainable Economy
- Livability
- Recreational Access

Mr. Schofield stated that of the above-listed priorities, the Committee determined that it would be appropriate to address those items in phases, with Phase 1 focusing on Vibrant Downtown, Transportation Networks, and Recreational Access.

Mr. Schofield highlighted the Committee's recommended ideas in order to create a Vibrant Downtown as follows:

- Attract a microbrewery/restaurant or pub, which will generate nightlife in the downtown area.
- Create a botanical garden/aviary at Pioneer Park. (Note: This idea was proposed by the Mayor's Youth Committee.) The concept could create a unique destination along the light rail line.
- Develop a Downtown Urban Plaza (similar to Millennium Park in Chicago), which would be utilized for community events and concerts. The plaza would include a pedestrian mall and public gathering places.
- Create tools to encourage downtown infill development.
- Relocate the Mesa Historical Museum from Lehi to a prominent and accessible location in the downtown area.
- Identify historical places to inspire public interest and gatherings. Create historical identification signage or markers.

Mr. Schofield also reviewed the recommendations of the Committee with respect to Transportation Networks which include:

- Create an improved, safe and interconnected transportation system.
- Make Mesa an "upper tier" bicycle friendly community via the completion of a Citywide bicycle trail system, upgraded sidewalks/pathways and improved bike lanes.
- Create a Citywide interconnected trails master plan, with a trailhead near Bush Highway and the Central Arizona Project (CAP) Canal. Make available shade, water and restroom facilities at trails and recreation sites.

Ms. Danielson offered additional ideas with respect to the Transportation Networks as follows:

- Provide high tech, informational and interactive tools (i.e., Smart Phone apps) that sync with public transportation schedules, routes and City trail maps.
- Pursue high-speed rail (with possible extension from Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport to Phoenix Sky Harbor).

- Extend light rail to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.
- Add shuttle/trolley services in high traffic and key destination areas (i.e., Power Road, Southern Avenue corridor).

Mr. Schofield continued with the presentation and briefly touched upon ideas related to Recreational Access which include the following:

- Make recreation a significant and long-term priority. Establish funding for the creation and operation of Citywide recreation opportunities.
- Expand public/private partnerships to enhance youth sports.
- Create a Buckhorn Baths Youth Sports Complex. (Note: Restoration of the Buckhorn Baths received the most votes online.)
- Add a youth sports complex in central Mesa.
- Make recreational programs a point of pride in the community.
- Expand the Regional Pool System by developing a comprehensive plan for building/upgrading facilities, including the construction of pools at Mesa High School and Desert Ridge High School.
- Establish a public/private partnership for the development of a major aquatics center in downtown Mesa.
- Co-locate City/Mesa Public Schools recreational facilities.
- Create a southeast regional park (next to Monterey Park).
- Use Smart Phone apps to encourage youth participation in recreational activities.
- Complete a downtown community garden.

Mayor Smith stated that with respect to the idea of establishing funding for the creation/operation of Citywide recreation opportunities, he asked that the Committee solicit ideas from the community with respect to potential funding sources and what types of services/programs they would be willing to pay for.

Mr. Schofield advised that the next step in the process was for the Council to take some time to consider the Committee's recommendations. He also stated that the Committee would like to seek input/participation from the City's existing boards and commissions that might have oversight with respect to specific ideas. Mr. Schofield, in addition, suggested that when an idea becomes a reality, that it would be important for the citizens who submitted the idea to be included in any celebratory events that occur. He added that the Committee will continue to seek input from citizens in the community.

Councilmember Finter commented that he was intrigued with the idea of attracting a microbrewery to the downtown area and said that such a development would hopefully eliminate certain stereotypes about Mesa. He also spoke regarding the City's efforts to pursue legislation at the State level with respect to the creation of a downtown entertainment district, which would allow some of the Committee's recommendations to become a reality. Councilmember Finter added that the aquatics program is "a deeply held cultural asset" in Mesa that must be preserved and said he was pleased to see the ideas regarding the program's expansion.

Mayor Smith thanked the Committee for their efforts and noted that the members "took the process to heart." He also stated that there was "a good mix" of short, medium and long-term projects and added that some of these ideas will have an impact on the community that is "immeasurable."

