

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 29, 2004

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 January 29, 2004 at 7:31 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Dennis Kavanaugh
Janie Thom
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the February 2, 2004 Regular Council meeting.

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

Conflicts of interest declared: 5h (Hawker)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 3a, 6b, 7a, 9a, 9b, 9i

Items deleted from the consent agenda: 9g

2. Hear a presentation on the San Tan Mountains Park Master Plan.

Interim Cultural Director Jerry Dillehay reported that the Master Plan is presently in draft form. He noted that Maricopa County has not yet adopted the Plan due to the fact that the Bureau of Land Management's Environmental Assessment is in the process of public review, but County approval of the Plan is anticipated within the next few months.

Mr. Dillehay stated that in 2001/2002 a joint decision was made by a number of East Valley governments to participate with Maricopa County in a cooperative agreement to underwrite the costs associated with an update to the ten-year old Master Plan. He noted that the ten thousand acre San Tan Mountains Park is one of ten regional Maricopa County parks. Mr. Dillehay added that a Joint Planning Committee, on which he serves as Mesa's representative, includes representatives from the other communities (Chandler, Gilbert and Queen Creek), Maricopa County, Pinal County and Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department staff. He reported that as a result of interviews of prospective consultants conducted by the Joint

Planning Committee, Maricopa County accepted the Committee's recommendation to hire the Environmental Planning Group (EPG) of Phoenix to update the Master Plan. Mr. Dillehay noted that the Joint Planning Committee emphasized two major areas of concern to EPG: one was that the cost of the Master Plan could not be increased, and the other was the importance of public input. He reported that six open houses were held with the participation of a group of 17 stakeholders to provide information regarding recreational uses. Mr. Dillehay added that significant input was received from citizens with equestrian and mountain bike interests.

Mr. Dillehay stated that an initial determination of the Joint Planning Committee was that passive recreational activity venues were more appropriate for the park than golf courses and ball fields due to the fact that these types of amenities are readily available at other sites. He noted that as residential development expands in the next 20 to 25 years, the park could provide the only sizeable open space in the area. Mr. Dillehay supplied the following information relative to the development of the San Tan Mountains Park:

- The park will include a 300-foot buffer zone around the perimeter of the park.
- County park regulations require fencing around the perimeter and limited access.
- Active mining claims exist on the site in addition to cultural features such as an Indian graveyard.
- Information on topography, soils, vegetation, animal species, etc. was input into a Global Positioning System (GPS) program to determine the best locations for future development with minimum impact on the environment.
- "Rehabilitation" is included in the vision statement due to the fact that in the past the park has experienced significant damage from mining operations, vandalism and fires.
- Control of park entrances is important for the County in terms of security and management in addition to being a source of revenue.
- Three entrances will utilize the honor system ("iron rangers") for park users to gain access.
- The main entrance from Phillips Road will include a visitor center with interpretive programs, group picnic areas, and 30 miles of multi-use trails in addition to an adaptive use recreational trail for the handicapped and challenged.
- An 80-site campground that could be privately managed, operated as a leased concession, or closed as necessary is included in the Master Plan due to the fact that a campground would generate significant revenue. The campground would have its own entrance, full hookups and a dump station.
- The original proposal to close Brenner Pass Road was abandoned due to the fact that the neighborhood expressed significant opposition.
- An eight-mile competitive track is planned for non-motorized bike and BMX events that could be utilized for regional and national championships, which would generate revenue for the County.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the effort to update the San Tan Mountains Park Master Plan is an example of good government and cooperation between two counties; that Pinal County Commissioner Sandy Smith raised approximately \$150,000 toward the visitor center; that construction costs are not included in the Master Plan; that fencing of the park is presently underway; that the 300-foot buffer is located on park property inside the fence line; that Mesa residents have access to two regional parks, San Tan Mountains Park to the south and Userly Park to the north; and that the County is being pressured by special interest groups, but staff anticipates that public demand will result in County approval of the Master Plan.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Dillehay for his presentation.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Board of Adjustment meeting held January 13, 2004.
- b. Design Review Board meeting held January 7, 2004.
- c. Human Relations Advisory Board meeting held December 17, 2003.
- d. Parks and Recreation Board meeting held January 8, 2004.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

The following members of the Council provided brief updates on various meetings/conferences they attended as follows:

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| Vice Mayor Kavanaugh: | “A T-Rex Named Sue” Exhibition at the Southwest Museum
Mesa Contemporary Arts Juried Exhibition
District 3 Neighborhood Meeting regarding Roof Rats |
| Councilmember Walters: | MAHNAH Club 50 th Anniversary Celebration
Art Showcase |
| Councilmember Thom: | Marine Corps League Installation of Officers
State Senate Finance Committee Hearings |
| Mayor Hawker: | State Senate Finance Committee Meeting |
| Councilmember Griswold: | Speaker at The Dons Club Meeting regarding Falcon Field
McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Introduction |

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Saturday, January 31, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – Dedication of Fire Station #201

Monday, February 2, 2004, 5:00 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, February 2, 2004, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2004, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session (Cancelled)

Thursday, February 5, 2004, 9:00 a.m. – General Development Committee

Wednesday, February 11, 2004, 4:00 p.m. – Ad Hoc Committee to Study Police Oversight

Wednesday, February 11, 2004, 6:30 p.m. – Financing the Future Citizens Committee

Thursday, February 12, 2004, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, February 12, 2004, 9:30 a.m. – Fire Committee

Tuesday, February 17, 2004, TBA – Study Session

Tuesday, February 17, 2004, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:16 a.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, 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 29th day of January 2004. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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