



IMAGINE MESA ADVISORY COMMITTEE Home Sub-Committee Meeting

October 19, 2017

The "at Home" Sub-Committee of the Imagine Mesa Advisory Committee of the City of Mesa met in the Mesa City Plaza, fourth floor 450-North conference room, 20 East Main Street, on October 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENT

Jake Brown
Gina Rodriguez (Conference call)

COMMITTEE ABSENT

Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo – Lead

STAFF PRESENT

RJ Zeder
Eloy Garza
Ivonne Machuca

1. Call to Order.

Sub-Committee Jake Brown called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

2. Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2017 approved unanimously.

3. Presentations from Fire Chief Mary Cameli, Assistant Chief Anthony Lythgoe, Commander Lee Rankin, and Code Enforcement Eloy Garza.

Fire Chief Cameli Presentation:

#1 New fire stations

Idea A. [A new fire station in Eastmark](#)

Idea B. [Mesa Fire Department to build a Fire Station at 32nd St and McDowell Rd](#)

Question A: Information related to any future Mesa Fire bond requests

Answer A: Bond in November 2018 for Eastmark

Question A: Approximate staffing requirements for a planned (or standard) fire station

Answer A: \$3.3 million in staffing, once building begins \$2.2 million will be awarded, if bond passes. Total cost is \$11 million. Geographically a station at Eastmark makes sense; however, call volumes are not high in SE Mesa. With approximately 300 single family home permits approved each month the area is growing rapidly. Residential, assisted living facilities, and businesses will generate calls. The chief station to service Eastmark currently is station #219.

Question B: Are there plans to build a Fire Station at 32nd St and McDowell Rd in the future? If yes, what is the timeline?

Answer B: Data is being scrubbed and looked at. The Lehi Crossing area has two stations and both require the need to go around. Crismon and Broadway will be looked at first rather than the Lehi Crossing area.

#4 Social Services

Idea D. [We Would like to see Mesa put a freeze on all new assisted living facilities and section 8 housing](#)

Question D: Has the City of Mesa attempted “freeze” these types of developments in the past? If yes:

- When did was this attempt made?
- Were there any negative repercussions for the City of Mesa?
- What transpired, legal?

Question D: Are there federal/state/city rights (Fair Housing Act) that would prohibit the “freezing” of these facilities?

Answer D: See email responses from [Liz Morales](#)

#6 Libraries

Idea A. [Southeast Mesa to have a 21st century library](#)

Idea B. [a Library in Eastmark](#)

Question A: What plans does the City of Mesa have, or would like to have, for future libraries or satellite libraries?

Question A: Are there any plans to add new libraries into a future bond?

Question A: Approximately what does a standard library cost to build and staff? What does a satellite library costs to build and staff?

Question B: Are there any plans to build a library in Eastmark in the future? If yes, what is the timeline?

Answer A & B: See email responses from [Heather Wolf](#)

Assistant Chief Anthony Lythgoe, Commander Lee Rankin Presentations:

#7 Public safety

Idea C. [better trained police and a more professional approach to the community focused on customer service](#)

Idea D. [more law enforcement to stop loitering and panhandling outside of grocery and convenient stores](#)

Idea F. [police dress like civilians & have lunch in the park & interact w/ the people in the City casually](#)

Question C: How does Mesa PD currently train its staff to ensure positive customer service? Are there plans to enhance overall training and customer service training? If yes, please describe and provide details.

Answer C: Currently staff receive two-part training that includes customer service. AZ Post standards require a minimum of 530 hours, City of Mesa Police Academy standard is 830

hours and includes: 8 hours of Cultural Awareness, 4 hours of Community Problem Solving, 4 hours of Victimology, 8 hours of Mental Illness. In 2016 received de-escalation training, dealing with mentally ill, developed Crisis Response Team. Commander and PD group developed a Mental Health Advisory Board. 2018 Training will include Use of Force Training. Challenges: Need personnel to instruct and personnel to attend, overtime is not available. Required training takes precedence – OSHA, Gas Mask, Fire training. Extra training becomes secondary.

Opportunities: Briefing training, training in the parking lot for squad officers, computer and video based training for 15 – 20 minutes.

