



Friends of Carefree, Happy New Year!

Please take my serious advice, get a Flu shot if you haven't already. From personal experience, during the Holidays, I can assure you the alternative is not fun.

This will be a very brief summary because I'll be away for a few days and have not had time to collect the various slide materials from the meeting.

Town Council Meeting, January 9, 2018, 5:00PM, at 33 Easy Street: This first meeting of the New Year was important because the vacancy on the Council resulting from the untimely death of Jim Van Allen needed to be filled.

The Mayor opened the meeting by requesting a moment of silence. The wife of Jim Keen, Town Accountant, passed away 3 weeks ago. He then stated that item 13 on the agenda would be repositioned after the Pumpkin Festival update by Gina Kaegi.

Councilman Farrar was on his way to the meeting, joining during Call to the Public.

Items 1 - 9 Consent Agenda: These items were all related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, financial reports, event permits, etc.). Hearing no request to hold any item for discussion, the Mayor called for a motion and subsequent vote. Approved, 5 - 0.

Item 10, Call to the Public: Four individuals spoke, names and topic details will follow this coming weekend. There was one home lighting issue on Black Mountain; the Executive director of the YMCA spoke about 2017 accomplishments; Evelyn Johnson, Executive Director of the Cave Creek Museum distributed annual report material to the Council and staff; Bella Donna & Cane representative discussed the successful 'Trunk or Treat' event during the Pumpkin Festival.

Item 11, Current Events: Councilman Crane discussed the new series of Garden seminars (4) that will kick-off this Saturday, from 9:30 until noon at the 33 easy Street location. This Saturday, Cesar Mazier, former Director of the Desert Botanical Gardens, will discuss plant selection and horticulture. A \$5.00 (or more) donation will be appreciated.

Councilman Farrar discussed the success of the Trolley service, so far, this season. Operating from 11AM until 9PM on weekends through April, the Trolley makes 16 stops on its 30-minute route through Carefree and Cave Creek. Always looking for new ideas to enhance the Trolley experience.

Item 12, Selecting a candidate to fill Jim Van Allen's Council seat: The Mayor opened this topic with a fairly comprehensive list of desired characteristics for selection of the candidate *[list to follow this weekend]*. Each of the 4 candidates was permitted an opportunity to address the Council. Vince D'Aliesio, Tom Cross, John Traynor, and Steve Hatcher spoke in that order. The Council then voted by confidential ballot and the Town Clerk announced the results; Steve Hatcher 5 votes, Tom Cross 1.

The Town clerk had Steve sign the Code of Conduct and then administered the oath of Office. Steve took his seat on the dais [*pronounced 'da-is'* https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dais?pronunciation&lang=en_us&dir=d&file=dais0002].

Item 14, Review and approval of Conditional Use Permits (CUPs): Maricopa County, Rural Metro and Sonoran Networks each had a CUP relating to Transmission and Communications towers/facilities in the area of Silver Saddle in far north Carefree. After a slide presentation by the Town Planner, one resident spoke on behalf of his mother, in opposition to the permits. The objection seemed to focus on the height, width, and location of the proposed towers as well as granting Sonoran networks the ability to provide internet service, which he said would be more beneficial to Desert Mountain residents rather than the few Carefree residents in that area. After discussion, the council approved each CUP individually by votes of 7 - 0.

Item 15, 2017 Pumpkin Festival results recap: Marketing Director Gina Kaegi provided a *very extensive* slide presentation and associated discussion on the festival. In summary, it was highly successful, all metrics were positive, and it has become an iconic Carefree event. The material and discussion were too extensive to address in this interim edition of CFM. [*If the slide presentation is made available it will be included in the CFM weekend update.*]

Item 13, Discussion and approval of the 2018 Ray Villafane contract: Following the presentation by Gina Kaegi, Rays's contract was discussed. With modifications relating to specific deliverables from Ray, the 2018 contract was approved, 7 - 0. In 2017 (and prior year) Ray received \$85,000 for his efforts during the Pumpkin Festival. This year he has requested \$100,000. The Council agreed that given his ideas, above and beyond contributions, and commitment to Carefree the contract cost was reasonable.

Item 16, Presentation on the Arizona-Mexico Commission Conference: Councilman Farrar, Carefree's representative to Arizona Association of Governments (MAG) attended the Comisión Sonora-Arizona and Arizona Mexico Commission Conference 11/30 - 12/1 in Rocky Point [*I believe.*] NAFTA was one of the many topics covered. *A detailed slide presentation is available, I'll try to obtain it and include it this weekend's update.*

Item 17, Executive Session: The Council voted, 7 - 0, to enter Executive Session.

Item 18, Adjournment: The Public meeting ended at 7:59PM and was followed by an Executive Session. The actual adjournment time is unknown.

In general, you can reach all Council members by email; Council@Carefree.org and Mayor Les Peterson at Mayor@Carefree.org

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

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