

South Park Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes, Annual Meeting, October 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Maggie Gerring, Co-Chair. Introductions were made and the dues basket passed. The minutes of the meeting held on September 8 were read and approved.

Abe Marques, Ward 5, spoke first, as he had other meetings to attend. He briefly discussed the water and sewer work being done at 36th and Park. This is part of the infrastructure improvement needed to build the Bridges development. An In-N-Out Burger and a QT/QuikTrip gas station are coming into the area, near the freeway. QT is seeking a license for beer, wine and liquor. A resident requested a traffic study be done at Park and Silverlake. Also a bus stop on Park that was damaged in an accident will be repaired or replaced. Residents were urged to attend the Community Key Services Dialogue on October 21 to discuss City budget priorities.

As this was the annual meeting, Maggie gave a summary of SPNA activities that took place over the last year. The ballots to elect officers and directors were handed out to those eligible to vote. There were no volunteers or nominations from the floor for the open positions, although Jackie Silva and Rita Martin were recommended for future consideration. The ballot was accepted by acclamation, electing Shirley Hockett as Treasurer and Annie Smith as Director for two-year terms. Shirley distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report, gave a brief explanation of income and expenses, and answered questions. She noted that SPNA needs more residents to get involved in the meetings and urged everyone to bring a neighbor.

Maggie discussed plans for the block party scheduled for October 17. Most of the arrangements have been made but many volunteers are needed to help sign people in and serve the food. A sign-up sheet was passed and a number of people agreed to help.

Officer Winsky from TPD reported that statistics city-wide are showing a decrease in crime. Statistics for South Park are showing an even greater decrease than the city-wide numbers, except there has been a 13% increase in burglaries. This spike is attributed to the recession, unemployment, and the high number of vacant and abandoned properties.

Maggie, speaking as a concerned citizen, urged everyone to vote "no" for Proposition 200, the "public safety initiative". Tucson's emergency response times are similar to other cities in the southwest and crime statistics are showing a decrease. If 200 is passed it would be very expensive and could bankrupt the city. To cover the increased cost, the city would have to raise taxes and cut services to other departments.

Attention was called to a list of announcements on the agenda. Everyone was urged to take the list home and mark their calendars. Note that the Mobile Health Service is no longer coming to Quincie Douglas Center, due to funding cuts. Door prizes were awarded and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.