

Minutes of the Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association

Meeting Held on May 10th, 2018, at Desert Sky Middle School

The Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association (RRNA) annual meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Attendees were reminded of the sign up sheet and sheet for adding their email address to our listing. The agenda was changed to allow TPD officer Mike Holden to go first so he could go back on patrol. Mindy Blake would be next as she had to leave. Election of the RRNA Board members would follow the presentation.

Officer Holden provided statistics for our area from 2017 to present. He said there were 1806 incidents in the RRNA area. Incidents included 12 burglaries, 38 larceny cases, 2 stolen cars, 81 vehicle accidents and 821 traffic stops. There were also quite a few false alarms for homes in the area that TPD responded to. Officer Holden said if anyone was interested in a Neighborhood Watch program they should call the East Side Police Department at 791-5700. There were a couple of questions regarding a signal light on Mary Ann Cleveland Way, over by Esmond Station Elementary School. As the officer was not sure about the signal light, Teresa Olson, Ward 4 Chief of Staff, provided a response. Construction will begin once school is out for the summer. She was not sure whether the work will be completed before school starts again.

Mindy Blake from Pima Association of Governments (PAG) then gave a short presentation on the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The RTA presentation showed figures of over 800 completed RTA projects since voters approved the ½ cent sales tax over 10 years ago. Originally the sales tax was projected to raise \$2.1 Billion for the RTA projects. However because of the recession, the sales tax is expected to raise \$1.6 billion. Local government entities have joined together to pass their HURF funds and Federal grants to the RTA to help reduce the funding gap so all RTA projects can be completed as promised to voters. There was a short discussion about the RTA looking at the future after the 20 years for transportation improvements. Ms. Blake did mention that there is a Transportation Mobility on Demand (MOD) program survey being conducted in the Rita Ranch area. One of the tools being looked at is to use an app on smart phones, plus bike and car sharing, and bus and van services. In a letter enclosed in the "Our Mobility" pamphlet, the RTA Transit Manager said, "Subscribers will have choices." Limited use will begin in June with a full program launched in September in the Rita Ranch area. For more info see web site: <https://bit.ly/213J1Yu>.

There were also discussions regarding RTA projects that will affect the Rita Ranch residents: widening Houghton from Valencia to Old Vail Road; the bridge over the railroad tracks; widening Houghton from the railroad bridge to the I-10 bridge; and widening Valencia from Wilmot to Houghton. Teresa Olson, Ward 4 staff, said that Ward 4 has asked the RTA to delay the widening of Valencia from the Goodwill building area to Houghton as it would significantly cause problems with residential traffic leaving the Rita Ranch area to other parts of Tucson. Construction will begin again on Valencia once Houghton has been widened from Valencia to I-10.

After the PAG presentation, Al Wiruth said that it was time to vote for the RRNA board members. The individuals listed on the RRNA meeting agenda were those who are currently board members and who had agreed to continue to be board members. The attendees were asked if anyone wanted to add their name for election but there were none. There was a motion and second to elect the individuals listed on the agenda. A voice vote was taken and the current board members were reelected.

After the RRNA board was elected residents were asked if there were any questions.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.