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- 3-a. Judicial Advisory Board meeting held February 1, 2012.
- 3-b. Community and Cultural Development Committee meeting held February 6, 2012.
- 3-c. Sustainability and Transportation Committee meeting held February 6, 2012.
- 3-d. Public Safety Committee meeting held February 13, 2012.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Somers, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Mayor Smith declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Councilmember Kavanaugh: | District 3 "Coffee with Councilmember Kavanaugh" Event |
| Councilmember Richins: | Lehi Days |
| Mayor Smith: | Red Mountain National Honor Society Induction Ceremony; Mountain Vista Medical Center Award Ceremony; M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Event; 2012 Phoenix Marathon |

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 8, 2012, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

6. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Finter, that the Council adjourn the Study Session at 5:28 p.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Mayor Smith declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

- a. Discussion or consultation with the City Attorney in order to consider the City's position and instruct the City Attorney regarding the City's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(4))
 - 1. Smyers

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Executive Session adjourned at 5:46 p.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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 5th day of March, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

pag
(attachment – 1)

Mesa

iMesa Steering Committee **Recommendations to** **Mesa City Council**

March 5, 2012



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Mesa

Overview

- iMesa is a grassroots citizen-driven effort to develop transformative community projects that will “Build a Better Mesa.”
- iMesa gives residents the opportunity to take the future into their hands and create the Mesa they want.



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COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1. Higher education
2. Vibrant downtown
3. Transportation networks
4. Arts/Cultural vibrancy
5. Sustainable economy
6. Livability
7. Recreational access



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Phase 1

iMesa Recommendations

Mesa

Vibrant Downtown

Make downtown Mesa the “Place to Be”
Attract Microbrewery/Restaurant or Pub



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Vibrant Downtown

Pioneer Park can be a unique destination
along the light rail line



The Botanical Gardens at Pioneer Park

iDea from the
Mayor's Youth Committee

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Vibrant Downtown

Pedestrian and bike friendly with places for people to gather



Downtown

Urban Plaza

Create an events plaza,
pedestrian mall and public
gathering places.



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Vibrant Downtown

Create tools to encourage downtown infill
development



Mesa

Vibrant Downtown

Relocate the
Mesa Historical
Museum (Lehi)
to a prominent
and accessible
location
downtown



