

**RIO SALADO CROSSING MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITIES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Directors of the Rio Salado Crossing Multi-purpose Facilities District met in a Board Meeting/Public Hearing in the City of Mesa Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on Wednesday, August 12, 1998 at 6:05 p.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Marty Whalen, Chairman
Pat Gilbert
Marjorie Heckman
David Johnston
Jim Lykins
Roseann Sweet

**MESA COUNCIL
PRESENT**

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker

MESA STAFF PRESENT

Neal Beets
Linda Crocker
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Ray Pittman
Andrea Rasizer
Larry Woolf
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Doug Bennett
Cinda Bond
Robert Brinton
Dean Cathey
Jim Ferguson
Cecilia Fleming
Margie Frost
Larry Givens
Joe Guinn
Marty Gump
Gene Irwin
George Pettit
Michael Rushman
Bill Sims
Ted Willmeyer
Others

Chairman Whalen welcomed those present in the audience to the meeting.

1. Hear reports from Chairman's committees.

- a. Finance Committee
- b. Contracts Committee
- c. Marketing and Operations Committee
- d. Capital Facilities Committee
- e. Public Affairs Committee

Members of the various Committees presented brief status reports and responded to a series of questions relative to their areas of study.

Representatives from the firm Ernst & Young distributed copies of a report entitled "Certain Limited Procedures Performed on the Financial Model Assumptions for the Rio Salado Crossing Project" to the members of the Board and briefly highlighted the contents of the analysis.

2. Conduct a public hearing on the proposed Rio Salado Crossing Project.

Mr. Michael Rushman referred to artist renderings and illustrations displayed in the room and provided a brief synopsis of the proposed Rio Salado Crossing Project. Mr. Rushman noted that

the project will encompass approximately 650 acres and constitutes a unique master-planned community which will be developed at an in-fill location.

Discussion ensued relative to the various components of the project, including an exposition and convention center, hotels, retail and residential developments, restaurants, golf courses, recreational/open space amenities, water-related facets, the construction of a retractable football field, the development of a skateboard park, proposed urban fishing, the pedestrian-friendly nature of the proposal, anticipated traffic levels, project access and proposed parking facilities.

Mr. Rushman advised that a major portion of the parks and recreational trails will be developed at the same time and briefly commented on the various construction phases/timetables associated with the project.

In response to a question from Boardmember Johnston, Mr. Rushman expressed the opinion that the proposed retractable roof is a valuable amenity which will enhance the facility's ability to attract major events. Mr. Rushman commented that the facility could host equestrian-related activities and indicated his intention to pursue this use.

Chairman Whalen thanked Mr. Rushman for his overview of the project.

Mr. Jim Ferguson, 1218 West Mountain View Drive, spoke in opposition to the implementation of an additional ¼¢ sales tax and stated the opinion that the proposal will not benefit a majority of the citizens of Mesa.

Mr. Keno Hawker, 1364 West Escarpa Street, commented on the potential \$10 million operational deficit that may occur and stressed the importance of identifying funding sources to offset the potential losses.

Cinda Bond, 1524 West Lindner Avenue, stressed the importance of ensuring that adequate right-of-way is included in the project and spoke in support of planning for the implementation of light rail transit in the future.

Cecilia Fleming, 1356 West Esplanade Street, informed the Board that the project will eventually block the views she currently enjoys from her home. Ms. Fleming urged the Board to address the needs of the residents of the area and protect their residential investments.

Marty Gump, 1362 West Escarpa, commented on the importance of identifying the improvements that will occur on each side of the canal and spoke in support of limiting the height of proposed buildings in order to protect the views of the existing property owners. Mr. Gump indicated that he supports the project but requested that the Board pursue the concerns of the neighbors in the affected area.

Mr. Gene Irwin, 1960 West Ray Road, Chandler, informed the Board that he represents Global Funding Corporation and indicated the company's interest in participating in the funding of the project.

Chairman Whalen thanked the speakers for their input.

3. Scheduling of future meetings and general information.

Chairman Whalen advised that due to the fact that a significant amount of information remains to be addressed relative to the agenda items, the meeting will be reconvened to tomorrow, August 13, 1998 at 3:00 p.m.

There were no other meetings scheduled or items of general information.

4. Adjournment.

It was moved by Boardmember Gilbert, seconded by Boardmember Lykins, that the meeting recess at 8:07 p.m. and reconvene tomorrow, August 13, 1998 at 3:00 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting/Public Hearing, held on the 12th day of August 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of August, 1998

JIM LYKINS, BOARD SECRETARY