



Miracerros Addition ♦ Indian Plaza ♦ Netherwood Park

Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter April 2019

The Food Trucks are back every Wednesday Night from 5pm to dusk on the Princeton Street side of Netherwood Park. Come and enjoy!

Highlights of the NPNA Annual Meeting held on March 24, 2019

The NPNA Board wishes to thank more than sixty neighbors who attended the annual membership meeting in March. The first hour of the meeting featured a presentation by Albuquerque City Councilor Isaac Benton. Councilor Benton presented an initiative brought to him by a number of neighbors and constituents in our district to address high traffic speed and associated dangers on Indian School NE. He explained that the City had contracted with an engineering group, AECOM, to create plans for restriping Indian School and Odelia NE between Broadway and Carlisle to reduce lanes and create traffic calming in order to diminish speeds and increase safety (especially to pedestrians and bicyclists). He urged neighbors to examine the study data and called for comment. He added that the street was originally built for speed as a cross-city parkway and not for significant pedestrian or bike traffic. The City's municipal development department analyzed speed, etc., in the report.

Now it is time for the neighborhoods to drive this project forward or not. This is not a "pet project" of his, but he will back it or not depending on wishes of the four neighborhoods involved. He added that excessive speed, crashes, and injury occurs; wider roadways contribute to speed. If approved, narrowing would occur from Notre Dame to the diversion channel west bound and University to Notre Dame east bound. Odelia would be up to Martineztown Neighborhood Association but will likely remain two lanes in each direction.

Council Benton opened the floor for comments. Thirteen neighbors expressed their views and all were recorded in the minutes of the meeting. At the end of the comment period, a motion was made to indicate neighborhood support for the project.

MOTION: Do we support AECOM Engineer Study to reduce lanes on Indian School to calm traffic speeds? Resounding "NO" – maybe 2 support. 65+ do not support.

MOTION FAILS

SUMMARY: The Indian School lane reduction proposal was voted down by a large majority. There was a lot of input from attendees opposing it. Councilor Benton will talk to other neighborhood associations and also get consensus from them. We'll review any new plans that are developed. Various suggestions were made from our residents for slowing speed to 35 MPH; having only one speed limit from University to Carlisle; installing MPH signs with a radar speed display like on Washington between Indian School and Constitution; additional stop light(s); a pedestrian/ bicyclist light that would stop traffic when activated at the diversion channel/bike trail. Most people in attendance did not want Indian School narrowed to one lane of traffic each way.

The meeting continued with visit by APD officers Officers Elsman and Carter as well as Crime Prevention Specialist Laura Kuehn to hear about neighborhood concerns.

Topic #1: A neighbor who lives over at Miracerros Place spoke passionately about the problem of encampments and fires in the Urban Forest Park adjacent to her property.

Response # 1: The officers told her to call 311. They follow a protocol for routine neighborhood patrols of the general sector area with beats. They routinely conduct patrols on way to 911 calls.

Topic#2: How is community policing working? Are you "our" cops?

Response #2 Yes. APD Southeast Area command has 94 officers assigned to a huge area that includes Mesa del Sol.

Topic #3 I always get coffee at Circle K – and see the same drug dealer day after day but always in a different car; he's not there long!

Topic #4: What should I do when my RING security camera footage shows a crime? What if I witness a crime in progress?

Response #3 and #4: Report it! Ring camera video can be submitted along with any report and include the video. It goes to their Real Time Crime Center where officers watch crime related video Go ahead and make a report and submit the RING camera or other security camera footage. Use the APD APP. For suspicious activity – 242-COPS. Emergency – 911.

Topic #5: Are crooks stealing license plates?

Response #5: Yes, criminals will swap out plates – be sure yours is yours – and get the special screws from auto stores to secure plates.

Laura Kuehn encouraged everyone to get involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program. The first step is to organize a block party and invite her. Laura and an officer will make a presentation on crime prevention. Neighbors will then choose a block captain and submit that person's name to Laura for her records.

Bill Gannon presented on the progress so far in reestablishing neighborhood watch throughout NPNA. About 10 neighbors have expressed an interest in being a block captain. Bill displayed two 24x36 posters showing the delineations of the block captain zones that were used in the past when NPNA had an effective Neighborhood Watch Program. Bill and Chuck Maguire will follow up and move this all along in the next 6 months.

Other NPNA business

Board Election: Chuck Maguire was elected to another term on the NPNA board.

Treasurer's Report: Sara Mills presented general overview of \$2697 last year, \$1510 now; Donations to police patrols (two were conducted) have been discontinued. The NPNA contributed \$700 from Golf Fund to Netherwood Park bench (Councilor Benton funds completed the cost). Fourth of July event cost \$555 and the balloon blast was \$214. Other money was spent on Food Truck Nights.

Secretary's Report: Bill Gannon distributed minutes from the 2018 annual meeting. No changes made and the minutes approved by acclimation.

President's Report: 2018 in Review

Susan Bennett reported that 2018 was a great year. Many thanks go out to the Board and to everyone who has made our great mix of events and efforts successful and fun! The weekly Wednesday Netherwood Bites Food Truck Nights will be back for a third year on April 10th and will continue through mid-September, weather permitting, from 5 PM to dusk. Thanks again to James of Kimo's Hawaiian BBQ who manages the events for everyone! And just like before, we'll have a variety of great food, music, people playing in the park, kids rolling down the hill, face painting, frisbees, etc. Pick up dinner to take home, come join the fun!

The July 4th Kids Bike Parade and Social was so much fun, as usual. Great to have the City Firefighters and their big red firetruck guiding paraders through the neighborhood.

Enjoyed our great Doc Rock neighborhood "Jazz" band, egg toss, sack and three-legged races, face painting, and another cool piñata!

Thanks again to Tony Prosser for website and to John Vittal for the newsletter Also, thanks to Peter Burton all those who walked the neighborhood distributing newsletters prior to this meeting.

Early morning on October 13 was the Balloon Blast at the top of the hill with the usual yummy burritos, coffee, and donut holes. This event was a relaxing time to visit with new and old neighbors.

The annual Golf Scramble was October 28. More funds were raised to bring the total to over to almost \$800. The golfers had wanted to donate the money to UNM North Golf Course for a bench or patio sun shade but UNM declined. The funds were redirected toward the second bench installed January 9th this year at the top of Netherwood Park. Thank you to Councilor Benton, Councilor Benton's Policy Analyst Diane Dolan, and Golf Scramble organizers and participants, for funding the installation of this bench!

Bike Trail Clean Up was organized for February 2 by Sue and Jeff Haggeman.

The Book Club continues to meet each month. Call Mary (255-4031) if interested in participating, reading a book, or just talking about books!

The value of a strong neighborhood association is so important. As a group we can do so much such as keeping an eye on vacant property; responding to zoning requests; trash in the wrong dumpster; truck repair in the front yard; coyotes; reviving the Neighborhood Watch as our crime prevention effort, just to mention a few. Thanks so much for coming to the annual meeting and for being part of the 'hood!

2019 The year ahead

The NPNA Board will be keeping an eye the development of the old K-Mart and the old Alpine Sausage properties and possible changes in Indian School Road.

A better, safer neighborhood begins with you. Thank you for your continuing interest and membership in your Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association.