

Northwest Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2007
Northwest Neighborhood Center

Attendance

Armando Vargas, James B. Ray, Dan Dorsey, Shelly Dorsey, Hannah Soreng, Marty Rotter (NW Center/Mansfield Park), Martha Retallick (El Cortez NA).

Guests: Tori Stypula, Lori Mennella (El Cortez NA), Dan Roberts (TPD), Dawn Paglinawan (TPD), Katie Gannon (Drachman Institute), Kirsten Hoak (Drachman Institute), Rachel Hill (Graduate student, UA Landscape Architecture), Elisa Kruger (Undergraduate student, Architecture), Karen Larkin (City Parks and Rec), Virginia Tezer, Bob Rodriguez.

Opening and Approval of Minutes

Armanda Vargas, president, opened the meeting at 1:05. Minutes for the September and October meetings were approved.

TPD Report

Officer Roberts noted that more officers are out in the neighborhood doing “field interviews” to see what’s going on in the neighborhood. Additionally, three midnight squads will soon be operating. Improved lighting for Mansfield Park is also under consideration through partnership between Mansfield Park personnel and TPD.

Neighborhood Improvement Project

A small coalition of neighbors were present at the Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Oversight Committee meeting on October 26. This committee reviews and makes recommendations on approval and funding for neighborhood reinvestment grants and improvements. Several neighbors presented at the meeting; Katie Gannon from the Drachman Institute also gave the Committee an overview of the proposed project. The next meeting of the Oversight Committee for review of our proposed project will be December 7. It is vital to get neighbors out to attend this important meeting.

Announcements

- Mansfield Park Neighborhood Coalition meeting, Nov. 14
- International School of Tucson yard sale, Nov. 10
- City election, Nov. 6
- Next “brush and bulky” pick-up in January

Mansfield Park Design Charrette Follow-Up

Katie Gannon, Rachel Hill, and Elisa Kruger presented preliminary design concepts based on the design charrette held previously. The goal of the design emphasized enhancing park aesthetics, utilization, sustainability, safety, and path connections. The design focused specifically on strengthening internal connections through the park and not just the perimeter, improving pedestrian access, improving drainage, and creating attractive micro-climates. Possible ideas included an amphitheater, skate park, indoor walking track, shaded playgrounds and a splash pad, shade over the pool, parking lot improvements, and an improved maintenance building. Elisa and Rachel won second place in a design competition for their contributions to the design, including the idea of alternative housing on the outskirts of the park. The next steps include reviewing plan elements with the city’s Parks and Recreation Dept., presenting a conceptual master plan, and then identifying/prioritizing park projects and locating funding sources.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 3 p.m.

Minutes taken November 3 by Acting Secretary Shelly Dorsey.