

Minutes of the Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association

Regular Meeting – November 6, 2007 – Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 6:37pm. The following board members were present:

Randall Pierce
Karina Trumbull
Keith Miller
Sylvia Katvala
Chip Ellis

A Quorum was noted for the record.

Minutes of September and October Meetings

Motion to approve the minutes from the September and October meetings of the MRNA was made by Randy Pierce and seconded by Chip Ellis. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Call to Audience and Committee Reports

The Call to Audience and Committee Reports were deferred to allow representatives of Communities Addressing Responsible Gun Ownership (CARGO) to give their presentation.

CARGO Presentation

Randy Pierce introduced Chad Marchand, project CARGO chairman. Mr. Marchand provided background on the origin of CARGO and its charter, indicating that it was a joint program developed by TPD, the Pima County Sheriff's Office, University Medical Center, and the Pima County Attorney's Office. The charter of CARGO is to provide information about the firearm safety, dangers of firearm misuse, and the need for responsible gun ownership.

Mr. Marchand introduced Officer Walker of TPD, School Resource Officer for the Vail School District. Officer Walker gave a presentation covering key areas of firearm ownership, including: Definition of a Firearm; Gun Safety; Toy Gun or Real Gun; No Second Chance; Gun Responsibility; BB Guns and Pellet Guns; Firing Guns into the Air and Shannon's Law; and the use of Good Judgment when handling firearms.

Officer Walker introduced Cindy Pasque of University Medical Center, who gave a presentation on the medical impact that firearms have on the community. Ms. Pasque explained that guns are the second leading cause of death among youth aged 10-19 years (second only to motor vehicles). She stated that 2.3 billion dollars are spent annually treating gunshot victims, with approximately half this amount being paid by taxpayers.

Ms. Pasque introduced Cynnomon Arizpuru of the Pima County Attorney's Office. Ms. Arizpuru gave a presentation on the legal ramifications of gun ownership. She stated that owning a gun is prohibited for persons less than 18 years of age, and a gun offense by a minor can result in losing the right to own a gun until reaching the age of 30. Ms. Arizpuru answered questions from the audience, responding that: discharge of a firearm within the city limits is a class 6 felony; CO2-powered pellet guns are considered firearms; and carrying a firearm is prohibited on school property, in government offices, in bars, in public parks, and wherever posted, even if a concealed carry permit is held.

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Closing Comments

Randy Pierce stated that an open house sponsored by planners of the Houghton Road Widening Project would be held at Secrist Middle School on Thursday November 8th at 6:00pm. Randy encouraged residents to attend. Discussion will include a planned "Florida T" intersection at Houghton and Poorman, a north-bound merge lane from Poorman to Houghton, and possible impact of these plans with a bus stop also planned for that intersection. Randy stated that Mesquite Ranch resident Roger Montemeyer had attended a meeting of the Community Design Review Committee to discuss these and other issues impacting Mesquite Ranch.

Karina Trumbull spoke briefly about the success of the Luau. Karina stated that the HOA had reimbursed MRNA members for expenses incurred, using money set aside for community events in the HOA budget. Karina also expressed appreciation to project MOVE, who had provided volunteers to help organize children's activities during the Luau. A portion of the donated proceeds of the Luau were given to this volunteer group in appreciation for their efforts.

Randy Pierce explained that there was evidence of marijuana being used at both pools as well as on Poorman east of the cattle guard. TPD has been notified of this situation.

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 8:11 p.m.