

Minutes of the Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association

Regular Meeting – June 3, 2008 – Call to Order

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

Randall Pierce
Keith Miller
Sylvia Katvala
Chip Ellis
Karina Trumbull

A Quorum was noted for the record.

Minutes of April Meeting

Motion to approve the April meeting minutes (deferred at the last meeting) was made by Randy Pierce and seconded by Sylvia Katvala. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Call to Audience

A resident expressed concern of the potential for increased litter along Marquette Street once Senita Valley Elementary is opened.

Committee Reports

Community Service – The Spring Community Yard Sale and Cleanup was held the weekend of April 26th. The next Yard Sale and Cleanup will be in the Fall.

A suggestion was made for Mesquite Ranch to sponsor a blood drive through the Red Cross as a community service event.

Plans & Development – Keith Miller reported that grading of Bilby Road to Senita Valley School continues in preparation for paving in time for school to start. The road is two lanes each way as it extends from Metropolitan eastward, but reduces to one lane each way before reaching the school. A resident questioned whether sidewalks will extend on both sides. Keith Miller agreed to check on this and report at a future meeting.

Traffic & Safety – The City has been notified regarding street sweeping, but we have not had a response as yet. There are several reflectors damaged or missing along streets in Mesquite Ranch, and the City will be contacted regarding repairs as well as regarding additional signage near the Marquette access road to the Senita Valley school. Randy Pierce will be in contact with TPD regarding traffic control concerns after the school opens.

Newsletter – Randy Pierce reported that MRNA has not distributed a newsletter since October 2007, but that every effort would be made to deliver one in July.

Neighborhood Watch – Randy Pierce reported on some issues of graffiti/vandalism, illegal gun discharging to the East of Mesquite Ranch, and illegal use of ATVs on the streets and washes. TPD made approximately 75 stops in June, using the opportunity to inform and educate persons using guns and/or ATVs of the laws of proper use within State Land areas. TPD is now in enforcement mode for these activities and persons found in violation can expect to be cited. Randy indicated that police response time is still an issue but expected to improve as we continue to communicate with

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TPD and Ward 4 about our concerns. Crime is still relatively low in our community and these calls are understandably a low priority compared to more serious issues within the East sector. Randy asked that residents continue to take pictures of graffiti and forward them to the MRNA for action. Randy stated that there is only one official Neighborhood Watch group in Mesquite Ranch. Setting up a Watch requires 8-10 homes agreeing to meet at least once a year. The MRNA website contains a “crime map” showing locations of criminal activity in the neighborhood and Randy encouraged residents to view the map and get involved in watching for suspicious activity.

Plans and Development – Keith Miller reported that, primarily due to the current economic situation, no sales of State Land around Mesquite Ranch are planned for the near future. Land clearing at Drexel/Houghton is underway but it is not clear what the development is for. It is known that it will not be an asphalt or concrete/gypsum plant. Planning for the Houghton Road project continues. It is known that the widening will affect the current pathway along Houghton, causing the path to align closer to the property walls on the west end of Mesquite Ranch. The speed limit along Houghton after the widening will be posted at 45 mph from Irvington to Valencia (day and night). A Florida T intersection will be installed at Poorman/Houghton. Southbound Houghton traffic will be permitted to turn left onto Forest Glen, however traffic exiting Mesquite Ranch from Forest Glen will be required to turn right only.

Social Committed – Karina Trumbull suggested a barbecue with an “American Idol” theme be planned, possibly for July 4th. A Halloween costume party with haunted house is in the works for the weekend before Halloween. A Night Under the Stars is being planned for March of next year. Womens’ Self-Defense classes and Tai Chi instruction are also being investigated.

Closing Discussion

Randy Pierce discussed a “VIP” program sponsored by TPD which trains neighborhood representatives in patrolling for criminal activity. Several persons expressed interest in such a program and Randy agreed to have a TPD representative present at a future MRNA meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding ways that the MRNA meetings could be improved. A request was made for communication of specific City statutes related to Parking in the community be made at a future meeting. More details regarding new commercial development in the area was also requested.

Meeting Closure

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