

Meeting of the
Vista del Monte Neighborhood Association
March 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order in the late afternoon in the southeast corner of McCormick Park, following a general picnic and barbecue during which donations were collected for the park improvement project, and during which an attendance sheet began to be circulated but became lost and probably was not finished. However, there were 21 reported RSVPs, and an eyeball estimate of chair occupancy suggests that about that many people showed up. The treasurer has a list of donors. Vice President Maggie Hill-Kipling presided in the absence of Ed Doran the President.

Officer Bohr of the Tucson Police Department was present and spoke.

He had a written report of the most recent 80 police incidents affecting the neighborhood, saying that the recent **crime situation** here has been unremarkable, but such crime as there has been has concentrated in burglaries and car larcenies. Many of such incidents are crimes of opportunity, and the message people need to heed is that they need to keep things locked up, particularly automobiles. He made his business cards available to the attendees, which contain contact information for reaching him at his station, which is the Hardesty police facility on south Alvernon Way.

Concerning the “**coffee and a cop**” program recently instituted by the police department in its focus on community policing, he said that the program had worked well but could not be implemented to the best extent because of a lack of staffing.

Regarding **Neighborhood Watch**, the new contact person at TPD for help in setting it up is Kara Curtis, a fabulous person. Contacting a ward office for the specific block to be watched also appears to be an option. Maggie Hill-Kipling possessed pamphlets for Neighborhood Watch, available to anyone who is interested. The pamphlets are applicable city-wide, but people choosing to contact a ward office for setup should contact the office of ward in which they reside. Officer Bohr then departed.

Paul Durham, a candidate for City Council in Ward 3, then spoke.

He wanted signatures on his candidacy, but Vista del Monte is split between Wards 3 and 6, requiring that those signing determine whether they were eligible. The dividing line between the wards is Monte Vista and San Francisco Boulevard, with Ward 3 to the north and Ward 6 to the south. That excludes from his primary campaign significant parts of Vista del Monte.

His platform is focused on jobs, neighborhoods, sustainability, and transportation. He believes that Tucson will improve if areas within it develop a sense of community. Something was said about the Building Resilient Neighborhoods program. In Chicago, where such a program had been in place, the awareness that had been developed within a certain area through such a program resulted in a substantial reduction in deaths, below what would have been expected, during a heat disaster.

He mentioned the importance of a full range of transportation options, and that modes other than the automobile must be both safe and perceived as safe, the latter being important if the public is to be persuaded in large numbers to use them. He mentioned cheap safety options, such as on certain streets the simple rearrangement of parking and bike lanes.

He mentioned his background as a transaction lawyer, and the way the city has been or can attract companies to set up shop here.

He discussed the anti-solar politics now taking place with respect to electricity rates, and said that anyone wanting to install solar electricity needs to do it soon, because the terms on rebates for power generated are up for change, and are now more favorable than they are likely to shortly become.

Someone asked about the Monsanto deal that has been controversial. He said that the issue had become moot because the company had withdrawn the specific application in question, but that it is, in

any case, not a city issue.

He spoke of the need for the ½ cent sales tax increase because of the shortage of funds for roads, police equipment, and fire equipment.

Election of neighborhood officers: Brian Hill-Kipling said he would continue on an interim basis as treasurer, but this was rendered unnecessary when someone later volunteered.

Selecting a new president: Ed Doran (absent) had earlier indicated that he could no longer serve. Dave Hunter, who was the chief cook for this event and had much to do with bringing it about, said he was the Assistant Principal of Desert View High School, had been involved with the Park Bonds Committee, had contacts in City Hall, was a long time resident of Tucson, and since 2009 lived in Vista del Monte, and would be an advocate for the neighborhood and a conduit for its concerns, and was therefore willing to be president.

As vice president: Emily Ricketts said she long lived on North Goyette, had been active in neighborhood affairs many years ago, discontinued for a while, but resumed upon retirement. She has been involved in the Sustainable Neighborhoods movement that was created by Physicians for Social Responsibility. This has involved building community into neighborhoods. Concerning community, Dave added his agreement. She would be willing to be vice president, but with certain limitations: She has no smart phone and is not knowledgeable using computers. Jan DelaVina then said that she could help Emily with the information-technology issues.

As Secretary: Steve Allen had earlier said he would continue.

As treasurer: Brian Hill-Kipling, whose future situation is uncertain, said that the duties of treasurer are, however, very minimal. Very little has in fact happened in that office in the past year, and even the names on the bank accounts are not yet up to date. Jan DelaVina then said she would be willing to be treasurer, and to assist Emily as mentioned previously.

