



COUNCIL MINUTES

February 13, 2013

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors at the La Casita Community Center on February 13, 2013 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Scott Smith
Alex Finter
Dina Higgins
Dennis Kavanaugh
Scott Somers

COUNCIL ABSENT

Christopher Glover
Dave Richins

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Tammy Albright
Polly Bonnett
Dan Cleavenger
Miranda DeWitt
Marc Heirshberg
Beth Huning
Lenny Hulme
Laura Hyneman
Bill Jabjiniak
Kari Kent
Natalie Lewis
Ian Linssen
Charlotte McDermott
Kathy Macdonald
Dee Ann Mickelsen
Frank Milstead
Randy Policar
John Pombier
Melissa Randazzo
Jodi Sorrell
Debbie Spinner
Mark Wesselman

DOBSON RANCH BOARD PRESENT

Ted Disbrow
Barry Hegrenes
Stacy Holmstedt
L. Jay Jones
Ron Magaw
Laurie Moe
Sandra Murray
Susan Powers
Bob Radisich

DOBSON RANCH STAFF PRESENT

Michele Ray-Brethower
Faye Bristow
Alex Fambri
Dennis Melgreen
Jesse Wright

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Councilmember Kavanaugh thanked everyone for attending and asked the City Council and Dobson Ranch Board of Directors to introduce themselves.

2. Economic Development.

Economic Development Director Bill Jabjiniak indicated that five new Universities are opening campuses in Mesa. He noted that one year ago, the City announced that Benedictine University would be the first college to open a campus in Mesa. He stated that four more universities are planned, with two located in the Fiesta district, including Albright University which is currently operating in the Financial Plaza Building and Upper Iowa, that will utilize the old Border's building. Mr. Jabjiniak pointed out that these universities chose to locate new campuses in Mesa because of the public and private investments taking place here.

3. Police Department.

Police Chief Frank Milstead provided an update on the new Dobson District Police Substation (Fiesta District Substation). He indicated that the new station will be a great asset to the community and will bring more officers to the area. He added that the new facility is larger in size and capacity than the current substation.

Police Commander Mark Wesselman addressed the group and provided data on Mesa's crime statistics including the fact that there was a 10% reduction in Part 1 Crimes, the largest reduction in the City overall. He added that even though there were fewer Part 1 Crimes, more of those crimes resulted in arrests resulting in a 17% increase in arrests.

Commander Wesselman further reported that last year, there was an average of 411 calls for service per month for the Dobson Ranch area, but four years ago that number was over 500. He added that in the last three years, the number of calls to report crimes in the Dobson Ranch area has decreased from 5,300 to 4,800 calls per year.

4. Transportation/Utilities Update.

Transportation Director Dan Cleavenger outlined some of the completed road construction projects, including the Dobson and Guadalupe road improvement in the Dobson Ranch area.

City Engineer Beth Huning stated that the Dobson and University road improvement project is moving along and noted that residents have requested more progress in a shorter period of time. She explained that as a result, the City has shortened its construction timeframe. She added that the new Cubs Stadium will be completed later this year, with Spring Training beginning next year at the new facility.

Ms. Huning added that the Southern Avenue Streetscape project contract will be presented to Council at the end of February and construction will begin sometime in March.

Interim Transit Director Jodi Sorrell reported that each weekday there are 41,000 riders on light rail and explained that 10% of those are from the Sycamore Station. She added that construction is currently under way to extend light rail to Mesa Drive (Central Main Station) and

should be completed in late 2015. She encouraged everyone to support local businesses that are impacted by light rail construction.

5. Parks and Recreation Update.

Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities (PRCF) Director Marc Heirshberg thanked voters for their support on the recent Parks and Recreation Bond issue that was passed in November 2012.

Mr. Heirshberg indicated that the Dobson Ranch Golf Course is currently undergoing improvements and was rated 4.5 out of 5 stars by Golf Digest, making it the highest rated municipal golf course in Arizona.

Mr. Heirshberg outlined several parks and recreation improvements, including those scheduled for 2014/15 and 2015/16. He said that the projects consist of irrigation and lighting upgrades, turf improvements, and playground upgrades and renovations.

Mr. Heirshberg added that Council recently passed a playground package for Riverview Park, which will make it a destination park. He said that the project is scheduled to open at the same time as the new Chicago Cubs Stadium.

Dobson Ranch Library Coordinator Polly Bonnett remarked that the Dobson Library has Self-Service hours, which begin at 9:00 a.m. (regular opening at 10:00 a.m.). She advised that this service allows patrons to use computers and the Internet and has been a very popular program.

Ms. Bonnett added that Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema will be having mobile office hours at the Dobson Ranch Library February 28 through April 25 on the fourth Thursday of each month.

6. Water Resources Update.

Water Resources Director Kathryn Sorensen explained that the City's water service area elevation is highest in the northeast part of the City and slopes to the southwest part of the City, where Dobson Ranch is located. She stated that this means fine silts, which naturally occur in the water, deposit in the pipes of southwest Mesa residents. She indicated that in order to improve the water quality in the area, Water Resources will conduct a flushing program in late spring or early summer to flush silt out of the pipes. She added that this will be done between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. She advised that exact dates have not been set, but said that information would be provided in the Dobson Ranch newsletter and also distributed on door hangars in the area.

7. Update on Projects.

City Manager Christopher Brady provided an update on the new Chicago Cubs Stadium. He said that the facility is scheduled for completion in December 2013 and will be open for the 2014 Spring Training season.

Mr. Brady reported that the City of Mesa is close to reaching an agreement with the Oakland Athletics (Oakland A's) to improve Fitch Park and Hohokam Stadium. He added that it would take one year to complete improvements once the Cubs move to their new stadium, but he fully expects the Oakland A's to be the new tenant at Hohokam in 2015.

Mr. Brady stated that Phoenix-Mesa Gateway has had over 1.3 million passengers utilize the airport and noted that five to six years ago, the only passengers using the airport were on charter airlines. He said there is more and more interest in Phoenix-Mesa Gateway as airlines and destinations increase.

Mr. Brady expressed his appreciation to the Board and thanked them for their continuing partnership and support.

Mayor Smith outlined a concept to create formalized innovation districts. He stated that we must strive to improve in this world economy and to do that we need to make Mesa known as a place of innovation and creativity. He explained that creating focus regions in areas such as Fiesta, Gateway, Falcon Field and Downtown would help establish anchors and areas of substance within our community. He indicated that the Mesa Library is a great example of creativity and innovation because of the programs staff has implemented despite experiencing deep budget cuts.

Mayor Smith expressed his appreciation to Dobson Ranch for their example of excellence, elevated standards, and partnership in our community.

8. Dobson Ranch 40th Anniversary.

Michele Ray-Brethower invited everyone to attend Dobson Ranch's 40th anniversary celebration on April 13. She thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for their partnership and expressed her appreciation to everyone who attended this morning's meeting.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting with the Dobson Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors adjourned at 8:44 a.m.

SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, INTERIM 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 13th day of February, 2013. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2013

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, INTERIM CITY CLERK