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Vibrant Downtown

Identify historical places to inspire public interest and gatherings

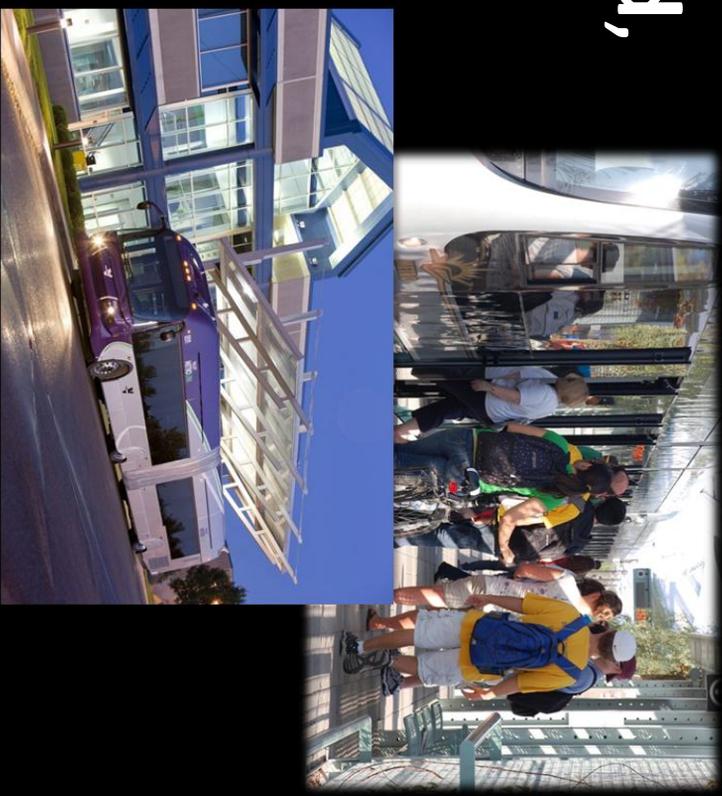


**Historical
Identification
Signage or Markers**

Mesa

Transportation Networks

Create an improved,
safe and
interconnected
transportation
system



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Transportation Networks

Put Mesa in the upper tier of bicycle friendly cities

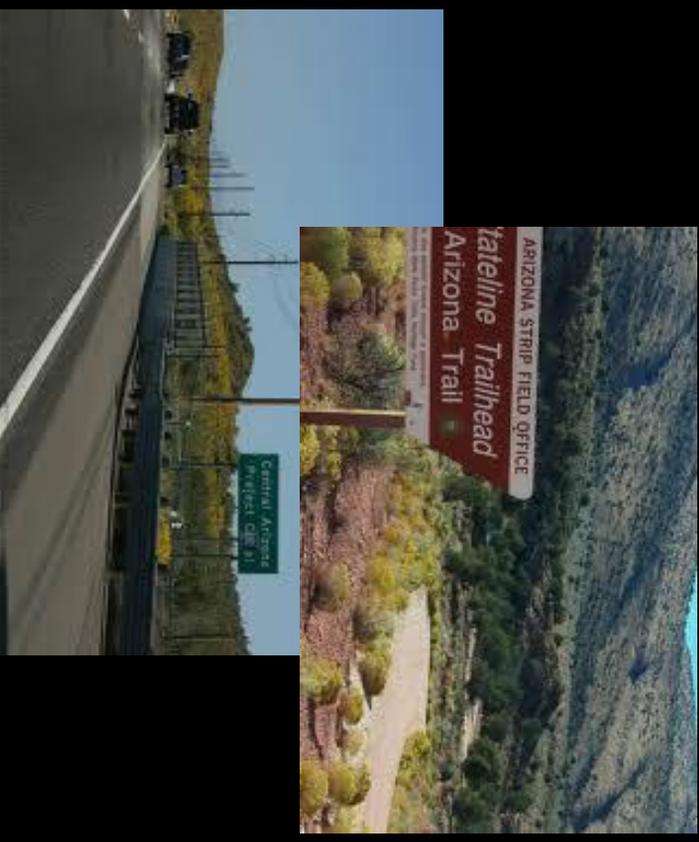
- Completion of city-wide bicycle trail system
 - Upgraded sidewalks and pathways
 - Improve/add bike lanes



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Transportation Networks

- Create a citywide, interconnected trails master plan
 - Trailhead near Bush Highway and the CAP Canal
- Make shade, water and restrooms available on trails/recreation sites



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Transportation Networks

- Hi-tech informational and interactive tools
 - Smart phone apps that sync with public transportation schedules, routes and other useful information



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Transportation Networks

- Active participant in pursuing high-speed rail
- Extend light rail to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway



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Transportation Networks

- Add shuttle or trolley services in high traffic and key destination areas
 - Power Road
 - Southern Corridor



Mesa Recreational Access

Make recreation a significant and long-term priority. Establish funding for the creation and operation of city-wide recreation opportunities.



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Recreational Access

Expand public/private partnerships to
enhance youth sports

- Embrace history and create the Buckhorn Baths Youth Sports Complex
- Add youth sports complex in central Mesa



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Recreational Access

Make recreation programs a point of civic pride

- **Expand Regional**

- Pools Program**

- Comprehensive plan for building and upgrading facilities
 - Mesa High Pool
 - Desert Ridge Pool
 - Major aquatics center in downtown



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Recreational Access

Make recreation programs a point of civic pride

- Co-locate City-School recreational facilities.
- Create a southeast regional park (next to Monterey Park)
- Use smartphone apps
 - Encourage youth participation,
 - Show trails maps or interesting facts on flora/fauna
 - Provide a tracking system for those who have visited
- Complete downtown community garden

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We'd appreciate your feedback



- Next step is to create **action, results and community pride.**
 - Seek input and participation from **existing boards and commissions**
 - **Celebrate** and market idea completion
- Once momentum established, pursue **Phase 2** recommendations.
- Continue seeking **citizen input.**