

Minutes of the monthly Northwest Neighborhood Association (NWN) Wednesday, 6 May 2009, at 6-8:30 P.M., in the Ward III office, 1510 E Grant RD (SE corner Grant/Vine).

Attending members: Dan Dorsey, Shelly Dorsey, Armando Vargas, Katie Bolger, Leona Davis, Katherine Foster, Michael Smith, Peter Wolverton & Hannah Soreng

Guests: Tamara Prime (Ward III liaison)

Our website is www.neighborhoodlink.com, enter our zip code, click on our neighborhood

This was the NWN annual meeting, and annual potluck dinner from 6-6:30 PM

Pot-luck dinner & opening

1- a. At 6:00 PM, Pot-luck dinner with informal discussion.

1-b. At 6:35 PM, our president, Armando, opened the meeting, and welcome and introductions from all.

1-c. April 2009 minutes were read and approved by consensus. One small correction was noted and approved.

1-d. Hannah gave the Treasurer's Report & checking account update. We have \$2029.50 in our account, which includes a recent first deposit of funds from the Bronx Wash PRO Neighborhoods grant. Our account is with Southern AZ Community Bank.

2. Ward III Liaison – Tamara mentioned that proposed Land Use Code amendment for parking requirements passed the city council. The amendment allows reduced parking requirements for some businesses. This is a 18-month trial period.

3. Tucson Police Department (TPD) – general report – There was no representative available from TPD.

NWN concerns

4-a. Armando gave the Annual Neighborhood Report, highlighting all our accomplishments this past year. The Annual Neighborhood Report is attached to this record.

4-b. Environmental Planning Group consultant for Tucson Electric Power (TEP) – Armando gave a brief summary of the meeting he attended about TEP's plans to run one new 138kV power transmission line between the Downtown Tucson and DeMoss Petrie Substations. This new line, the route of which to be determined, will augment the existing 46kV transmission line.

4-c. City of Tucson Department of Transportation (COT-DOT) Traffic Engineering Division – roll offs cost situation has been resolved somewhat for neighborhood associations.

4-d. Mansfield Park – updates & public art status – Neither Mike nor Marty were present to give reports.

4-e. Nominations & Elections Ad Hoc Committee – Leona, chair of the ad-hoc committee for Nominations and Elections, handed out prepared ballots to members present. All current officers were retained for another year by majority vote. The vote was seven for and two abstentions. The officers for June 2009 – May 2010 are Armando Vargas, President; Shelly Dorsey, V.P.; Dan Dorsey, Secretary; and Hannah Soreng, Treasurer. The officers filled out the required paperwork for the Community Services Department.

Neighborhood Improvements updates

5-a. NWN PCNR/IGA. The city has engaged a consultant. Tentative design phase schedule TBA.

5-b. 4th/Fontana Bike Boulevard. Tentative design phase schedule TBA.

5-c. Bronx Wash Improvement (PRO Neighborhoods grant funding)

i. Murals phase update – James has scheduled a meeting for the NWN residents to meet the artist, Michael, and give him input into the mural project. The meeting is May 21st at 6-8 PM at NWN center in Mansfield Park

ii. Revegetation phase update – Dan will schedule a cafe-cito through PRO Neighborhoods before the meeting on the 21st so neighbors can meet at the Bronx Wash west terminus to discuss the landscaping phase of the project.

Other events/reminders

6-a. OARP tour, Sa, 9 May 2009, 9am-12pm, College Place, 1600 N Oracle RD.

6-b. Feldman's NPZ overlay rezoning community meeting, Tu, 12 May 09, 6-8pm, St Luke's Home, chapel (access on 1st Ave near Lee ST).

6-c. Mansfield Park Neighbors Coalition (MPNC) meeting We, 13 May 09, at 6:30 P.M., at Parkside Terrace Apts, 2140 N 4th Ave

6-d. North Tucson Weed and Seed (NTWS) meeting Mo, 18 May 09, at TPD West Substation, at 5:30 P.M., 1310 W Miracle Mile.

6-e. Ward 3 Neighbors Meeting (W3NA) meeting We, 20 May 09, at 6:30 P.M., Woods Library. (The info fair and pot-luck that was scheduled have been postponed. New date TBA.)

