

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 20, 2008

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors at The Landmark Restaurant, 809 West Main Street, on February 20, 2008 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Kyle Jones
Scott Somers
Darrell Truitt
Claudia Walters

COUNCIL ABSENT

Tom Rawles
Mike Whalen

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debra Dollar
Jack Friedline
Kari Kent
Byran Raines
Linda Crocker
George Gascon
Joe Shelley
Ray Villa
Mike Renshaw
Beth Huning
Dan Cleavenger
Bill Jabjiniak

DOBSON RANCH BOARD PRESENT

Ted Disbrow
Katherine Halstead
Barry Hegrenes
Glen Kirk
Shelley Mardany

BOARD ABSENT

DOBSON RANCH STAFF PRESENT

Lynda Bailey
Faye Bristow
Bob Dowle
Donna Chapman
Renee' Coburn
John Knapp
Kimi Gueringer
Carole Stabile

OTHERS PRESENT

Chuck Fletcher
Tom Taussig

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Board Vice President Ted Disbrow introduced Michele Ray Brethower, Executive Director of the Dobson Ranch Homeowners Association.

Mr. Disbrow requested that the attendees introduce themselves.

2. Update on Economic Development activities.

Economic Development Director Bill Jabjiniak provided a status update on a number of restaurants and businesses in the City of Mesa. He reported on the recent closure of Friday's due to a lack of business and traffic in the area. He explained that Fuddrucker's has also closed and the property will be converted to an arts and theater complex???. Mr. Jabjiniak advised that the Cheesecake Café was opened for only four months and are?? He further commented that with regard to the property on the northwest corner of Alma School Road and Southern Avenue, he has challenged his staff to come up with some creative ways in which to draw the owner of the property into discussions with regard to the possible reuse options for the site. He added

that the Ulta store, which would be vacated at the end of the month, will be replaced with XXX. Mr. Jabjiniak added that he does not have much of an update to provide with regard to Neighbor's Café.

Mr. Jabjiniak also briefly highlighted several projects at the corner of Extension and Southern, including 500 high quality residential units and Aquaterra,

3. Changes to Dobson/Guadalupe Intersection.

4. City-ADOT cooperation on Price Road sound wall.

Ranch Board's interest at an upcoming MAG committee meeting to determine if this project would qualify for MAG's Neighborhood Noise Mitigation funding. Mr. Friedline indicated that should the project be funded by MAG the City would then work closely with ADOT and the neighbors to construct a new wall.

5. Dobson Ranch Library Hours.

Deputy City Manager Jack Friedline discussed Mesa's three libraries and pointed out that the Dobson Ranch library is a heavily used facility. He stated that because of its extensive use questions have arisen regarding the possibility of extending library hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Mr. Friedline commented on the fact that without additional revenue the extension of library hours was not feasible. He pointed out that the Red Mountain Library has similar hours of operation as Dobson; Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays with a total of four hours, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Friedline indicated that the hours of operation were selected based on statistical data and customer surveys in an effort to optimize usage of the library while at the same time meeting budgetary constraints. He commented that the Library Director indicated that she would be willing to meet with any interested parties to discuss the possibility of making adjustments to the library's current hours of operations.

In response to an inquiry regarding the utilization of volunteers at the libraries, Mr. Friedline reported that currently a great number of volunteers assist in staffing the libraries.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of private funding for the extension of library hours. Councilmember Rawles requested that Mr. Friedline direct staff to calculate the amount of funding necessary to extend the library's hours by both five hours and an additional ten hours. Councilmember Rawles stated that should a community show interest in raising the funds, the estimated costs could then be provided. Vice Mayor Walters suggested that the estimated costs should contain a breakdown for each library.

Vice Mayor Walters pointed out that in the libraries alone there are 20,000 hours that are staffed by volunteers and in the City, volunteers donated service totals in excess of 100,000 hours.

6. Dobson Ranch Burglar.

Sergeant Lee Rankin commented on the affects to Dobson Ranch regarding the decentralization of the Police Department and the resources provided to the Dobson substation. Sergeant Rankin stated that as a result of decentralization, the Dobson Ranch District now has ten detectives solely dedicated to working Part 1 crimes that occur within that District. Sergeant Rankin explained that Part 1 crimes include assaults, burglaries and thefts including vehicles and burglaries. He reported that the District also houses street crime detectives that investigate drug activities, vice and any crimes that are not considered Part 1 criminal activities.

Sergeant Rankin introduced Detective Nancy Spina who is currently working on a series of burglaries that recently occurred in the Dobson Ranch area. Detective Spina spoke of five recent burglaries which the department believes to be suspect-related. She suggested that residents be alert and report any suspicious activities in their neighborhood.

Dobson Ranch Executive Director, Lynda Bailey, reported that based on the recent criminal activities in the Dobson Ranch area, the Board has received approximately four to six requests to initiate a Neighborhood Watch Program for their neighborhood.

Ms. Bailey stressed the importance of educating the Police Department regarding the actual boundaries surrounding the Dobson Ranch area in an effort to ensure that any future communication specifically relates to criminal activities that occur only in the Dobson Ranch area.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of email to disperse information and the fact that the Internet is a quick and effective means to alert a community to any criminal activity taking place in the area. Ms. Bailey informed Lieutenant Alonzo that Dobson Ranch has established a hot-line email – “Neighborhood Alert” by which residents of the community can alert other homeowners of any suspicious activity in the area. She pointed out that this exchange of information (community alert) might avert the suspect(s) ability to successfully commit future crimes in the area.

7. Other questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the blighted area located north of Fiesta Mall on the northwest corner of Alma School Road and Southern. Councilmember Rawles commented on the fact that the City’s Code Compliance Department is in contact with the developer and is in the process of enforcing any code violations. Councilmember Rawles pointed out that although the developer is not required by law to redevelop the area, the property must remain in compliance.

Councilmember Rawles commented on the district meetings that have been held and stated that the City Manager believes that the meetings are an excellent opportunity for the City to outline the services provided to citizens and address any concerns they may have.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners’ Association Board of Directors adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

KENO HAWKER, 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 20th day of February 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2008

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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