

Minutes, NWNA, 4 Aug 2007
John Dahlstrand, acting secretary

The meeting began at 1:10PM. In attendance were: John Dahlstrand, Dan Dorsey, Katie Gannon (UA Drachman Institute), Michael Haggardy, Camy Juarez (Pima Country), Karen Uhlich (Council Member, Ward 3), Armando Vargas, Carl _____, Carlton _____

Armando began by passing out the July minutes for review. No changes were requested and they were accepted by vote.

TPD officer Dan Roberts, our community liaison, reported that the area covered by Team 2 has expanded to Campbell to the east, Speedway to the south, I10 freeway to the west, and Grant to the north. This is a change from 3 to 10 neighborhoods.

Officer Roberts noted that transients remain a problem in Mansfield Park, but that if they are in the park during the daytime and not causing problems, they can't be made to leave.

He also reported that the Northwest Neighborhood squad is short an officer. The officers currently in training have not been on the streets yet and many of the officers that are, are very new.

People who want to sign up for Neighborhood Watch will be able to do so during the National Night Out, between 6 and 9PM.

We can send emails to Officer Roberts about ongoing problems and concerns at Daniel.Roberts@tucsonaz.gov.

Officer Roberts and Team 2 keep and maintain seven sector books that contain the latest information and ongoing issues. The other members of the team review their respective books at the beginning of each shift.

Armando asked if problems move from one neighborhood to another if the TPD is concentrating on removing bad elements from within a particular neighborhood? Officer Roberts said, "yes."

Officer Roberts said that community input was important.

One of us noted that speeding is a problem on Elm Street between 6th and 4th avenues due to the used car lots in the area. There is also speeding on Elm between 4th and 1st avenues. 4th avenue itself is also a source of speeding complaints.

Armando talked about the National Night Out on Tuesday, 7 August. Activities will include: stargazing, the Science Bus, various treats to eat, and possibly movies and a band. We hope to reactivate our own Neighborhood Watch program and people will be able to sign up on Tuesday evening. We need 51% of households in the watched area to participate.

Armando announced upcoming meetings; MPNC – 8 Aug, Bronx Wash Design – 14 Aug, and Ward III Neighbors – 15 Aug.

Katie told us about the Bronx Wash meeting. Michael noted that the city of Tucson had previously talked about the possibility of bridges for the wash. Katie responded that bridges were one component of the issue and that water drainage was another.

For those who want to donate food, there is a collection box in the Mansfield Park Center.

Armando passed out copies of the semi-final draft of our PCNR proposal and copies of the email from Camy Juarez that described our next steps for the proposal.

Camy told us that the funding for our project would come from Bonds passed in a 2004 election. The committee tasked with reviewing how much money would be given out and how it would be done is still in discussion. Policy is still under discussion, there is some reluctance to send money out but Camy has been pushing to do so because projects have been in process based on the notion that that money would become available.

Camy noted that the City of Tucson sometimes has Pima County build construction projects in the city. This would not be the case for us. He also said that at one time there was the possibility for 5 projects but that number has been reduced to 3. The review committee has 5 members and any project needs at least a 3 to 2 vote to move forward.

The City of Tucson was charging Pima County 35% of project funds for in-city projects. The county has worked to reduce that fee.

The potentially available money for our project was reduced from \$500,000 to \$400,000. We will have to be careful about strategy. The core of the project is how it is proposed.

More neighborhood projects have been added to the list being considered, reducing the available funding for individual projects.

Camy advised us to ask Karin Uhlich's office to make up the difference in funding shortfall for the 5th Avenue walkway portion of our project.

Camy noted that 2008 and 2010 would be bond election years.

Armando said that we have prioritized our projects and can look for additional funds.

Camy responded that external funding is limited.

Katie passed out copies of preliminary cost estimate for our project and our reinvestment proposal. The Elm Street chicanes are a priority. She described what chicanes are. The original concept was for five chicanes per block but due to the new budget constraints the number has been reduced to three arranged in a way that would allow us to add two additional at some future time should funds become available. She suggested that we vote on the three versus five alteration of our plan.

She discussed the 5th Ave greenway and why it is a better choice for the current budget than the 3rd Ave greenway. The latter is problematic because of the potential for high water flows in the associated walkway during a 100-year flood event. The 5th Ave walkway has a lower water flow potential and is easier to work with. It is also a potential gateway to Mansfield Park. Currently it is problem due to the transients.

The walkway would be engineered and landscaped so that the center 10 feet would provide a water drainage path and on either side would be a five-foot wide area with bollard lighting and signage.

The 5th Avenue portion of the project was chosen because of its potential connection, via the proposed walkway, to the park. The portion of 5th Avenue in the Northwest Neighborhood is three blocks long. (The remaining portion, south to Speedway Blvd, is in the Feldman neighborhood. There is a potential there for cooperation.) The city of Tucson has an 80-foot wide right of way comprising the street itself and the easements on either side. The street would be narrowed by 16 feet leaving 28 feet on either side for a pedestrian walkway with landscaping. The bollards and lighting would be installed under a different program with different funding.

At this point we voted on the various aspects of the NWNA projects with regard to priorities and funding constraints. The results were:

- * We will defer the 4th Avenue Bicycle Boulevard to a later time in hopes of other funding sources.
- * We reduced the number of Elm Street chicanes from 5 to 3, "at this time."
- * We will pursue the development of a pedestrian corridor and greenway along 5th Avenue rather than along 3rd Avenue.
- * If there is insufficient funding for the full pedestrian corridor walkway in the 5th Avenue public easement alignment, the priority is to do the landscaping including; trees, soil contouring, and walkway terracing, and install lighting, while deferring the installation of the recycled concrete slab walkway to a later date. (We would apply for a grant from Pro-Neighborhood, Back to Basics, or some other funding source for that portion of the project.)

Karin Uhlich talked about the Neighborhood Protection Zone proposal. It has two components, preservation and infill. The preservation aspect starts with either existing or proposed historic neighborhood status.

Historic neighborhood status forces developers to undergo additional review processes.

Related materials are available online.

There was a suggestion to have students meet their neighbors in hopes of prompting some feeling of responsibility for their behavior in the neighborhood.

Karin noted that we would need to take multiple approaches to the mini-dorm problem. We are zoned R2 and probably won't be able to down zone. Infill and higher density is coming and our best chance is to be proactive and try to shape how it manifests rather than letting it shape us.

It was suggested that alleys be made one way in an effort to control speeding.

There is a report noting the high interest of U of Az staff and faculty in living close to their place of work.

It was asked how group homes fit into the process of neighborhood development. We don't have an answer yet but Karin can talk to the relevant agencies.

Camy told us that our time line is three months at the latest for our proposal submittal to the committee. Armando and others from NWNA are requested to be present. Camy asked if he could proceed on our project without additional voting on details. The response was yes.

Our next meeting is September 8th. We adjourned at 3:15