

Minutes of the NWNA monthly meeting
1 P.M.-3 P.M., 7 June 2008
Northwest Neighborhood Center
2160 N 6th Avenue

Members attending were Hannah Soreng (Treasurer), Kathryn Foster, Armando Vargas (President), Dan Dorsey (Secretary), Alma Berkowitz, James Ray, and Mae Hughes.

Guests attending were Jean McClelland, Rachel Hill, and Carmen Cueva from the Drachman Institute and Edward Coderre from Information and Referral Services.

The meeting was brought to order by the President at 1:05 PM

1-a. Welcome & introductions

1-b. June 2008 minutes - The minutes from the previous meeting were handed out and accepted by consensus vote.

2. Ward III Liaison, Tamara Prime nor any other representative from Ward III was present. Armando said Tamara was having a family emergency.

3. TPD - general report - No representative from TPD was present - Armando explained that with the City budget crunch that overtime to attend Neighborhood meetings had been cut back. TPD is still encouraging officers already on regular duty to attend if they have time.

4. Information and Referral Presentation

The main speaker for the meeting, Edward Coderre from Information and Referral (I&R), gave a complete overview of what the 501(c)3 non-profit organization does in the community. The short version is I&R is a one-stop place for people within the community to get help on just about anything. I and R has over 3,000 different agencies, non-profits, and other organizations in its data base to help with everything from people in a crisis contemplating suicide to people wanting to know where to get immunizations for their children. In many cases, I&R does more than just referral, but also acts as an advocate for the client in helping to solve problems. Edward passed out I&R brochures that explained more about the organization. Its main referral number is (520) - 325-2111 or 1-888-575-2111 or www.azinfo.org. The service is free and open seven days a week. He also requested that there is a move to consolidate all I&R work up to one central office in Phoenix, but he felt like that would be a big mistake because of the unique landscape and challenges that Tucson faces, and so it was important to continue to have a local office here staffed with people who knew Tucson well. He asked that we write letters in support of the local I&R office to the City Council and Pima County BOSs.

5. National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5th. It will be held at the Northwest Neighborhood Center from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The current list of attractions is: popcorn, sno-cones, ice cream, movie, stargazing, martial arts demonstration, Arizona Nutrition Network activity van. The Ward III Office, QuatroVest and Community Development Partners will provide funding. Volunteers will do work at the event.

6. North Tucson Weed & Seed Community, and North Tucson Weed and Seed Steering Committee continue to be active. The Steering Committee meets every other Monday, and it is working to identify and partner with social service organizations already within the boundaries of the NTWS Community.

7. Other events/reminders

7-a. The Mansfield Park Neighborhood Coalition (MPNC) meeting was rescheduled to 8 July to coincide with El Cortez Neighborhood Association (ECNA).

7-b. Ward III Neighbors are taking a hiatus until 17 Sep 08.

7-c. A Water meeting will take place on 9 Jul 08

7-d. A Zoning Examiner's Hearing scheduled to take place on Th, 10 Jul 08 concerning the Mariscos Chihuahua Restaurant rezoning request was rescheduled to July 24th with all parties continuing to meet and try to work out a compromise on the issue.

7-e. The ongoing issue of the car lot to the west of Mariscos has progressed to the point where the city court has ordered the owners of the lot to come into full compliance with the required zoning and building certificate of occupancy. The lot can be put out of business for non-compliance.

7-f. The Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC) is responsible for reviewing public art work in Mansfield Park, including the damaged "faces and roots" sculpture to the east of the covered basketball court on the south side of the park. There was discussion among NWNA members concerning other damaged artwork in the park also.

8. Neighborhood Improvements updates

8-a. PCNR - IGA, was on the City of Tucson Council 8 July 08 agenda and has been approved. It goes onward now to the Pima County Board of Supervisors for final approval, then on to the city design unit.

9-c. Drachman Institute will hold a Healthy Homes special session on Thursday, 17 July at 630pm at NW Center. Carmen Cueva from the Drachman Institute explained what would be presented and considered at the session and passed out cards on the event to give to neighbors. There was some discussion and feedback to her from members present on Homes and Zoning.

10. The motion was then made for adjournment of the meeting, and it was seconded and approved.

The next NWNA meeting is Saturday, 2 Aug, at 1 P.M.