

# **Minutes of the Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association**

## **Regular Meeting – February 4, 2008 – Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. The following board members were present:

Randall Pierce  
Sylvia Katvala  
Chip Ellis  
Keith Miller

A Quorum was noted for the record.

## **Minutes of December Meeting**

Keith Miller moved to approve the minutes of the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Sylvia Katvala. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

## **Call to Audience**

A resident requested clarification regarding the “Florida-T” proposed for the intersection of Poorman Road and Houghton Road. Discussion was deferred to the Committee Reports agenda item scheduled for later in the meeting.

## **Special Presentation**

Randy Pierce prefaced a special presentation by TPD by describing the recent spate of illegal discharging of firearms and off-road vehicle use on state-owned land immediately east of Mesquite Ranch. Several incidents were reported by residents via 911 calls, resulting in relatively little action. As a result, MRNA appealed to the City and TPD to investigate and resolve the continuing problem. With that, Randy introduced Capt. Bill Washington of TPD to present and discuss recent efforts aimed at educating the public about appropriate, legal use of state-owned land.

Capt. Washington began by explaining that Mesquite Ranch resides in Sector 8 of TPD’s Eastside Division. The Eastside Division is the largest of five divisions in the City, encompassing approximately half of the City’s total area. Sector 8 is the largest sector within the Eastside Division.

Capt. Washington explained that, in response to concerns raised by MRNA, TPD had partnered with the Department of Game and Fish to establish a small task force with the charter of investigating the magnitude and types of violations occurring. The task force focused on a 15 square mile area bordered by Houghton Road on the west, Bilby Road on the North, Mary Ann Cleveland Way on the South, and Pantano Wash to the East. The team began patrolling state land in this area in December 2007, patrolling 3 days per week, 6 hours per day (Saturday, Sunday, and a random weekday). After approximately 100 total hours, officers had recorded contact with 72 citizens involved in various activities on State Land. These activities included both legal and illegal land use. 40 of the contacts involved off-road vehicle use, 2 involved firearms, and the balance involved hikers, bikers, and a 2 persons participating in falconing. Some, but not all, had proper permits. All citizens were educated in the law regarding the use of state land, the need for permits, and activities which were not allowed under current land use law. No arrests were made.

Capt. Washington stated that the patrols would continue until March, at which time the situation would be evaluated and future plans considered.

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## **Committee Reports**

Community Service - Chip Ellis reported that plans for the semi-annual Community Yard Sale and Cleanup would begin soon, with these activities likely to be held in the late April timeframe.

Neighborhood Watch - Randy Pierce stated that anyone interested in organizing a neighborhood watch should contact him for more information.

Newsletter – Randy Pierce stated that the newsletter was nearing completion and would be mailed next month.

Plans and Development – Randy Pierce introduced Mr. Andy Squire from Ward 4, who provided an update on future development plans for the Houghton Corridor.

Westcor, a Scottsdale developer, has been awarded a planning permit for development of 12,000 acres along Houghton Road south of Golf Links.

It will take at least 1-1/2 years to develop the plan, which will incorporate the general intent of the Houghton Area Master Plan (HAMP) but not be held to that plan.

Plans under consideration include residential/commercial development that will incorporate and maintain intact the current Fantasy Island bicycle trail system at Irvington and Houghton, as well as a regional park among approximately 400 acres surrounding Empire High School.

The project will rely heavily on public input, in the form of public meetings that will be scheduled and well-advertised.

Traffic and Safety – Randy Pierce reported street sign damage in the neighborhood had been detailed in a report to the City, and that repairs were already underway to correct the damaged signage.

Randy provided a brief explanation of a Florida-T intersection as it is planned for Poorman Road at Houghton Road.

## **Meeting Closure**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chip Ellis and seconded by Keith Miller. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:00 p.m.