

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

## **June 5, 2007 – Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. The following board members were present:

Randall Pierce  
Keith Miller  
Sylvia Katvala  
Sam Hagadorn, Jr.  
Chip Ellis  
Karina Trumbull

A Quorum was noted for the record.

## **Approval of May Minutes**

The minutes of the May 1st meeting were not formally available for review. It was agreed that the minutes of the May meeting would be submitted in conjunction with the June meeting minutes, for approval vote at the July meeting.

## **Special Presentation – Ricardo Martinez, Parkwise**

Ricardo Martinez, of Parkwise (traffic enforcement division of TDOT) was present to give an overview of his department's responsibilities and services. Mr. Martinez explained that Parkwise was established in 1997 to focus on parking enforcement around U of A, due to increased in-fill of properties in the area which stressed available parking for residents. The department's area of responsibility has since increased to the entire City of Tucson, though the university remains their primary enforcement area. Parkwise currently has 4 full time officers.

Mr. Martinez added that although Parkwise has limited resources, they do promise a 24-48 hour response time for calls to anyplace in the City. Residents with a parking concern may call Parkwise Enforcement at 791-5071 between the hours of 7:30 – 5:30 M-F and either speak with an officer or leave a message for a response. Calls may also be made to TPD (791-4444) but such calls will be referred to Parkwise and Mr. Martinez emphasized that calling Parkwise directly would result in the best response time. Night and weekend hours are currently not manned by Parkwise, but Mr. Martinez indicated that this may be considered in the near future. Randy Pierce added that due to the distance from Parkwise's office to our neighborhood, calls would be better referred to him so that complaints can be consolidated and handled with a single visit.

Mr. Martinez explained that the most common violations in our neighborhood include parking on the street (other than in cutouts) or anywhere in cul-de-sacs, and blocking sidewalks. In response to a resident's question, he explained that parking in yards is not currently a ticketable violation, and that only violations impacting City rights-of-way (which typically extend from the middle of the street to the sidewalk edge closest to residents' homes, and includes sidewalk buffers and the sidewalks themselves) can be ticketed.

In closing, Mr. Martinez emphasized that Parkwise's philosophy is to train residents in the City's parking ordinances, and to enforce with tickets only when required.

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

## **Call to Audience**

The floor was opened for comments and concerns by residents.

A resident expressed concern over the condition of the asphalt walking path along Houghton Road. The resident is of the belief that this path, while built by Mesquite Ranch's developer, actually should be maintained by the City of Tucson. It was agreed that contact would be made by the Traffic & Safety committee to the City to request maintenance.

A resident informed the group that an information open-house regarding the Houghton widening project would be held at Secrest Middle School on June 6 at 6:00pm.

A resident expressed concern about children building bike ramps at the SE corner of Bilby and Metropolitan. It was agreed that since this affected common areas it would be referred to the HOA for resolution.

A resident complained that the dust on Bilby Road, east of Metropolitan was very bad and that the Pulte contractors were not watering enough to reduce airborne dust. Randy Pierce agreed to take this up with Pulte.

A resident complained about the free Vail Sun newspaper being delivered unsolicited to his home. Some residents expressed that this amounted to littering, but just as many residents stated that they liked the newspaper and would not want delivery to stop. It was recommended that the residents that do not want the paper delivered call the Vail Sun directly and request delivery to their home be ceased. If this is unsuccessful, the MRNA will investigate a further resolution.

## **Officer/Committee Reports**

Community Service: Chip Ellis reported that the Spring Community Yard Sale held on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> was a success, despite rain which delayed the start. At least 15 homes participated. Chip also reported that the Spring Cleanup was also a success, with four 20' rolloffs provided by the City of Tucson during the period of April 20<sup>th</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup> being filled to overflowing by residents. A volunteer Neighborhood Cleanup was not scheduled due to time constraints, but plans are to include such an event in conjunction with the Fall Yard Sale and Cleanup sometime in October.

Newsletter: Randy Pierce explained that work on the Newsletter was continuing, and would be sent out in July in time to serve as notice of the annual meeting in August.

Neighborhood Watch: Sam Hagadorn Jr. presented a crime map that he prepared from TPD data, which will be posted on the MRNA website. Overall crime level in the neighborhood remains "low".

Plans and Development: Groundbreaking has begun for the new Wells Fargo at the SE corner of Valencia and Houghton. A liquor license has been applied for by Diamond Shamrock for a gas/convenience center at the corner of Irvington and Houghton.

Traffic and Safety: Sylvia Katvala reported that the issue of pet waste being dumped into washes is abated somewhat. She also reported that kids had been spotted shooting "air-soft" guns in the neighborhood. Police were called and responded, but the kids were not found. Sylvia reported that some residents had been seen walking dogs off-leash, presenting a danger to other residents

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

walking with or without smaller pets. A recommendation was made that walkers carry pepper spray designed to deter animals as a safety precaution against untethered dogs. A resident suggested having a “pet’s corner” segment in the upcoming newsletter dedicated to informing residents of laws and rules around responsible pet ownership.

Nomination: Randy Pierce notified the group that elections would be held for open board positions at the upcoming annual meeting in August.

Social: Karina Trumble presented a list of potential social events for discussion. Several ideas were discussed and further information about those selected by the group will be forthcoming.

### **Old Business**

Discussion of past and future barbecues ensued. The success of the barbecues and their positive impact on resident participation at the meetings was espoused, but the pressure and expense that these events place on a select few residents was raised as a concern. It was suggested that future events stipulate a fee for participation or a requirement that a prepared dish be brought to share.

### **New Business**

No new business.

### **Meeting Closure**

Motion to adjourn was made by Chip Ellis and seconded by Sylvia Katvala. Vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.