



MITCHELL PARK WEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2009, 10:00am, Mitchell Park Ramada

All nine Board members were present with approximately 20 other residents, and four City of Tempe representatives: Officer Lines, Sergeant Click, Crime Prevention Specialist Cindy Calender, and Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Specialist.

The meeting started with coffee and snacks and a call to order.

Pre-agenda items:

Cindy Calendar discussed mutilated cats in the neighborhood and encouraged everyone to report cat injuries immediately, as the police are trying to catch the offenders. The issue of urination in the alley has been resolved. Cindy also stated tagging in Tempe is not gang-related: for removal, call the 24-hr hotline or paint over it yourself. Billy noted that immediate removal of tagging discourages taggers, as the paint is very expensive. Another neighbor pointed out aggressive driving is an issue.

Announcements:

Scott Seibel was introduced as the new vice-chair for the Board.

G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizonans Involved in Neighborhoods) Night fliers were available to encourage people to come to the block party on Saturday, October 24, 5 PM, on 11th Street between Farmer and Wilson.

Ira Domsy urged use of the website for communication, and emphasized that all Board meetings are open to the public.

Continuing Items:

13th Street Art Grant Committee Update:

Melissa Martinez stated the application for the \$8,000 grant would not be submitted, due to matching dollar requirements that had been added at the last minute. The art grant committee would like to apply in the spring for the Maryanne Corder \$15,000 grant. They will submit the proposal for a vote when the neighborhood reconvenes in January.

Elizabeth from the City stated associations can apply for the two grants available, but can only receive one. The \$50,000 grant can only be received once in five years.

Update on Basketball Court Lighting:

Mac McGuin and Mark Lymer gave an update on the City's position regarding the ongoing light spillage from the new lights. At the request of the Board, the liaison committee had met with

Jeff Kulaga, Assistant City Manager. Jeff communicated that the issue will be resolved quickly with further shielding or other methods.

Billy Gawrych asked when the lights would once again be available until 10:30 PM. Elizabeth suggested he contact Mr. Kulaga. Someone suggested Jeff should be at the next Board meeting, if possible.

Visioning Committee:

Pat Konomos discussed the committee's ideas for neighborhood and park improvements and projects, including alley wall art, alley cleanup using city provided equipment, another block party, inter-association volleyball tournament, large flowerpots in front yards, new playground equipment.

Copies of the ideas were passed around. (attached)

New Topics:

Second Annual Art on the Fence:

To be held in springtime, with emphasis on children's activities, local art, and acoustic music.

Richard Ruelas, Katie Cannon and Jim Belanger volunteered to help Joe Gibbs and Scott.

Maryanne Corder Grant:

Participants suggested three possibilities: the 13th Street Art Project, another tree grant, and a revised garden grant. Ira asked that we send ideas to him. A final decision will be made at the January General Meeting.

Neighborhood Signs:

Carol Campbell reported where she placed the five spare neighborhood association signs. We need approximately 25 more; A future grant application could cover that cost.

Final Comments:

Kirby Spitler reminded that Neighborhood Pub night occurs monthly on the third week, Thursday or Friday; and that the purpose is to support local businesses and meet other area neighbors.

Carol suggested we have a less formal general meeting next time, so neighbors have time to express their ideas. Kirby voiced assent.

Calendar:

Board Meeting, Thursday, November 12

Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 6

General Meeting, Saturday, January 9, 2010

Adjournment.

Recorded by Penny Wilson

Attendees:

Ira Domskey, Pat Konomos, Mark Lymer, Dave Huber, Melissa Martinez, Greg Richard, Billy Gawrych, Pat Moffat, Dan Keating, Katie Cannon, Raza Naqui, David Saar, Bruce Liddil, Celia Liddil, Richard Ruelas, Chris Coleman, Kirby Spitler, Scott Seibel, Tom Hornsby, Ralph Ellis, Jim Belanger, Penny Wilson, Bob Dare, Kathleen Tucker, Monica Wadsworth-Seibel, Erma Shelton, Wayne Shelton, Mac Mc Ginn, Gayla May.

