

## MIRAMONTE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 9, 2023  
Zoom meeting

Ellen Wheeler, President, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**MNA Board members present:** Ellen Wheeler, Brenda Kazen, Sam Behrend, Linda Dobbyn, Ann Baldwin, Morris Palter, William Kuitert, Betsy Lubis, Richard Webster, Theresa Webster  
**absent:** Jan Howard, Ravi Bewtra, Ann-Marie Laurian

**Guests:** Four additional Miramonte neighbors, Eva Seid from the El Encanto neighborhood, Dora Maldonado and Steve Kozachick from the Ward 6 office, and Nicholas McCullough from the Pima County Board of Supervisors office

**Ward 6 updates – read more detail on Ward 6 topics in [Steve's weekly newsletters](#).**

- Ward 6 office is still under renovation and will likely stay closed until late September. Glass and plastic recycling bins, however, are still available and accessible.
- On August 22 Steve is (expecting/presenting) an agenda item with City Council to determine a site for the ByFusion plant, which is expected to be in midtown.
- City is making progress on the Miramonte chicane project: Jesse Soto (City Transportation dept.) is currently working with City engineers to evaluate construction impacts on (buried) utilities. See more updates below.
- Royal El Con sale: Another buyer has emerged, and the property is off the market while that buyer is evaluating the property.
- BASIS school traffic issues: School is back in session and traffic problems persist on Speedway, Dodge, and other streets bordering the BASIS Tucson Primary school. School administration has been willing to work with the neighbors to address the problem. Solutions implemented (so far) to help spread out the rush include staggered school start/end times and new technology that lets parents know their student has been released from class. Several board members highlighted the problems accessing Speedway from Dodge and Richey and made suggestions for other strategies. Steve said he will reach out to the school again to see what more might be done.

### **Camino Miramonte chicanes**

- The City is hiring an engineering firm that specializes in stormwater drainage to design the project. Water, sewer and gas lines are buried along both sides of the street, so utility clearances will be necessary. Plantings/landscaping will be based on utility infrastructure. Once the design is finalized, they'll paint lines on the street indicating chicane placement. Due to the street's inverted crown structure, there is currently some question as to whether neighbors would have to commit to watering the plantings for a couple of years until they are established — or whether watering might be covered by the City's Storm to Shade program. More information and updates will be forthcoming as the project progresses. Board members extend their thanks to Betsy Lubis, Brenda Kazen, and Mark Salerno for their time and effort in surveying the residents along

Camino Miramonte for their views on the project. Of the 20 homes they were able to survey, 18 were in support of the project and 2 were opposed.

#### **Miramonte Pocket Park:**

- The pocket park committee met on July 1 at the park to brainstorm ideas for attracting more frequent use and enjoyment by Miramonte residents and their families. Several types of events were discussed, all to encourage consistent use of the park (and discourage illicit activity). The committee is planning an event for Thursday, September 21. Information and details will be announced in the coming weeks.

#### **Proposed lighting for 5<sup>th</sup> street**

- Guest Eva Seid from El Encanto neighborhood voiced her concern over Proposition 407 sidewalk and pedestrian improvements slated for 5th St. The lighting design for the project calls for 35' tall, high intensity, Cobra lights to be installed along 5th Street between Country Club and Alvernon. She voiced her opposition to the lighting and is calling for an alternate solution (e.g., lower intensity and appropriately scaled light poles — or historic-looking streetlights similar to those in the Sam Hughes neighborhood). She encouraged neighbors to educate themselves about the plan and voice any concerns in writing to Bond Oversight Committee and the city. Ellen and Steve Kozachick mentioned that the Tucson Department of Transportation will be conducting outreach for citizen feedback on various Prop 407 plans, including the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Street improvements, via a public opinion survey. Outreach should occur in September, and Miramonte residents are encouraged to provide their feedback.

#### **September MNA Meeting**

- Several potential locations were discussed for the September MNA Board meeting, since the Ward 6 offices will still be under repair. Ellen will research options and notify the Board and MNA list serve should a location for an in-person meeting be available. Regardless, the meeting will be broadcast in Zoom.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Ann reported a balance of \$6931.81 in the account, with no expenses or receipts to report for the month.

#### **Annual Miramonte Newsletter**

- Stephanie VanLatum, Jan Howard, and Ellen Wheeler are putting together the annual Miramonte newsletter, slated for publishing this fall. As with last year, they would like to print the newsletter in color, which increases printing costs by approximately \$500 and brings the total to an estimated \$1,600. The group will be soliciting for advertising to help cover some of the extra cost, but requested the Board approve the project budget.
- Sam Behrend made a motion to approve spending \$1,600 for the newsletter." The motion was seconded by Brenda and unanimously passed with 10 votes.

#### **Miramonte Facebook page**

- Ellen would like to remind the community to visit the Miramonte Facebook page. Please also feel free to provide your photos and news items to Stephanie Van Latum for

posting. General neighborhood information, photos, event announcements — are all welcome and work to keep us all well-connected. Email your submissions to Stephanie at [azsteff@gmail.com](mailto:azsteff@gmail.com).

### **Pima County Board of Supervisors**

- Nicholas McCullough, Pima County Board of Supervisors Representative, announced that the Board of Supervisors is currently soliciting all neighborhood associations for feedback as the Board develops their Legislative plan for 2024. Education, climate resilience, housing, and healthy/safe communities are their core items for attention.

There being no further business, Ellen adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

***The September MNA Board meeting is set for 6 p.m., Wednesday, September 13 via Zoom due to the Ward 6 office closure. Should an alternate location for an in-person meeting be found, it will be announced via the MNA listserv.***