6-f. Ward III office, Community Conversations Th, 28 May 09, at 6:30 P.M., Ward III office.

6-g. Grant RD Improvement Plan, summer open house planned, dates TBA.

NTWS Committee and Community (Cmte/Cmt), and North Tucson Coalition updates

7-a. Grant application being reviewed and budget TBA. DOJ waiting for FY appropriation.

7-b. North Tucson Coalition updates – its Bylaws are still unapproved.

Adjournment.

8-a. Motion was made for adjournment and approved at 7:50 PM.

8-b. The next meeting is at a new location on We, 3 June 2009, at 6:30pm, at the International School of Tucson (IST), 715 E Lester St (near the NE corner of Lester ST/1st Avenue) which is within walking distance for most of NWNA.

2009 Annual Nwana Report

(The Nwana was recognized 31 October 1996 by the City of Tucson.)

This report covers primarily the period since June 2008 to present (within the following categories. Where possible, the results or outcomes are noted including if in progress or ongoing.)

ACTIVE Neighborhood & Neighbors Involvement!

- Website – Hannah, ongoing
- 4th Avenue tree pruning (mid-Nov 08) & 5th Avenue Easement cleaning (late Dec 08)
- Bronx Wash Improvement – James K & Leona (murals), and Dan Dorsey (revegetation) (being funded by PRO Neighborhoods grant)
- 2009 Mortar Board Clean Up Crew – Shelly liaison, and James R assisting the morning of the clean up (late March 2009)
- PRO Neighborhoods Grant – James K & Leona (awarded April 2009)
- Mailing address & checking account – a sense of maturity for Nwana! (March & April 2009 respectfully)

Neighborhood Planning & Improvement efforts

- Pima County Neighborhood Re-investment program. An IGA exists, Mayor funding \$50000 for design costs. Consultant has been engaged by City (Vince ----, retired employee, City DOT Engr)
- 4th/Fontana Avenues Bike Boulevard, being funded by RTA and coordinated by the City.
- Grant Road Improvement Plan – planning phase until 2013
- Bronx Wash Improvement – murals & revegetation, wip
- Drachman Institute – Building Healthy Neighborhoods completed. Applications for new grants wip.

Neighborhood Safety concerns

- Graffiti abatement (ongoing).
- Red tag/ excessive noise (ongoing).
- Drug houses (ongoing).
- Abandoned and vacant houses (ongoing).
- Speeders, especially on 4th Avenue and from 6th Av onto Elm St
- On the down side, loss of revenues from sales tax because of the now 12-15 month recession has impacted upon the ability of TPD and Ward III Liaison to attend our meetings.

Networking and collaborations

- El Cortéz and Nwana
- University of AZ
 - Drachman Institute (BHNs)
 - Mortar Board
- Continuous cordial relationship with Ward III Council Member and office staff
- Continuous cordial relationship NWN Center/Mansfield Park staff
- Ward III Neighbors Alliance, a coalition for NA's in Ward III.
- Grant Rd Improvement Plan, Rezoning requests, etc.
- EPG for TEP 138kV line
- North Tucson Weed & Seed/Coalition (EC, NW, Keeling, Amphi & Coronado HGTS NA's, TPD, etc)

Land Use Amendment/Neighborhood Preservation Zone concerns

- Mini-dorms in Nwana and Feldman's NA.
- Feldman's NA NPZ being proposed

NWNA concerns and improvements

- On the plus side, website and email communication, yet, there exists the have's and have not's on the digital/internet divide.
- Pot-luck annual meeting arrangements for May 2009!
- Starting in June a different meeting site within walking distance of NWNA. (IST)

GOALS FOR 2009-2010 and later.

- Continue working with El Cortéz NA in collaboration with zoning concerns 340 & 352 E Grant RD
- To participate in two separate design phases with the City for the PCNR and bike boulevard.
- Evaluate the results and outcomes from the first PCNR proposal, and when possible, prepare a second PCNR proposal in the future.
- Complete by May 2010 or earlier the Bronx Wash Improvement project (murals and revegetation).
- Accommodation for the have not's on the digital/internet divide.
- Neighborhood Watch program.

IN CLOSING, I share with you the following paraphrased quotation.

"There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why ... NWNA dreams of things that never were, and ask why not?" (Source, Robert F Kennedy: "There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?")

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