Visions and Goals 2009:

Increase participation: include activities that encourage new residents and younger residents to join us.

- Movies in the park (outdoors, with tarp on fence; indoors at Childsplay, if feasible)
- Music in the park using local bands or musicians.
- Art in the Park: featuring local artists.
- Basketball tournament: inter-associational (Mitchell East, West, Maple Ash)
- Play Day in the park: varied activities including volleyball, kickball, croquet, bocce ball, sack races, etc.
- Have a potluck or other social gathering along with any of these.

Increase interaction with other nearby neighborhood associations e.g.: Mitchell Park East, Maple Ash. (Some activities listed above could include other neighborhood associations.)

- Have a Green tour day, with open gardens or other green features in neighborhood homes. Make up a map, or have uniform signs for locations between 13th/University and Hardy/Mill.
- Cooperate with Mitchell East re GAIN night celebration:(see flyers)
- Have our own block party in the spring, and invite them to ours.

Increase pride in our neighborhood's appearance.

- Follow up on the Medians: find out what we can do for beautification.
- Encourage alley cleanups. Choose messiest alleys and on alternate months coordinate cleanups, with possible potluck afterwards.
- Schedule toolbox and large dumpster to facilitate yard and /or alley cleanups.
- Start "adopt a flowerpot " program. Large flowerpots visible from street , to be kept planted year-round. Try to get pots donated. Could have annual competition for best display.

Increase safety.

- Ask our local beat officer to meet with interested neighbors re alleys as access for criminals, other safety concerns.
- Make an easy sign project available to all, with volunteers helping or making the signs for the back fences along alleys. (For reporting crimes in alley.)

Increase Communication.

- Block contact persons needed: please volunteer today! Serve as a communicator.
- Explore how to achieve improved communication. An Internet site alternative to Neighborhood Links? Have larger neighborhood area participating on the website? (Mitchell East, etc.)
- Ask your neighbors what they want. (We are doing this now!) Use online or hand-delivered survey?
- Find out the cost and possible locations of info-sharing sites at the park. Elsewhere?
- What would you like to pursue in the neighborhood grant program? \$15M or \$50M limit grant? Make sure we all understand the grant limitations. Suggested so far: art on 13th St. median, landscaping of other medians, shade structure at

park, information kiosk, large flowerpots for display in front yards, more child-friendly features at the park (new equipment, shade, etc.)

- Make a list of available services along with requests for help: e.g. babysitting, dog walking, tax prep, music lessons, yard work, yoga, etc...(Either use already available online site, or make up a directory.)

Other suggestions or comments: random sampling of neighbors

- *Limit cats to their own homes.*
- *We have roof rats; some cats have found and killed them.*
- *Look at long-medium-and short-term goals.*
- *Get all power lines underground and encourage alternative energy sources.*
- *Do not expect to save money on alt. energy sources: too expensive for now.*
- *Solar power should become affordable soon.*
- *Eliminate businesses as association members.*
- *Eliminate renters as association members.*
- *Educate board members on city code regulations.*
- *The dog park is great!*
- *Take over Birchett park from the City.*
- *Pressure the City to move Mitchell Park up on the Master Plan for park improvements.*
- *Plant more trees in the neighborhood and water them in the summer.*
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- *Do not have a summer break for the association*
- *The tool box and dumpster program was great! Do it again.*
- *A small garden at the park would be great: keep things simple*
- *We need to work together to pressure absentee landlords and multiple-property owners/slumlords to clean up their properties.*
- *Some people said, "It's fine as it is," when I asked them how they would like to change things.*

Your suggestions? If you want to take this home and write down answers, you can drop them off at Pat's, 719 W. 11th Street. Otherwise, feel free to do it now!