

Minutes of Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting of February 23, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Al Wiruth at 7pm

A quick introduction was done. Attendees were informed how to get on the Association's email listing. They were also told that there would be no more newsletters until sometime in the summer when the City of Tucson begins its new fiscal year.

Barrett Baker, City of Tucson Fire Fighter's Association was introduced. Mr. Baker provided information to attendees as to what equipment is selected and the number of personnel that area dispatched to emergency areas. Mr. Baker spoke for about 10 minutes and then he responded to a few questions from the audience.

Mike Tone, Vice-President of RRNA was introduced to give a presentation regarding the Harrison Greenway. Mike had met with Steve Anderson, County Parks department, regarding potential greenway running through the Rita Ranch area. This proposed greenway would join with the Julian wash (between Kolb and Rita Road) and follow along a wash that is north of the Rita Road alignment. It would cross Nexus and on the east side of Mesquite Elementary School property the greenway would turn north to Harrison. Supposedly this would be both asphalt and gravel greenway. The County apparently has about \$1.2 million for this project. Mike asked if there were any concerns of attendees that he might provide to Steve Anderson. Mike also said that there would be other public meetings regarding this project to get public input.

Next Al Wiruth gave a short update to attendees regarding the Houghton widening between Irvington and Valencia. Also Al mentioned there was a Boy Scout who was doing a project for Eagle Scout. The project had to do with collecting old flags for proper disposal. The project would only last about another month so if anyone had an old flag please notify Al. Residents were also told about a Brewery on Old Vail Road whose owner was seeking a wholesale liquor license. No one had any objections. Attendees were told they could get more info from the City.

Next item on the Agenda was the election of RRNA board members. The nominees were Al and Sandy Wiruth, Mike Tone, Anne and Rudy Lopez, Margie Hildebrand, Jon Young, Tom Willard and Ray Hasenstab. There were no other nominees. Motion was made and second to elect the above individuals. Voice vote was taken and there were no objections.

Main topic of the night was to discuss how to spend \$150,000 received by the City Parks Department for the AT&T cell tower located in the park. Attendees were provided when they came into the meeting with copies of the draft master plan for the park as well as projected

park amenity costs. Jim Conroy, Eastside Parks Department director was introduced. Jim was asked if there was a chance to get matching funds from the City but he said that was not possible at this time. Jim introduced Jon Hucko from Olsson Associates who is the artist for the draft master plan and also Joe O'Neill, Purple Heart Park project manager. Jon provided background on how they came up with today's draft plan.

After about 40 minute discussion there was a vote of the attendees as to what they would like to use the funds for. Leashed Dog Park, about an acre in size, was selected, followed closely by an asphalt path. The dog park will be fenced and lite. Jim Conroy said there probably would not be any grass as you have a lot of maintenance with grass. The attendees then voted to have the dog park placed on the east side of the park by Rees Loop but below the current asphalt paths that goes around the softball field. That means that the draft park plan would have to be adjusted. If there are any remaining funds the RRNA parks committee will discuss and select. Also the new draft parks plan will be provided to the same committee for approval.

There was discussion about having tennis courts in the park in the future. Attendees were encouraged to contact Supervisor Ray Carroll to see if the County couldn't help us out there.

A motion was made, seconded and approved for the Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association to provide \$5000 to the Eastside parks department to assist in payment of lights for the dog park.

The meeting was closed at approximately 8:20pm.