

MIRAMONTE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

- I. President Ellen Wheeler called the in-person meeting to order at 6 p.m. The meeting was held by Zoom and at the Ward 6 office.
 - a. Board members present or on Zoom: Ellen Wheeler, Ann Baldwin, Sam Behrend, Anne-Marie Laurian, Brenda Kazen, Richard Webster, Jan Howard, Linda Dobbyn and Ravi Bewtra. Absent: Joanna Dinan.
 - b. Guests: included Morris Palter, Merrill Evans, Ruth Beeker, Theresa Webster, Spencer Young, Sandee Reynolds, Ward 6 Intern Nadia P. Ispiani, Ward 6 Council Aide Dora Maldonado, and Ward 6 Councilman Steve Kozachik.

- II. Nomination and Election of Officers: The following officers were nominated by Sam Behrend and seconded by Linda Dobbyn and elected by a voice vote -- Ellen Wheeler as President, Joanna Dinan as Vice President, Ann Baldwin as Treasurer and Jan Howard as Secretary.

- III. Public Safety: The first meeting of Miramonte and nearby neighborhoods with Tucson Police Department officers and Ward 6 regarding area crime will be at the Ward 6 office (in person and by Zoom) Wednesday, May 18 at 6 p.m. The intent is for the neighborhoods and police to continue meeting monthly, with neighbors bringing specific crime problems to the attention of the police for discussion and response. The first meeting will be facilitated by Ronni Kotwica from the Palo Verde neighborhood, who has facilitated a similar Alvernon-Grant crime initiative for many years. Also attending will be a representative from St. Mark's Church.

- IV. Updates
 - a. Ann Baldwin gave the Treasurer's Report stating the current balance in the MNA account is \$10, 528.81. Expenses included Arizona Corporation Commission MNA filing, MNA Mailbox rental, and web hosting; income included a donation of \$100 from Lois Sheering.
 - b. Pocket Park Update: Ruth Beeker showed the frame photograph of the Ridges and Rain sculpture at the intersection of Miramonte and 3rd Street, presented as a thank you to her by the Miramonte Neighborhood Association. There was a great turnout for the Pocket Park Planting Party, and City Parks and Rec workers also assisted. . The drip irrigation system is still being fine-tuned, fixing dry spots and leaks.
 - i. Ellen reported on the status of donations that were made toward public art for the proposed traffic circle at Third Street and Richey, which has been cancelled. The Board previously agreed we should contact those donors to see whether they'd prefer to use those funds for the pocket park renovation or if they would

like a refund. Ellen reported she followed up with all donors with contact information, and all but one agreed to use their contributions to enhance the pocket park amenities. The one donor had their contribution returned.

- ii. With those funds available, options to make the play area in the park more attractive to families with young children are being researched. Miramonte has asked the city to install a shade sail at the play area, which has been estimated to cost roughly \$18,000. The city will be replacing the drinking fountain and replacing an oil drum with a better trash receptacle. Other ideas to increase use of the pocket park were thrown out, including adding sand digging toys, putting up wall charts to identify local species of birds and animals, social gatherings, and concerts in the park. Morris Palter offered to help with concerts, as he is a University of Arizona music professor who has access to many musicians. A committee to work on activities/attractions for the park was formed, including Ruth, Ellen, Morris, Ravi, Ann and Theresa Webster.
 - iii. Little Library: Ruth suggested that the smaller box for children's books be replaced with a larger and stronger container that can also be used for a toy exchange. Jan volunteered to contact the Arizona Daily Star to see if they would donate one of the metal paper vending boxes, and they have agreed to donate one.
 - iv. Neighborhood oversight: MNA neighbor Terry Borg has volunteered to re-paint the picnic table and seating and the game table and seating, and then keep up with covering graffiti. There will be future discussion about recruiting volunteers to monitor the park and do light maintenance.
- c. Traffic calming/pedestrian safety committee: Brenda said the committee has been reviewing a design for the Miramonte Bike Boulevard that was prepared by architecture students at the UA, to see what portions of that design might be feasible now to slow traffic and increase pedestrian safety. The group will set up a meeting with the UA Architecture professor who led the design effort. Other board members and neighbors will be invited to attend when the meeting is confirmed.
- d. City proposed ordinance re: parking reduction for bars: Steve Kozachik has set up a presentation by the Department of Planning and Development at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 26, at the Ward 6 office to discuss changes to bar and restaurant parking requirements and how they could impact those living in the neighborhood where the businesses are located. The Mayor and Council will be voting on ordinance changes as early as June 7. At the meeting will be discussed:
- What current parking space requirements are
 - Why the exclusion was put into the Individual Parking Plans; why PDSD proposes its removal now
 - How state law governs alcoholic beverage service (from a local attorney)

- What the IPP application process entails for applicant, neighborhoods, PDSD
 - How the City anticipates addressing potential problems created by the change
 - e. Royal El Con: There is no new information regarding the proposed addition of low-income rental units. Nearly MNA residents continued to voice their concerns about the trash, suspected drug use and sales, and other suspected crimes. Royal El Con might be one of the problem areas discussed at the public safety meeting on May 18.
- V. Ward 6 Update Steve Kozachik:
- a. Steve said that there is additional funding for speed humps in the neighborhood. The neighborhood has a \$500 fee for installation and the cost to the city is \$5,000, but Steve has asked the city manager to evaluate whether the cost is really that high.
 - b. City of Tucson Planning Commission is identifying the issues and ways to mitigate the installation of Tucson Electric Power line transmission upgrades and negotiations still underway on installation options. There is still emergency rental assistance for Ward 6 seniors and home repair assistance. Contact the office at (520) 791-4601 for information about these activities.
- VI. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The June meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 8, at the Ward 6 Office, 3202 E. 1st St., and by Zoom.