There being no other nominations or volunteers, it was voted to elect the following new officers effective at the end of this meeting:

President: Dave Hunter
Vice President: Emily Ricketts
Secretary: Steve Allen
Treasurer: Jan DelaVina

The yard sale: Kathy Rinn spoke, saying that it is scheduled for Saturday, April 1. It will be for raising funds for the Tree Fund of the park. People who wish to donate junk toward this cause but do not want to hold a yard sale on their own property, can donate the junk to Kathy Rinn at her residence at 2644 North Orchard, who will take care of the selling of it. People who want to conduct their own yard sales at their own properties on that date in concert with all this and with the advertising of it, are asked to donate about \$5 to \$10 toward the tree fund. Kathy Rinn will need help in setting up the yard sale that takes place at her residence. Kara and Katy usually do so, but may not be fully available this time. If anyone else is available, please let Kathy Rinn know. The duties will include (but are by no means limited to) making maps that will show all the participating yard sales around the neighborhood, copies of which will be made available to participants, so that anyone visiting any one site will have ready directions to the others. The event will also be advertised on Craigslist. People who want to leave their stuff at her yard to be sold can begin doing so today.

Park trees:

Katy Brown and Pam Stalkfleet are the main people seeing to this. Shown today was a diagram of the intended final park plan, which includes not only reforestation but also a number of other improvements such as new ball courts, walking paths, sitting areas, and art.

As pertains to the immediate zone to be reforested, there were problems at the city because of changes in personnel, resulting in new people taking over with whom we had not negotiated, all of which put the project behind. We seek, as the phase of improvement now being tackled, to put in 10 trees along with associated watering arrangements that meet city requirements, hopefully no later than this autumn. This will cost the neighborhood about \$1500.00 . City Councilman Paul Cunningham had been spoken to, and said he will try to facilitate the project. Fund-raising will continue, of which today's neighborhood event is one instance. Later, after these 10 trees, reforestation will involve 3 or 4 more phases in which zones will receive trees, but that is well into the future.

There was discussion of what types of trees we would want. Eucalyptus is tall but is apparently out because it uses too much water. The tree under which we sat was regarded as excellent, but no one was sure what type it is. Tallness is desired to encourage hawks and other birds. Some other types of trees were mentioned, but may have various drawbacks. We are ahead, however, in one regard: because Vista del Monte has a formal park plan, it has qualified to be considered for such city money as may be available in addition to what we raise, unlike some other places where no formal plan exists.

Roll-offs: Scheduled for April 12th through 17th, on North Goyette, South Orchard, Venice/San Francisco, and Ft. Lowell. The depositing public is reminded that these bins do have doors that can (hopefully) be opened to allow stuff to be put in more easily, but please remember to place your deposits as far to the other end of the bin as possible, to allow access for subsequent items.

Annual Calendar: A copy was handed out or made available to at least some people. It has been published elsewhere also, such as on the Neighborhood Link web site. The need for street reps was mentioned, specifically for Fort Lowell, Swan, and Desert. Participation on Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods is planned in October, but the date remains uncertain because the city has not yet announced it.

The treasurer's report: Brian Hill-Kipling reported an account balance of \$772.00 , not counting today's collection, which is approximately \$438.00 , and also not including certain other donations that appear to have been made in the recent past but not yet recorded.

Grant Road: The secretary was asked to report. The secretary mentioned that to his knowledge the soonest we would hear further about the widening of Grant Road in this part of town would be this November. He had no other information.

Graffiti: Someone mentioned that there is a graffiti-reporting app that allows the applicable city department to be sent a photograph and also the GPS coordinates of any found.

Resiliency and other literature: Emily Ricketts then pointed out copies of the Native Seeds newsletter that was recently sent to street reps, and there were copies left over, but not enough for a complete distribution to the neighborhood. But such copies as she had, she was handing out, and also a publication regarding emergency preparedness from the Federal Emergency Management Administration. These and certain other pieces of literature were being handed out this afternoon, including a copy of a welcome letter that can orient new residents into the neighborhood association and its contact points.

Street lamps on Columbus: The secretary mentioned the complaint, made in an earlier meeting, about the way the street lamps on Columbus do not adequately illuminate the walkway where pedestrians must walk and mobility devices must roll. However, the person who had brought up this issue was absent, and there was no other information.

A meeting of street representatives May 1, 2017, 6:30—8:00 PM at 2638 North Goyette, was announced in the agenda, and that this meeting will not be limited to street representatives only, but will be open to the general Vista del Monte public. They may come and discuss whatever neighborhood issues may be on their minds.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Allen, Secretary