

MIRAMONTE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2022

Ellen Wheeler, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: MNA Board members Ellen Wheeler, president; Ann Baldwin, treasurer; Jan Howard, secretary; Ravi Bewtra; Linda Dobbyn; Sam Behrend; Richard Webster; Brenda Kazen, Anne-Marie Laurian, and Morris Palter. **Absent:** Joanna Dinan, vice president.

Ward 6 update – Dora Maldonado, Ward 6 Council Aide

- 5/6th Street Lane Reduction Status: Dora reported that Councilman Kozachik continues to support the “road diet,” which would reduce traffic lanes to one in each direction, with addition of a left turn lane and bike lanes. He is working to get the Department of Transportation and Mobility to implement the road diet for at least a trial period once the repaving is done in 2023. He also thinks the assumptions were based on data collected when Broadway was still under construction, which likely increased use of 5th/6th Street. Johnathan Homan, a MNA resident who lives by the intersection of 5th/6th Street and Country Club, said he has witnessed many accidents, as well as a dog hit, and asked how he can support the efforts to create the “road diet” and cut the street down to two-lanes with bicycle access on each side. Ravi also asked how best to share the neighborhood’s concerns about pedestrian safety, and Dora said that letters to the City, as well as attendance at City Council meetings would be important ways to express their concerns.
- While the official test period for the plastic recycling demonstration project ended Dec. 31, the Ward 6 office is still housing the bins to drop off plastic recycling. The level of participation by Tucson residents and amount of plastic collected exceed expectations. It is anticipated that the topic will be brought up at the Jan. 24 City Council meeting, and Steve will be seeking funding and next steps to continue and expand the plastic recycling pilot.
- Ellen asked if the Ward 6 office would help address the repairs/replacements of the bollards protecting the Rain and Ridges artwork on Miramonte. They had been damaged last fall when a car struck the protective barrier. Dora said that the Street Department had received bids for the materials and repairs but did not have a date, as-of-yet, for the repairs to be completed.
- Dora announced an open house for revisions to Plan Tucson, the City of Tucson’s General and Sustainability Plan, will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., Thursday, January 19, at the Tucson Convention Center’s West Meeting Room. Dora said people can drop by at any time during the open house. For more information about the work underway

regarding this topic, visit the City's Plan Tucson project page or sign up for the Plan Tucson newsletter.

- The next Alvernon/5th Street Crime meeting with neighbors and the Tucson Police Department will be held at the Ward 6 office at 6 p.m., Wednesday, January 25. These monthly meetings covering the Miramonte, El Encanto, and, Peter Howell neighborhoods, offer a chance to talk directly with TPD Lt. Tony de la Ossa, who oversees police activity in our area.

Pocket Park Update

- Ellen said that MNA resident Kim Fernandez, an architect and muralist, has submitted a design for hummingbird artwork (which was shared at the meeting) to be painted on the west wall at the Pocket Park. Kim has offered to donate the materials and labor. Sam moved to approve the overall design and Brenda seconded it. The design was unanimously approved. The next step is for the City's Arts Commission to review and approve the artwork at their Feb. 8 meeting.
- The City has ordered the park's sand diggers, and they are scheduled to be delivered this month. Ellen said she is hopeful that the shade structure and play equipment will be installed soon. Teresa Webster has volunteered to organize an event in late February, early March celebrating this milestone at the park.

Annual Meeting

- The neighborhood's annual meeting will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 15, at the Ward 6 office.
- To promote the event, the Spring Newsletter will feature details about the meeting as well as other neighborhood news, with a goal for the newsletter to arrive in MNA neighbor mailboxes no later than 10 days before the meeting.

Abandoned shopping carts (Report from Morris)

- Abandoned shopping carts are a big concern in the neighborhood and he has done extensive research on the City regulations regarding the reporting and returning of the stolen property to their respective stores. The shopping carts can be returned by the store they were stolen from, or carts can be reported to the City of Tucson and they retain a private contractor to round up the carts and return them to their respective retail owners. Following the meeting, a request has gone to the City through the Ward 6 office to see if the MNA Board can obtain information about the total costs to return stolen carts. Abandoned carts can be reported to the stores, to the City of Tucson's Environmental Services at 520-791-3171 or by email to ESHelp@tucsonaz.gov Morris (morrispalter@hotmail.com) is also asking for feedback on ideas, issues, and opportunities on addressing stolen shopping carts.

Dora also was asked about other ways to alert the City about this growing eyesore. She said that surrounding neighborhoods, including Colonia Solano and El Encanto, are seeing the abandoned carts, and, the more the City hears residents' concerns and sees the extent of the issues surrounding the stolen carts, the quicker these issues will be addressed. One of the solutions offered, in addition to some revisions to the City Code regarding stolen carts, is to encourage other stores to use an electronic tire lock similar to the ones Target and Burlington Coat Factory installed on their carts at the El Con Shopping Center.

Updates:

- **Treasurers Report:** Ann said in December MNA received a \$130 from two donations: \$30 for play equipment and \$100 for general support, beginning the month with a balance of \$6801.81, and ending with a balance of \$6931.81.
- **Street Calming:** Brenda has been actively tracking down which funding source might be available for pedestrian safety and sidewalks and hasn't had a lot of luck. Brenda brought up the Complete Streets program, which should be able to help with pedestrian safety and street calming. Brenda asked Dora about it, as Dora is a Ward 6 representative to the process. While the City committee hasn't met in a few months, Dora said she will try to find out more about when the next meeting will be and try to help Brenda with any other internal contacts to address this neighborhood need.

Ellen adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

The February MNA Board meeting is set for 6 p.m., Wednesday, February 15, at the Ward 6 office, 3202 E. 1st St. in person and by Zoom.