

Minutes of the Nwana monthly meeting, Saturday, June 7th, 2008
Northwest Neighborhood Center, 2160 N 6th Avenue

Members present: Armando Vargas (President Nwana), Dan Dorsey (Secretary Nwana), Hannah Soreng (Treasurer Nwana) and James Ray.

Guests present: Karin Uhlich (City Council Member, Ward III), Martha Retallick (El Cortez N.A.), Katie Gannon (Drachman Institute), Rick Wiainski (Amphi N.A.) and Carmen Cueva (Drachman Institute)

1-a At 1:05 P.M. Armando calls the meeting to order; there are welcomes & introductions
1-b. It is pointed out we now have a regular secretary, Dan Dorsey
1-c. Copies of the May 2008 monthly meeting minutes are read, passed out, and approved by the members present.

2- Rick Wiainski of Amphi Neighborhood has been coordinating six adjoining neighborhood associations in applying for a 'Weed and Seed' grant. The neighborhoods involved are Northwest, Amphi, El Cortez, Coronado Hts, Keeling, and Balboa Hts. Rick explained some facts about the program and what the grant money can be used for. He said it was easier to get a grant if neighborhoods banded together for the application process. The grants are often awarded on the basis of area crime statistics he said. The 'Weed' part of the grant is often used by the police and law enforcement to step up patrols in 'hot' spots within the grant area, and the 'Seed' part of the grant is often used for youth programs to involve youth in constructive activities.

3. In place of Tamara Prime, Karin Uhlich is present and gives a short update on city council activities concerning our area and Ward III in general. In particular she talks about the status of the 'Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance', designed to take pressure off of some neighborhood associations as far as mini-dorms being constructed within their boundaries. Northwest N.A. is not yet contained within the boundaries of the trial area covered by the ordinance. Karin said she and other council members will continue to look at angles to limit mini-dorms, such as additional code requirements and encouraging them to be built along major corridors instead of in the middle of neighborhoods.

4. TPD report - There was no police report because there was no representative from TPD at the meeting.

5. National Night Out (NNO)

5-a. The date set for this year's NNO is Tu, 5 August 2008

5-b. The tentative dates set for next year's NNO is 4 Aug OR 6 Oct 2009. Nwana feedback is requested on choosing a date, and the members agreed the Oct date would be better.

5-c. Armando suggested we need an ad hoc planning committee in collaboration with MPNC for this year's Night on August 4th. Martha Retallick said she would be willing to coordinate a flyer and some publicity, but that the flyer needed to be passed out early this year.

6. Other events/reminders

6-a. MPNC meeting, We, 11 Jun 08, at 630 P.M.

6-b. Ward III Neighbors, hiatus until 17 Sep 08

6-c. Water meeting, 11 Jun 08

6-d. Zoning Examiner's Hearing, Th, 19 Jun 08 dealing with the ongoing Mariscos Chihuahua rezoning request

7. Neighborhood Improvements updates

7-a. Our PCNR grant that has been approved was discussed - Armando mentioned that the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the city and county is still a work in progress.

7-b. Armando mentioned and brought copies of a 'Bicycle Boulevard' article, Tucson Citizen, Sa, 31 May 08. The NWNA idea of having Fourth Ave be one of these Bicycle Boulevard's was not mentioned in the article. Katie thought we could still pursue RTA funding for the project.

7-c. The Drachman Institute, represented by Katie Gannon and Carmen Cueva, gave a Summary Overview of then, now & future of NWNA. Katie gave a power point presentation the history of NWNA obtaining the Back to Basics Grant that has been approved and is making its way through the beauracritic system now. She talked about where and how the NWNA could go forward with some additional projects, in particular we talked about pursuing the 'pocket parks' with water harvesting basins at the ends and along Linden St. and Bronx Wash. It was mentioned that Tucson's Office of Conservation and Sustainability is looking for pilot projects now. The members of NWNA expressed gratitude to Katie for her hard work on our behalf. Carmen Cueva said she would be working this summer with NWNA on looking at housing issues in our neighborhood as it relates to health and conservation concerns.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM

The next NWNA meeting is Saturday, 12 July, at 1 P.M., since the first weekend is a three-day weekend with Independence Day.