

**Montana Vista El Paso Electric Community Advisory Panel (MVECAP)  
Community Meeting  
Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

The MVECAP (the “Committee”) convened a meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 13511 Montana, at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given.

Participants included the following MVECAP committee members: Ralph Carrasco, Mario Solano, Lt. Thomas Quinn, Dr. Hector Olvera, Albert Montano, Jessica Christianson, Danny Salazar, Guillermo Silva Jr. and Eduardo Gutierrez. Absent were Al Garcia, Tina Silva and Cole Ballard.

After review and discussion, on motion made and seconded, the October 9, 2014 minutes, were unanimously approved as presented.

Vice Chair Ralph Carrasco and residents in attendances discussed possible options to fill the remaining community chair vacancy that is still available. Discussion continued for options and referrals to fill the position.

EPE representative Albert Montano provided a status update on the MPS construction including timelines and responded to questions from the community.

Vice Chair Ralph Carrasco discussed the need to create a way to quickly inform Montana Vista residents of new information and/or emergencies should one occur.

After discussion, there was consensus to research a possible alert system and offer options and/or a recommendation of how to inform residents of the latest MPS information and any possible emergencies that may arise. This could include using the information response

process that Lt. Quinn uses for emergencies and create a process to alert Montana Vista residents of any future emergencies. Lt. Quinn and Mr. Gutierrez agreed to coordinate the possibility of creating this emergency response notification to residents living in Montana Vista.

There was also discussion regarding increased truck traffic in the area that may be increasing traffic congestion. EPE informed the community it would review the situation.

EPE representative Danny Salazar provided an update on the construction of the Eastside Operation Center (DOC), which is reaching full completion and currently awaiting fire inspections for the facility. EPE staff will likely begin moving into the facility around on or about February 13, 2015. Also, EPE is working with TXDOT to coordinate the street light timing along with creating staggered schedule times for crews and facilities for entering/exiting the new center. The goal is to mitigate traffic congestion to the extent possible. Mr. Salazar responded to questions from the community.

Mr. Silva introduced a facilitation process that the Committee could use for the identification of potential projects that the Committee could implement with the funding available. Mr. Silva also described the basic underlying concepts of a brainstorming session. After discussion, all in attendance concurred with the proposed facilitation process.

Before beginning, Mr. Carrasco suggested that the Committee needed a way to create additional Montana Vista community awareness of the MVECAP meetings and its purpose.

Policy Advisor Jose Landeros representing Commissioner Perez suggested to expand the distribution and information-sharing to the community, including the recommendation of including a mailer in EPE's customer newsletter or promoting the MVECAP website in EPE's

newsletter. After further discussion, Mr. Silva stated that EPE would look at possible options to increase awareness of the meetings to the MPS residents. Mr. Silva also encouraged the MVECAP members and community members to spread the information to their friends and families.

The MVECAP members and those in attendance suggested the following ideas to begin the initial brainstorm for future community projects in Montana Vista:

**Free Book Exchange Program** - Mr. Carrasco suggested the creation of a free book exchange program promoting literacy for children called a “Little Free Library” as stationary libraries.

**Air Monitoring** - Another suggestion was to facilitate an EPA / TCEQ Air Monitor for Montana Vista residents. Mr. Olvera described the overall cost and maintenance of an air monitor that meets EPA standard. There was also discussion about seeking alternative air monitoring equipment for the community.

**Facilities / Public Service Amenities** - Residents suggested a variety of public works and other public amenities – e.g. street lighting, sewage, natural gas and water. Mr. Silva suggested that this may fall outside the scope of this community project, but suggested that MVECAP may be able to help facilitate those needs by reaching out to other organizations, as well as County officials.

There was also a suggestion to provide playground or park equipment, leveraging larger community projects supported by Commissioner Leon and others for county/ city projects. Another suggestion was to create a bike/walking path trail to coincide with future projects.

Commissioner Perez's staffer Landeros suggested identifying acreage that is already identified to expand parks in the area.

**Stray animals** - Create a program to address stray animals, vaccinations – e.g. free vaccinations every 3 months.

**Tire Recycling Program** - Offer a community project to create a tire recycling and collection project to reduce illegal dumping.

**School Bus Stops** - Create a designated bus stop (s) to promote the safety of students.

**Recycling Center** - Leverage a recycling program with additional programs – e.g. Commissioner Perez's advisor Landeros suggested creating a collaborative citizen collection center using multi-partnerships.

**Energy Efficiency** - There was a suggestion to offer energy efficiency programs that promote efficient windows, AC, heating, etc. This includes offering CFL / LEP bulb replacement program for residents. It could fall outside the scope of this committee, but certainly offering general awareness and presentations targeting energy efficiency education in the community.

All community projects suggested and finalized should be regionalized so that the needs of each community in Montana Vista are reflective of their needs.

MVECAP should identify the needs and priorities of specific communities that collectively are known as Montana Vista. The communities identified include:

- Homestead Meadows North (Haciendas del Norte)
- Homestead Meadows South (Mountain View High School)

- Red Sands (North of Montana; dense development)
- Square Dance
- Northern Zaragoza area

Currently, we have representation in three areas and there was consensus to identify more representation from Northern Zaragoza and Red Sands. Commissioner Perez's staff offered to provide suggestions for MVECAP participation.

Another recommendation is to identify what is the physical center-point that of all of the communities identified – e.g. 2-3 acres of open space – that can then maximize resources from the county and current projects proposed by Commissioner Perez and others.

**Public Wi-Fi / Public Internet** - Mr. Carrasco suggested public Wi-Fi to be placed in schools – e.g. public Wi-Fi for residents. Internet is expensive in the area compared to other regions.

**Youth Sports** - Support youth sports groups in the region with resources, such as uniforms, equipment, etc.

Mr. Silva indicated education programs often create community engagement and other community pride initiatives.

**Older Adults Program** - Create accessibility ramps and access in the region.

Mr. Silva stated that the ideas presented would be posted on the MVECAP website and informed the group that the brainstorming session would continue at the next meeting. Once the Committee sensed all ideas were captured, the next steps would be to categorize the ideas,

decide which ideas the committee would like to explore further and assign project teams to investigate the feasibility of the projects.

There being no further business on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

A True Record.

ATTEST:

Secretary