

Minutes of the Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association

Regular Meeting – June 2, 2009 – Call to Order

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

Cindy Copley
Sylvia Katvala
Chip Ellis
Karina Trumbull

A Quorum was noted for the record. Cindy Copley, MRNA Vice President, presided over the meeting in the absence of Randy Pierce, who resigned his officer position at the May meeting due to a job relocation.

Minutes of May 2009 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 2009 MRNA meetings was made by Chip Ellis and seconded by Karina Trumbull. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Sylvia Katvala reported that a \$293.35 balance in cash was on hand due to the closure of the MRNA bank account. Cindy Copley moved that a new account be established at a financial institution for deposit of the funds. The motion was seconded by Karina Trumbull and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Community Service – Chip Ellis reported that the City's Brush and Bulky Pickup was scheduled for the following next week and that Fall Community Yard Sale and Cleanup would likely be held in October.

Newsletter – Cindy Copley stated that newsletter preparation was on hold due to Randy Pierce's job transfer. She explained that a sponsor for our web site had been found and that the web site would serve to communicate community issues until a new newsletter committee lead could be selected.

Social Committee – Karina Trumbull proposed a summer social event with a 50's "Picnic" theme, where families would prepare picnic lunches, possibly for raffle, followed by a picnic and 50's costume contest. A resident suggested that community participation might be limited by the requirement to prepare a picnic and suggested that providing food would probably ensure a better turnout. Cindy Copley suggested a Movie Night. Karina stated that plans for a summer event would be further discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Social Committee.

Plans & Development – No report

Traffic & Safety – Sylvia Katvala reported that a call had been made to Parkwise requesting a sweep of the neighborhood during evening hours, due to some residents complaining of illegal parking and noisy gatherings of teens and their vehicles after dark. Sylvia also stated that she had reported graffiti at on the bridge underpass at the main wash and Bilby, and on a block wall at Malta and Bach, to the City graffiti hotline.

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Old Business

A motion to appoint Randy Pierce to the position of Director 5 was made by Cindy Copley and seconded by Karina Trumbull. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. It was explained that although Randy's job requires him to work out of state, his family remains in their home in Mesquite Ranch and Randy intends to continue to support MRNA. His appointment to Director 5 will permit Randy to continue to act in an "ex officio" capacity to the board as provided in the MRNA bylaws.

Cindy Copley reported that establishing a PO Box for MRNA would require funds that MRNA may not be able to provide on a continuing basis. It was suggested that MRNA ask Ward 4 if a mail drawer could be established in the Ward 4 office for use by MRNA. Andy Squire (Ward 4) offered to check with the legal department to see if this could be done.

New Business

Cindy Copley explained that, due to recent resignations by MRNA board members, a decision had been made at the May meeting to hold an election at the June meeting for open board positions. Announcement of open elections was made via the May monthly mailing. The floor was opened to nominations, and residents Keith Miller and Barry Webb were nominated as write-ins. One resident who had expressed interest at the May meeting asked to have her name removed from the ballot as she only wished to serve on a committee and not on the board. Ballots were distributed to all present and voting commenced. Ballots were collected and counted by Karina Trumbull and Sylvia Katvala. Tallies were provided to Chip Ellis who announced that Keith Miller received 13 votes and Barry Webb received 12 votes. Both nominees were elected and welcomed to the board.

Andy Squire was invited to brief residents on the current budget constraints being dealt with by the City. Andy described the budget situation as "grim". 400 open City positions were being held vacant to save costs, and current City employees (except public safety employees) are being required to take 5 furlough days without pay. Law enforcement was described as "holding strong", with 59 officers for 88 positions needed in the East Division. While TPD is working to ensure law enforcement coverage, slow response to non-emergency calls can be expected. Andy explained that the Eastside Division is attempting to compete for ATV equipment grants to establish an ATV patrol (the current patrol operates out of the Westside division). Several revenue sources were being explored by the City, including an increase in the bed tax for hotels and a 1-2% utility tax. However, a proposed rent tax had been voted down. Many non-critical services, such as landscaping, have been cut significantly. However, most crisis services remain largely funded.

Andy Squire went on to state that Captain Nunoz was appointed the new Captain of TPD Operations Division East, replacing Captain Washington, who retired.

Cindy Copley announced that copies of MRNA bylaws were available for review and that formal review and voting on the bylaws would occur in September.

Cindy Copley stated that Eliot Realty had agreed to fund the MRNA website for one year, and that Randy Pierce would continue to provide web support on the new server. Cindy also stated that a spare phone line with answering machine would be maintained at her residence for MRNA use. The phone number is 520-514-1233.

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Next Meeting

Cindy Copley announced that the next MRNA regular meeting would be held on July 7th. Principal Carney from the new Rincon Vista Middle School will be present to discuss school construction progress and to review traffic flow and potential vehicular access via Marquette Street.

Meeting Closure

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cindy Copley and was seconded by Karina Trumbull. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:45 p.m.

Executive Session

The board continued in executive session for appointment of new officers. Keith Miller agreed to take the position of President made vacant by the re-appointment of Randy Pierce to Director 5. Barry Webb accepted the position of Director 2. Chip Ellis retained the position of Secretary. Cindy Copley retained the position of Vice President. Sylvia Katvala retained the position of Treasurer. New Officer Information Release forms were prepared for submittal to DNR.

Barry Webb agreed to head the Newsletter Committee, previously headed by Randy Pierce.