

Miramonte Neighborhood Association (MNA)

Board Of Directors' Meeting

October 13, 2021

- I. Call To Order: The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm.
- II. Roll Call:
 - a. Board Members Present: Adam Lucia, President; Ann Baldwin, Treasurer; Jan Howard, Secretary; Ellen Wheeler, Richard Webster, Linda Dobbyn, Brenda Kazen and Alecs Sakta
 - b. Board Members Absent: Anne-Marie Laurian; Joanna Dinan, Vice President; Sam Behrend; Greg Gibson
- III. Approval of Minutes (August and September)
 - a. Ellen moved for approval and Ann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Introduction of Guests: Steve Kozachik, Ward 6 Councilman; Merrill Evans, St. Mark's; Xochitl Coronado-Vargas, City of Tucson Department of Water; Ryan Fagan, City of Tucson Department of Transportation; neighborhood residents Ruth Beeker, Michelle Cameron, Sandee Reynolds, and Lee Beckwith.
- V. Resignation & election of new president
 - a. Adam announced he would be resigning as president but that he would be staying on the board. He said Ellen has volunteered to take on the role as board president. Adam nominated Ellen Wheeler to serve as president, Brenda seconded the nomination, and the board voted unanimously to elect Ellen as the new president.
- VI. Ward 6 Update by Councilman Kozachik:
 - a. The Ward 6 office is now open for board meetings and has a large screen TV allowing for dual in-person/Zoom arrangements.
 - b. Donations of furnishings, appliances and money are sought to help incoming Afghan refugees. The donations are in coordination with Habitat for Humanity, which is handling the larger items of furniture that are donated. It also has set up a fund for donations. Smaller household items can be dropped off at Ward 6.
 - c. Speed bump on 4th St. near Dodge Ave.: A new speed bump is causing driving issues due to the structure's height and rectangular structure, rather than gentle curving sides. Steve said he would raise the issue with the City's Department of Transportation to fix.
 - d. Garbage collection along apartments on 3rd Street: There appears to be inadequate trash collection structures at the Royal El con and Cactus Club apartments (3660 & 3686). Trash is overflowing on to the road and causing a driving hazard. In addition, another housing structure

at 3701 has a large overflowing dumpster, which is placed right on the corner and is unsightly. All complexes use City of Tucson trash services. Steve said he would follow up with the City of Tucson trash pick to see if dumpsters can be added and if there are other options on where the dumpsters could be placed offering a site farther away from the street.

VII. Richey/Third Traffic Circle & Landscaped Bump-outs (Motion) Presentation by Tucson DOT & Tucson Water

- a. Ellen proposed the following motion and Richard seconded. The motion was passed unanimously: “The Miramonte Neighborhood Association recommends to the City of Tucson to cancel the proposed traffic circle at Richey/Third, and instead pursue landscaped bump outs (chicanes) as traffic calming devices to support traffic calming and improve safety for bicycle and foot traffic. In addition, the MNA board asks the City to review options for similar traffic calming landscaped chicanes on Richey.”
- b. Ryan and Xochitl provided an overview of the new Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Program offering landscaping and rainwater harvesting. The goal is to use native plants in these projects, so that once the plants are established, they will flourish without a need for irrigation. The landscaping would be incorporated into the traffic slowing chicanes. These techniques will work well for Third Street near Richey and in front of St. Mark’s Church, because of the design of the roads directs the rain along the sides of the streets instead of pooling and flowing along the middle of a road.
 - b.1. Board members and guests asked about whether GSI could be used along Richey and the Tucson Water rep said that it could be evaluated for this landscaping technique. Examples of how the GSI could look on Third/Richey and in front of St. Mark’s were shown. The board asked for input and established a committee to coordinate with the City to come up with a plan amenable to the neighborhood. City reps said that the City has funds allocated to help develop the GSI landscaping and ensure it meets City codes for emergency safety and mobility, as well as keep sewers, fire hydrants, power lines and other structures safe. Steve added that the Ward 6 office also has funds to help with mini grants administered through Tucson Clean and Beautiful and reinforced the need for the MNA to be involved in the development and approval of any GSI and traffic calming construction.
 - b.2. MNA board members Brenda Kazen, Linda Dobbyn, Adam Lucia and Ann Baldwin volunteered to be on the committee to coordinate the development of the GSI chicane construction for the neighborhood.

VIII. Richey/Third Pocket Park – need for improvements

- a. Ellen asked Ann to summarize the situation. Ann said there is a need to clean up and restore plantings in the park and that perhaps the money that was donated for art in the previously proposed traffic circle at that intersection could be used for that purpose, with the permission

of donors. Ellen said that Ruth and Terry Borg had been at the park earlier that day and discovered someone living near the western wall. SteveK said he would ask TPD and the city Parks Department to contact the individual and also look at cleanup. Ellen asked for other volunteers to join her on a committee to take on the pocket park issues, and Ann and Linda volunteered. Alecs suggested we put a sign-up for the committee at the park, as there are neighbors who visit regularly.

- IX.** Miramonte traffic circle recognition: A small ceremony was held Saturday at the new traffic circle with the Rain and Ridges artwork. It was determined that further acknowledgement of the neighborhood leaders who created and helped install Rain and Ridges be held at the MNA annual meeting in 2022.
- X.** Halloween Party:
- a. The Halloween Party is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, October 30, at the Miramonte Pocket Park. The Tucson Parks Department will be mobilized to clean up the park and the City's Homeless Outreach division will meet with the person(s) living in the part to move them and help address any needs.
 - b. Jan, Marilyn Russell and Terry Borg will work with decorations, signage and pumpkins. Merrill Evens, St. Mark's representative, said the church will again provide treats for the kids and Brenda confirmed that Devil Dan will again lead the parade at the party. She also said former board member Caroline Rondeau will help with the party. Jan will help with promotion of the party to the neighborhood.
- XI.** October Newsletter:
- a. Story gathering is underway, but the current list includes the Miramonte Traffic Circle artwork, Halloween party, Pocket Park, Third Street traffic slowing plans and the value of MNA volunteering. Articles, authors and story ideas are sought with a deadline of an enewsletter distribution for the week of November 15.
- XII.** St. Mark's update:
- a. The church is bringing back the monthly potlucks, this time to be held outdoors. The next two will be held Sunday, November 14, and Sunday, December 12.
 - b. The little pantry is another option for those needing supplies and if more is needed St. Mark's office offers a bag of food.
 - c. Church leadership is bringing back the yard sale fundraiser in support of the MNA with a date still to be announced.
- XIII.** Treasurer's report: Current balance is \$11,154.45. This month, there was a \$20 charge to update the MNA information on the Arizona Corporate Commission.
- XIV.** Date of next meeting; agenda items
- a. Watershed Management Group to present on water harvesting

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b. Tucson Clean and Beautiful Group to present on tree/landscape mini-grants

c. Miramonte Pocket Park update

XV. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

a. The next meeting is set for 6 p.m., Wednesday, November 10, via Zoom and in person at the Ward 6 office

Respectfully submitted by Jan Howard, Secretary