Customer service is priority, supervisor monitors appropriate dealings with the public. PD has robust complaint process – citizens can complain online or to supervisor, and outside instruction training is available. If it is a one-time occurrence, the supervisor deals with the issue(s) on a case by case basis. If it is a serious problem, then wide scale training is needed. The city has invested a lot of money in body cameras, all officers wear body cameras and audits are conducted, proof that another layer of customer service is provided. Police evaluation of body cameras saw a decrease in 75% of complaints, that is consistent across the nation.

Committee Member Jake Brown would like to see more good stories about Mesa PD, and asked if the Police Department budgets for good stories?

Answer: Officers are not doing good for approval but because it is the right thing to do. For example; an officer was aware of a woman suffering from dementia and the officer removed his uniform and mowed her lawn. Police Department conducts community surveys using social media, Facebook, press releases to get the stories out there but the message cannot be sent without the proper procedure.

Answer D: It is not against the law to panhandle, unless other laws are violated no action can be taken. In place is trespassing enforcement, citizens can file paperwork to address no trespassing, then a log is created with the business and persons are identified. The property owner will need to trespass the person from the location.

Challenges: Homelessness, there is a correlation between panhandling and the homeless population. There are mental health and drug dependency issues as well. Without proper resources, even arrests would be a problem.

Opportunities: Homeless navigator in downtown Mesa, Mental Health professionals within PD-a person that could point them in the right direction. PD is heavily involved with non-profits and partnerships.

Question F: What community policing is Mesa PD already doing?

Answer F: Mesa PD interacts with the community and not just on service calls. There are 11 community forums in various segments; Hispanic, business, and senior forums. GAIN night where officers attend watch parties. Special Olympics, AZ Torch Run, Sporting Events, School Resource Officers, Officers attend Advisory Boards.

Question F: Are there any future community policing plans Mesa PD is looking to initiate? If yes, please describe. Is it possible to replicate coffee with a cop in the park?

Answer F: There are coffee with a cop events, where officers were at a shop and citizens were encouraged to attend. Chief Batista suggested for officers to attend in an area where they would not normally attend. The possibility of events at a grocery store and neighborhoods.

There are mixed feelings officers not in uniform, there are opportunities when officers are in uniform and it is associated with help, information, and advice. Officers must dress to the audience.

Challenges: Certain groups ask for Officers to be in uniform.

Models for future PD staffing— Split in thirds; service, administration, and proactive time. Many times, staffing levels prevent proactive time. Examples of proactive time; Angel Walk, Movies in Park, Food Truck Festivals, Motorcycles on Main, Aids Walk. PD has a good model in place, crime fighting model is monitored, sending resources, and there is a big sense of urgency to locate and prevent another crime.

Committee Member Jake Brown asked for the cost for one officer.

Answer: One officer is around \$160k. They have seen a loss of 21 sworn positions with budget constraints.

Code Compliance Presentation from Eloy Garza

#8 Code enforcement

Idea A. [To see Mesa start enforcing city codes and require property owners to keep their property clean](#)

Question A: Information and costs related to two (2) additional Code Compliance Officers that would be responsible for proactive enforcement.

Answer A: See [Code Compliance Staff Estimate Handout](#)

Eloy Garza will provide more information on this item at the next meeting.

#9 Animal Services

Idea A. [Some control of the feral cat population](#)

Question A: What does the City of Mesa currently do to control/reduce the feral cat population?

Question A: How does the State define feral cats and how it differs from dogs?

Question A: Are there special state/county restrictions or rules when it comes to feral cats?

Question A: What can the City of Mesa do/what can the City of Mesa not do?

Question A: What could the City of Mesa do with more resources?

Note: Subcommittee is very interested in reducing the feral cat population. They have heard about the Trap and Release Programs but would like more information on other avenues as well.

Answer A: See email response from [Diane Brady](#). The sub-committee would like a presentation for clarification on the email response.

#13 [Free little libraries in neighborhoods](#)

Question: Subcommittee would like information on these “little libraries in neighborhoods” as well as associated costs, if other cities are involved with them, incentive programs, etc.

Answer: See email response from [Lindsey Balinkie](#)

4. Discuss and evaluate ideas.

This item was moved to the next sub-committee meeting pending new ideas.

5. Scheduling of Meetings and General Information.

The next sub-committee meeting will be held at 5:30pm on November 2, 2017.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Imagine Mesa Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 6:47pm

