

Minutes:

Southside Neighborhood Association Presidential Partnership (SNAPP)

Thursday, July 18, 2013, Ward 5 Conference Room, 4300 South Park Avenue, Tucson

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm by President Yolanda Herrera

Attendance: 6

SNAPP Board Present:

Yolanda Herrera (Sunnyside), President

Margie Mortimer (Barrio Nopal), Vice-President

Barbara Bohall (Cherry Avenue Senior Club), Secretary
Treasurer Vacant

Members Present:

None

Liaison, Advisory, and Associate Members Present:

Sgt. Joe Merrill (TPD)

Guests:

Phil Mann (CASC)

Erin Posthumus (Tucson Clean and Beautiful), Guest Speaker

Agenda:

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Introductions and Neighborhood Roundtable

Reports/Updates

Liquor License Updates

Guest Speaker

Old Business

By-Laws Changes

Treasurer Vacancy

Announcements

Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

Proceedings:

Yolanda called for a moment of silence for the 19 fallen Yarnell fire-fighters.

Group consensus to postpone minutes to next meeting.

Introductions and Neighborhood Roundtable - None

Government Updates – None

Reports and Updates:

Sgt. Joe Merrill – Tucson Police Department

- TPD – ODS held its second DAC meeting.
- Capt. George Rodriguez had replaced Ramon Batista who has moved to another assignment as head of Operational Division South (ODS).
- They have eight new officers, who will take 9-10 weeks to train before they can be on their own. Another academy will start August 5th. Hopefully the south side will get about the same number of new officers.
- Capt. Rodriguez is still getting settled. His last assignment was with Counter Narcotics Alliance (CNA) and he was wrapping up business there and so couldn't be here this evening. The Division hasn't received a lot of new directives yet, but he will be good for the Division.
- They haven't seen much Neighborhood Association activity due to summer break:
 - They will meet with Pueblo Gardens in the next few weeks.
 - They will meet with Sunland Gardens at 6:30 next week. The meeting will be combined with Las Vistas. Dionesa Kunya is trying to get that neighborhood association going again.
 - They will meet with Cherry Avenue in August.
- Yolanda asked why Dollar General was locking up boxes of Tide soap. Sgt. Merrill responded that because large boxes of Tide are so expensive (+/- \$20.00), people will steal and sell at swap meets for a lower price. According to Donny Birch at CNA, drug traffickers will wrap dope in cellophane with Tide to try and hid the odor, including from drug-sniffing dogs.
- Yolanda asked what was being done about illegal car lots, i.e., Drexel & Park, Liberty & Drexel, and Irvington & Park. Sgt. Merrill stated that this a code-enforcement issue. Owners need to post "No Trespassing" signs.
- Regarding a recent criminal activity on the part of a TPD officer, the officer was still in his 18-month probationary period and has been let go.
- Margie asked about the abundance of pan-handling at the USPS. ODS is still utilizing its "bike unit" for at least the next 3-4 months.

Guest Speaker: Erin Posthumus, Tucson Clean and Beautiful

- Tucson Clean and Beautiful has become the Southern Arizona Bufflegrass Coordination Center.
- Bufflegrass was imported from Africa to provide cattle feed and erosion control. Cattle don't care for it, and native animals won't eat it.
- It can cover the entire Sonoran Desert, which is supposed to be bare ground.
- When it lights on fire, it can burn a football size field in three minutes at a temperature of 1600 degrees F.
- Tucson Clean and Beautiful wants to totally eradicate bufflegrass. Currently they are working with FEMA and Tucson International Airport to eradicate it in the vicinity of the airport as smoke from burning bufflegrass could delay flights, and the Mission Adult Detention Center for the Mission Road Complex.

- Don't mow buffleggrass; it needs to be pulled up by the roots. Herbicides only work when the plant is green. Pre-emergents don't work either. The seeds can survive for four years, and fire doesn't bother it.
- Tucson Clean and Beautiful will provide supplies for buffleggrass removal. For six months of work, a group can get a road sign for their organization. They are trying to get volunteers to pull plants.
- People can hire groups such as Primavera Works to remove it from their own yards.

Old Business:

- Yolanda raised the question of changing the by-laws to combine the secretary and treasurer positions due to lack of qualified candidates for treasurer. All statements are still going to Joe Miller. We need to arrange for transfer of signatories.
- Barbara asked for the responsibilities that went with the treasurer position. Yolanda explained that the fund was for big expenses, such as travel expenses to Phoenix for liquor license testimony and putting on liquor license workshops, but we have had no income for quite a while.
 - SNAPP used to collect aluminum cans, and monies earned from that could be used for any authorized expense.
 - Donations to SNAPP were specific items, such as the grant to hold town halls.
 - CPC funds were for liquor control issues.
- The group agreed via consensus that they could appoint an interim treasurer without changing the by-laws. Barbara agreed to serve as the interim treasurer.

Liquor License Updates

- Dollar General withdrew its request for a liquor license.
- Walmart at El Con's request was denied after an 8-hour hearing.
- Christie's (the former Club Turbulence) cannot have its request denied because the location has already been approved for that venue. However, concerns for activity can be expressed. The owner lives in Tennessee, and has been cited several times for illegal activity at several of his other establishments. There will be a meeting with Mr. Fimbres' office at 3:00 pm, Monday, July 29th. Anyone who can, should attend.

Announcements:

- There will be no August SNAPP meeting due to summer break. DAC meeting will take place in September. Next SNAPP meeting will be in October. December meeting would be a DAC meeting and would take place December 19, but it depends on Capt. Rodriguez.

Future Agenda Items

- Christie's Cabaret.

Margie moved and Barbara seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara L. Bohall, Secretary