

Northwest Neighborhood Association
6 September 2008 monthly meeting
Northwest Neighborhood Center
2160 N 6th Avenue, Tucson AZ

The minutes were taken by Alma Berkowitz and were transcribed by Armando Vargas.

Present

Residents: Alma Berkowitz, Caitlin Cima, Hannah Soreng, James B Ray, David Rubenstein & Armando Vargas.

Guests: Carmen Cueva – UA Drachman Institute, Tamara Prime – Ward III Liaison, Marcia Roberts – TPD W&S grant, Marty Rotter – NW Center, Rick Wicinski – Amphi NA,

1. Opening
 - 1-a. Welcome & introductions.
 - 1-b. Alma Berkowitz agreed to be the Acting Secretary.
 - 1-c. Copies of the August 2008 minutes were passed out, reviewed and approved by consensus.
2. Public Art in the Mansfield Park – Relocation & Deaccession of “Roots & Faces,” and “Family Group.” Marty Rotter, Northwest Neighborhood Center/Mansfield Park staff member, presented the information about both public art.
 - 2-a. The “Family Group” can be restored to near prime condition by welding new pieces onto this public art. Marty is making arrangements with a welder from a City department for the repairs. By consensus, further discussion on the “Family Group” was tabled to a future meeting.
 - 2-b. The “Roots & Faces,” bas-relief public art, is located on the soccer field retaining wall, south portion of the park. This specific public art has not been well maintained, and because of the manner in which it was created (concrete sprayed onto foam forms for the roots) the roots are deteriorating, and the concrete faces and hands (created from life casts from neighborhood residents) have been vandalized physically. After some discussion, a motion was made and second to recommend to Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC) that it consider “Roots & Faces” for deaccession. The motion passed by a majority vote of the residents present.
3. Ward III – Tamara Prime, Liaison
 - 3-a. The Mayor and Council (M&C) is considering creating an internal Audit Committee within the City Manager Office for better communication by the City Manager and M&C. Primary function will be fiscal and implementation concerns. It is not known if performance audit function will be a responsibility of this internal audit committee. External audit committee will be formed as needed for specific purpose and time frame.
 - 3-b. Mariscos Chihuahua Restaurant rezoning request for C-1 zoning was not recommended by the Zoning Examiner. The Zoning Examiner supported the NWNA, ECNA and MPNC position for minimal expansion, 39' maximum, into the existing R2 zone portion of the parcel and P zoning rather C-1 for expanded

parking in that area. Mariscos appealed to the Zoning Examiner. The appeal was denied. Mariscos may appeal directly to the M&C for reconsideration.

3-c. DC Auto Sales continues to be in code violation of C1 and C2 zoning applications. Court order is still valid even though DC Auto Sales has a COO. The M&C is considering revising the land use code for handling future situations as use and, or, property or business ownership changes.

3-d. Back to Basics grant. The Ward III office is weighing a large number of priorities and requests, and it is unlikely this proposal will receive B2B funds for this fiscal year. Ward III looks at the range of requests received and applies the following criteria: Ward III priorities for this fiscal year, prior investment in the neighborhood and the order in which we receive the requests. In this case, when NWNA's proposal was received Ward III had allocated much of this fiscal year's resources already and NWNA received the second largest B2B allocations from the Ward office last year. Ward III will keep the proposal in line for B2B funds when they become available in the future. There may be a possibility for a second B2B grant review in October if any funds are available.

4. TPD – no show.

5. Other events & reminders.

5-a. MPNC meeting is 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, 10 Sep 2008, in La Fuente Restaurant.

5-b. Ward III Neighbors, supposedly, is meeting 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, 17 Sep 2008, at Woods Branch Library.

5-c. Zoning Examiner's Hearing 14 August 2008. See above item 3-b.

5-d. DC Auto Sales, 340 E Grant RD, see above item 3-c.

5-e. No other events and reminders were mentioned

6. Neighborhood Improvements updates

6-a. PCNR – IGA. The IGA is still pending for final approval from county Board of Supervisors. After the IGA is approved onward to the City design unit. According to Tamara Prime, the design phase will start in July 2009.

6-b. Back to Basics Grant for revegetation along Bronx Wash/Linden Street and water harvest retention basin. See above item 3-d.

6-c. Tree pruning on 4th Avenue between Lester and Waverly Streets. Tentative Saturday dates were discussed – 11, 18 or 25 October. Tamara mentioned the Ward III office is making arrangements for a 'green' event for either 18 or 25 October. This will include proper pruning techniques. The ECNA is trying to make arrangements for a chipper/mulcher and perhaps the NWNA could share this use too. This discussion was tabled for more information – actual date for the Ward III 'green' event, possible confirmation for a chipper/mulcher.

7. North Tucson Weed & Seed Community & North Tucson Coalition.

7-a. NTWS Committee/Community – the grant application intent was approved in mid-August by the Arizona US Attorney office and the final grant application will be sent mid-September at the latest to the Department of Justice. Should know by mid-November 2008 if the grant was accepted and will be funded for two years. Marcia Roberts, TPD and West Side Coalition liaison from TPD and an NA officer, distribute the grant application budget request for 2009 and 2010, and weed and seed general information. A W&S program enhances inter-neighborhood communications and with other community partners for

enforcement (law and code) and social services. Does not increase police presence in the neighborhood rather it increases diligence to thwart violent crime within the neighborhoods. Statistically, the NTWS community geographic area has more violent crime than the Grant/Alvernon area. The NWNA is a member of the NTWS committee/community.

7-b. North Tucson Coalition – Rick Wicinski spoke. A coalition is registered with the DNR and is recognized by the City as a collective group of neighborhood associations collaborating together to resolve common concerns. For the NT Coalition, this means thwarting violent crime within the NTWS community. Being recognized by the City allows the NT Coalition postage privileges to mail announcements and newsletters, apply for other grants, can qualify for meeting space, and other privileges enjoyed by NA's. When NWNA approves joining the NT Coalition, a letter must be sent to the DNR acknowledging being a member of this coalition. After discussion, a consensus was reached to table this vote item to the September meeting when more voting members may be present.

8. Other items.

8-a. Carmen Cueva announced the Drachman Institute is hosting a solar and energy workshop for NWNA and ECNA in the Northwest Neighborhood Center. Possible dates were discussed. An announcement will be forthcoming when a date has been scheduled.

8-b. Hannah is able to develop a website for the NWNA. This item will be discussed at the September meeting. The DNR may have website resources for NA's to consider and use.

8-c. There was some discussion about changing the NWNA meeting date and time to a weekday evening. This item will be discussed at the September meeting.

9. Adjournment.

By consensus, because it was 3pm, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Saturday, 4 October 2008, same place.