

Minutes of the Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association

Regular Meeting – October 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
Keith Miller

A Quorum was noted for the record.

Minutes of September Meeting

Minutes from the September meeting of the MRNA were not available. The September minutes will be posted to the MRNA web site as soon as they are available and review/approval was postponed until the November meeting.

Call to Audience

No resident comments were raised.

Randy Pierce informed those present that there had been some incidents of letters being received by residents which had been fraudulently printed on the letterhead of the MRHOA management company (ADAM, LLC) Residents were urged to contact ADAM, LLC regarding any questionable letters to determine whether the letter is valid.

Committee Reports

Community Service - Chip Ellis reported that the semiannual Community Yard Sale was held Saturday, Sept 29th. There was good participation among residents and a strong turnout by the public.

Chip announced that the semiannual Community Cleanup would be held on Saturday, October 6th, and encouraged volunteers to meet at the East Pool to walk the neighborhood and pick up litter. Chip also announced that the City will be placing 4 roll-offs for debris in the neighborhood for our use from the period of Oct 5th thru 8th. The locations for the roll-offs can be viewed on the MRNA website.

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

Newsletter – Randy Pierce stated the deadline for newsletter inputs is October 5th, as the newsletter would be submitted to DRC for distribution shortly thereafter.

Plans and Development – Randy Pierce reported that MRNA would be sending a representative to the October 4th meeting of the design review committee for the Houghton Road widening project.

Mr. Andy Squire from Ward 4 was introduced to discussed the status of the Houghton Road Widening project and to address resident questions. Mr. Squire stated that the design process was approximately 15% complete, and would be 30% complete by December. He stated that a primary design goal was maintaining traffic flow along Houghton as the project is implemented. It is believed that despite the general guideline of no more than one traffic signal per mile, the

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intersection at Poorman will include a traffic signal (along with the current signal at Bilby). There will likely be no direct access to Houghton from Forest Glen. Rubberized asphalt will be used to reduce noise, as will landscape plantings. Walls will not be erected for noise suppression, but may be used where needed for retention. The east side trail system which runs adjacent to Mesquite Ranch will remain intact, as it is part of the trail which will extend the entire length of Houghton. The current plan is for Houghton to be two lanes in each direction, with a third lane in each direction added later, though the possibility that all three lanes would be developed in the initial phase was not ruled out. The project is scheduled to begin “turning dirt” in the Spring of 2008.

Traffic and Safety – Sylvia Katvala reported that the asphalt cracks along the walking trail and the buckling sidewalk along Poorman were again discussed with the City but that the repairs were not yet scheduled.

Treasurer’s Report – Sylvia Katvala reported that a checking account had been opened and that the current balance was \$50.00.

Social – Randy Pierce reported that the Luau would be held on October 13th from 4:00pm until 8:00pm. A handout prepared by Karina Trumbull was provided to the audience and a request for additional volunteers was made. Donations will be collected at the Luau, and a raffle held for meat as well as other prizes. Proceeds will be used to fund future MRNA endeavors.

Randy Pierce stated that the organization Citizens Addressing Responsible Gun Ownership (CARGO) had been invited to present at the November meeting of the MRNA. Among the topics to be discussed are the physical costs of gunshot wounds, and recommended lease language that would direct eviction in the event that a lessee has broken gun laws or violated other restrictions. Junior and Senior High School students are encouraged to attend.

Old Business

Neighborhood Consensus on East Boundary with Senita School – Al Flores, Director of Facilities and Transportation for the Vail School District, was present to discuss usage of school district property immediately adjacent to the east property boundary of Mesquite Ranch. Mr. Flores brought a map of the property, and stated that a “Safe Routes to School” program was in place to encourage neighborhood involvement in determining the best routes to and from new schools. Discussion immediately ensued regarding the 5-foot strip of land between the MR boundary and a barbed wire fence currently in place on school property. Several concerns were raised regarding use of this strip of land, culminating in Randy Pierce’s requesting a show of hands of residents that wanted the strip of land to include a walking path. No residents present voted in favor of a walking path. The majority of residents expressed a desire to allow the strip of land to return to a natural state. Mr. Flores encouraged residents to transplant cactus and other plantings from elsewhere on school property to the land strip to help discourage foot traffic. He asked that MRNA send a letter to him requesting permission to transplant in this manner so that a written record of this understanding would exist. A vote was held regarding a letter to the Vail School District requesting that the barbed wire fence be left in place. The vote was unanimous in favor of such a letter. Mr. Flores stated that he would inquire whether funding could be obtained to add “dog-legs” to the existing barbed wire fence to further restrict foot traffic in areas where the existing fence and plantings would not entirely block access to residents’ view fences.

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Meeting Closure

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