

**Rio Verde Horsemen's Association
Board of Directors' Meeting**

February 8, 2023

Attendees: Jenny Powers, Kim Edwards, Carmela Lizzo, Terry Stecyk, Linda Vinson, Lori Bridwell, Mike Miola
Absent: Zondra Poteste
Committees: None other than BOD members
Guests: Lee Edwards

Meeting was called to order at 6:49 p.m.

Reports:

Minutes - Jenny

Minutes from the January meeting were distributed via email and no edits were received from Board members. Motion to accept as submitted was made and seconded. Minutes accepted. Jenny will send the file to Frank to post to the RVHA website.

Treasurer's Report – Zondra

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed briefly with no questions raised. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded and accepted.

Area Awareness – TBD

A sign was posted in the area of potential commercial development at 174th Street and Rio Verde Drive. The County will be notifying residents of a meeting and comment opportunity on the proposed change in zoning. Prior to the notice Carmela will send a letter on behalf of RVHA to the County with the survey results from the past member and area residents survey on commercial development. The survey summary is attached to the minutes for reference.

Water Issue Status

Senate Bill SB1093 narrowly passed the Arizona Senate but may not make it successfully through the House. The Bill being considered is designed to force Scottsdale to keep the standpipe in place until 2026 for a limited number of homes. Scottsdale would be reimbursed for water provided.

The January ACC meeting was to review the EPCOR application and provide an opportunity for public input. Unfortunately, the early part of the meeting was sidetracked by anti DWID speakers but was redirected later in the meeting to valid concerns regarding the application contents. Mike, Karen, Linda, and Carmela meet before the meeting to thoroughly review the application and divided the items of concern so that each could be addressed during the ACC meeting. The Board appreciates the effort spent on this process. All concerns were voiced at the meeting and there has been no follow-up response from ACC at this time.

Social Media – Terry

No report.

Welcome Committee – Bonnie

Bonnie reported there were 16 welcome cards sent November through January.

Business Card Advertising – Kim

The funds received from Miller Ranch without explanation have been researched and the decision was made to extend the membership with excess funds after the business card ad is paid.

Round-up Newsletter – Linda

The next issue will be produced in March 2023. Linda will solicit articles at the next meeting and provide deadlines.

Social Events – Carmela

Trail Ride – March 18

Event will be held at Lorill Equestrian Center in conjunction with a tack sale. Rental horses will be available and interested individuals will be directed to Lori to reserve a horse. Carmela will draft announcement and will create a button in Membership Works to reserve space for tack sales.

Pancake Breakfast – April

Carmela has followed up and had a discussion with Sunny Parker of Arizona 911 regarding the availability of whistles provided to hikers at trail heads as part of a safe hiking initiative. Jenny was asked to explore interest with the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and at this time the Patrol and Trail Ambassador Programs were not enthusiastic about distributing whistles at MSC trail heads.

Spring Dinner Dance – April 15

Cave Creek Outfitters will host the event and everything is included so there will be no additional cost for rentals of furniture, cooking equipment or separate caterers. The cost is \$54 per person including discount offered to RVHA and RVHA can subsidize cost if needed.

Roadside Clean-up – March 11

Old Business

Bylaws Committee

Jenny is working on compiling all the edits made in the series of review meetings and will provide copies to the Board. The updated Bylaws will be available for distribution to the membership following Board approval by the Board.

Board of Directors Election Update

There is one open position on the Board with the same situation as the last election. Only one person, Veruschka Schneider, has submitted a nomination for consideration in the election. Therefore, the outcome of an election would not be any different than simply accepting the individual onto the Board. Per the Bylaws revised April 30, 2017, the number of Board members shall not exceed nine. This number was not changed in the 2021/2022 review and updates. The Board voted to accept the nomination as submitted. Carmela will inform Verushka and an announcement will be made to the membership. The Board will determine the Officers positions at an upcoming meeting.

New Business

Charitable Donations

Zondra will provide the amount available from ad revenue. Terry suggested that in addition to the usual donation to local charities, RVHA consider sponsoring a needy child for programs offered in our area. Terry will research. Jenny will research what has been done in the past with regard to donations and provide the list to the Board members for consideration at the next meeting.

The following organizations were suggested and will be compared to a list of past donations:

Reigning Grace Ranch	SW Wildlife	Verde Cares
Four Peaks Animal Rescue	AERO	Furry Tail Bunny Rescue
Lucky A Ranch (donkey rescue)	MSC	Foothills Food Bank
Disabled Reiners (Lisa Colter)		

Busse Engineering

The wastewater reclamation system is in the approval process with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Busse Engineering is following up with those who have indicated an interest in the system.

Wildcat Builders

Linda will research the law from 1980 regarding allowing lot splitting to enable construction of four homes on five acres without the designation of “developer” attached to builder. This information will be used to make a case to present to our Arizona senator. The second issue of concern is the County issuing building permits without a source of water.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 20.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by: Jenny Powers

Addendum – Area Commercial Development Survey Results, June 2021

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association (RVHA)
Member Survey – Proposed Development at 174th Street and Rio Verde Drive
May 2021

Overview and Summary

Overview

At the February 16 RVHA Board of Directors meeting, guest speaker John Rehling with Park West Retail Development presented a concept for developing a 16-acre parcel on the south side of Rio Verde Drive at 174th Street. The proposed development would require rezoning from residential to commercial status. Following the presentation, the Board decided to solicit input from members that would then be shared with County representatives relative to rezoning and with the developer and any other interested parties.

Process

A survey was proposed and developed with Board member input as well as outside experts. The survey was created in a free online application All Counted.

The survey was fielded in April with several reminders prior to the May 20 closing date. The members were provided a link via email distribution. The membership list at the time distribution contained 322 email addresses. Additionally, members contacted the RVHA president to request the link if they missed the email or did not receive one. A total of 269 responses were recorded resulting in a response rate of 83.5%.

A second survey link was made available through social media for non-members. The survey questions were identical. Approximately 75 requests for the link were received resulting in 22 responses. Because the responses were nearly identical to the RVHA member survey results and the sample size is small, the non-member survey will not be analyzed nor reported. Apparent in the responses is that the non-members involved share the same outlook as our members.

Results

Overwhelmingly (70-85%) the respondents' sentiments are:

- A commercial development is inappropriate for the area and residents do not want zoning changed to accommodate commercial development.
- A commercial development would not be viable based on population and traffic resulting in empty buildings, which would become a blight on the community.
- The support for a grocery store at the intersection of Alma School Road and Dynamite Boulevard is extraordinarily strong (85%).

Lesser but significant objections were related to the downsides of growth such as increased traffic, noise and water usage. Of those responses in favor of development, the focus was on services such as a grocery store, restaurant and fuel station.

Conclusion

The RVHA members responding to the survey as well as those non-members who responded agree that the proposed commercial development is unwelcome in our community. This data may prove useful in future discussions with the developers and County officials if the proposed request for rezoning moves forward. The support for a grocery store in Scottsdale at the more reasonable location of Alma School Road and Dynamite Boulevard will be shared with the entity responsible for the development of the parcel available for this purpose.