



iMesa

imagine, invest, improve

Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2013, 6 pm

City Council Chambers, Lower Level, 57 E. 1st Street

Attendance:

Mark Schofield (Chair)

Elizabeth Danielson (Vice Chair)

Ronald Barnes

Stephen Sparks

Kay Henry

Stephen Viramontes

Bill Puffer

Terry Benelli

Shannon Acevedo

Kathy Macdonald (Staff Liaison)

Donna Bronski (City Attorney)

Absent: Ted Wendell

Kate Ali'Varius

David Short

John Kressaty

Karen Frias-Long

Minutes:

- Mark Schofield called the meeting to order. A moment of silence observed in honor of former Mayor Wayne Brown who recently passed away.
- A motion to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2013 meeting was made by Terry and seconded by Stephen Sparks.
- There were no items from citizens present.
- Donna Bronski from the City Attorney's Office presented a review of the Arizona Open Meeting Law due to some confusion about some of the requirements. Donna outlined the following key points:
 - a. Quorum for the iMesa Committee is 8 members.
 - b. Quorum is an "absolute majority" of all members (even if vacancies exist) of the committee or sub-committee.
 - c. The Open Meeting Law applies to iMesa and all of its sub-committees.
 - d. Violations of the open meeting law can result in nullification of actions taken, civil penalties, imposition of attorney's fees and removal from office.

- e. Meetings occur over time, if the same information is exchanged with a quorum of committee members, whether it happens all at once or serially (A tells B tells C, etc. until a quorum discusses the same issue)
- f. Meetings occur when a quorum of committee members discuss any topic that might come before them for action – whether in person, electronically, by phone.
- g. Valid meetings must follow a properly posted Agenda followed with properly posted minutes.
- h. Staff will do all the documentation and scheduling for you so you can concentrate on your great work.
- i. Complying with the open meeting law increases public trust of the government.
- j. The public's business must occur in public

More information about the Open Meeting Law can be found in the presentation given to the iMesa Committee in March. <http://www.mesaaz.gov/imesa/meetingitems/3-26-13/OML%202013.pdf>

- Kay asked how we will move forward with the ideas submitted to iMesa. Bill discussed the seven areas of focus outlined by the iMesa Committee. He specifically mentioned a vibrant downtown and transportation projects to be the areas of most interest to the public. Some ideas include Fiesta District improvements, innovation districts, light rail master plan, electric charging stations, high speed rail, monorail, bikeways/walkways, tying key centers together, leveraging existing assets, technology integration, proximity to businesses and schools and the urban plaza. Terry asked about community input on the urban plaza. Kathy mentioned that ASU students are doing the preliminary work on concept designs and including public input. There will be broadened public input as the project progresses. Shannon asked about how the ideas are grouped and the methodology. She offered her expertise in this area to assist the committee. Kathy explained that Doug Griffin, a consultant, was brought in over a year ago to help the committee sift through and prioritize ideas and also identify low hanging fruit. Mark said the committee shouldn't focus on another bond issue. Kay suggested the committee conduct more village meetings. Mark mentioned the Mesa Grande Community Alliance and that there is another downtown group coming up with a similar focus. Terry discussed the history and mission of the Mesa Grande group. Stephen mentioned that through the Housing Board he works to be sure housing funds help support light rail. Elizabeth discussed the focus of the various village meetings including Mesa Grande at Riverview, the community garden at Central, and McKellips proposed park at Desert Uplands. She mentioned the benefit of having a specific focus for village meetings. Mark mentioned that on Higley to Power on Main Street there are business owners in need of help. Terry pointed out that federal regulations dictate where money is spent as with the Mesa CDC. Kathy asked if anyone has a financial interest of any kind in this area before moving forward with the discussion as they would need to declare a conflict. No committee member declared a conflict. Mark proposed to put together a neighborhood group to assist the business owners. Elizabeth said this really isn't the purpose for iMesa. Terry concurred with Elizabeth's statement and also noted that some of this area may be located in

County islands. Stephen said there needs to be buy in from the businesses and residents before such an effort. The iMesa committee cannot make that decision for them. Ron suggested that the City may have resources available to assist these businesses. Kathy will check on this. Stephen suggested perhaps there are neighborhood organizations in the area who would take up the issue. Mark said that the committee should propose their own ideas as well as listen to the community. Kathy said that we can bring in the consultant again for the July meeting, depending on his availability, to help the committee organize and prioritize ideas currently in the system. The consultant will be brought to a regular meeting first to ask meaningful questions and identify the goals of the committee. The August meeting could be the brainstorming workshop with the consultant to sift through the ideas. The committee requested that we bring the community up to speed on what has been accomplished through iMesa up to this point. Stephen updated the group about the ABC matching fund idea on iMesa and the Housing Board's support.

- Kathy mentioned the upcoming Celebration of Freedom event. The committee would like to have a table. Kathy will arrange it through the Public Information office.
- Stephen will submit findings of the Communications subcommittee to Kathy.
- The Committee scheduled the next meeting to be on July 18 at 6 pm depending on the availability of the consultant. A meeting notice will be sent out confirming the date and time of the next meeting.
- Elizabeth made motion to adjourn. Terry seconded the motion.