

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

## **Regular Meeting – September 4, 2007 – Call to Order**

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

Randall Pierce  
Sylvia Katvala  
Chip Ellis  
Karina Trumbull

A Quorum was noted for the record.

## **Approval of Minutes from August Annual Meeting**

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the MRNA held August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Randy Pierce and seconded by Karina Trumbull. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the board.

## **Call to Audience**

A resident suggested that a permanent garbage can be placed at the end of Marquette Street near the park Ramada. It was agreed that this suggestion would be brought to the HOA board at an upcoming meeting.

A resident expressed concern about the common area near Bilby and Metropolitan, as it is being damaged by kids building bike ramps and is a collection point for debris from the Pulte development. It was explained that the HOA is already addressing the issue of damage to the common areas. It was agreed that the construction debris issue would be brought to the attention of appropriate persons at Pulte in an attempt to get the area cleaned up.

A resident asked who was responsible for weed control in the common areas, as weeds in several areas were growing up over walls of residents' yards. This issue was reiterated by other residents. It was stated that Northwest Landscaping should be handling this issue as part of their contract through the HOA, and that this issue is being addressed through those channels.

A resident asked about the status of a previous request for a yield sign at Metropolitan and Malta. Randy Pierce explained that the City had reviewed the request and determined that a yield sign was not warranted.

Randy Pierce polled the audience regarding interest in a presentation by Project CARGO (Communities Addressing Responsible Gun Ownership). This program is sponsored by the City Attorney's Office and offers suggestions and recommendations for residents that choose to keep a firearm in their home. Overall audience response was positive, and Randy stated that he would set up the meeting for a future date.

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## Committee Reports

Community Service - Chip Ellis reported that the semiannual Community Yard Sale would be held on Saturday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>. Signs will be posted soon to announce the upcoming sale, and signs guiding residents into the neighborhood would be placed at major intersections on the day of the sale. An ad will appear in the Yard Sale section of the AZ Daily Star on the day of the sale. Residents were encouraged to place additional signs to guide residents to their sales, as long as the signs are removed by the end of the day.

Chip announced that the semiannual Community Cleanup would be held on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, and that volunteers were encouraged to meet at the East Pool that morning for a sweep of the neighborhood to remove litter. Chip also announced that the City will be placing 4 rolloffs for debris in the neighborhood for our use from the period of Oct 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>. The locations for the rolloffs can be viewed on the MRNA website.

Neighborhood Watch - Randy Pierce reported that there still remains only one organized neighborhood watch in Mesquite Ranch, though residents on the east ends of Ravenswood and Marquette streets had also expressed an interest in organizing. A neighborhood watch group can consist of only a few homes and anyone interested in organizing a neighborhood watch should contact Randy for more information.

Newsletter – Randy Pierce stated that the next newsletter would be submitted for delivery in 4 to 6 weeks.

Plans and Development – Randy Pierce reported that representatives of City Council Ward IV met with neighborhood groups and Psomas, the engineering firm planning the Houghton Road widening project. Plans for new traffic control signals were described, as were plans for both widening the existing bridge at the Pantano Wash, and adding a new bridge to provide for 3 lanes of traffic in each direction. The group will meet again at the end of September, and at future dates as the project unfolds.

Traffic and Safety – Sylvia Katvala reported that work orders had been submitted to repair asphalt along the Houghton Road pedestrian path, and the buckled sidewalk along Poorman. However, the city is currently in the peak time for repairing road surfaces and these repairs are a low priority. Sylvia indicated that she would follow up with the City service representative. A resident suggested listing the contact number for reporting road and sidewalk issues on the MRNA website. Randy agreed to provide this information but requested that any reports made to the City also be communicated to MRNA so that the requests can be coordinated and progress monitored.

Social – Karina Trumbull presented the results of the social event survey, indicating that in addition to the Luau (to be discussed as a separate line item), a Bird Watching event (hosted by local experts) and an Easter Egg Hunt were among events showing the most interest from residents.

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Other - Randy Pierce acknowledged that 9 volunteers from Mesquite Ranch had provided assistance at the annual Ward IV Back-to-School Bash, and thanked those that had given of their time to represent our neighborhood at this event. Randy also noted that a listserv service had been set up to notify any interested persons of MRNA events and activities, and other news of community interest. Information was provided on how to sign up to be on distribution for these announcements.

### **Old Business**

Neighborhood Consensus on East Boundary with Senita School – Randy Pierce explained that the Vail School District owns the land up to the view fences along the east boundary of Mesquite Ranch, but that the district is open to suggestions for how the 5-foot “buffer” between the view fence and the barbed wire cattle fence is utilized. The floor was open to discussion and the following consensus was reached:

Some residents suggested that this “buffer” be considered as a common area, with a path provided to allow foot traffic. However, the majority of residents present rejected this idea due in part to the varying grade and concerns of homeowner liability in areas where drainage channels and riprap could present a risk to children. In addition, concerns that children would trespass onto property and/or vandalize yards, fences, and pools were raised. A majority of residents agreed that the best solution would be to leave the “buffer” area natural and use fencing and plantings to restrict access and discourage foot traffic along the boundary fence. Randy proposed that notice of a vote on this issue be announced, with the vote to be held at the next MRNA monthly meeting. Randy stated that he would invite Al Flores, Director of Facilities and Transportation for the Vail School District, to attend the next meeting to present district plans for footpath access to the school grounds.

### **Approval of Bylaws**

Randy Pierce led a discussion of the MRNA bylaws and proposed changes, which had been distributed at the August meeting. A motion to approve the revised bylaws was made by resident Roger Montemayor, and seconded by resident Jeff Hubery. The bylaws were approved by unanimous vote of the members attending.

### **Luau**

Karina Trumbull announced that the Luau would be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.. Activities for children would be provided, and hosted by a local teenager volunteer group. Contests for adults, including a costume contest with prizes, will be held. A variety of smoked and barbecued meats will be provided, along with drinks and ice. Everyone planning to attend is asked to bring a dish to share, and cash donations will be accepted. A raffle will be held to raise money for future MRNA events.

### **Meeting Closure**

Motion to adjourn the annual meeting was made by Chip Ellis and seconded by Karina Trumbull. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:20 p.m.