



## **Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Sunday, March 26, 2023 3:00-5:00 PM**

**Location: Tennis Club of Albuquerque**

**Board members:** Bill Gannon, Pres., Sara Mills (absent), V.P /secretary, Cheryl & Spencer Gerwin, Treasurer, At-Large Members- Susan Bennett (absent); Tony Prosser, Ana Maria Casey, Chris Narkun, and Carol Toffaleti

**Guests:** Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn representation Laura Rummler, APD officers Laura Kuehn, Sgt. Wood. and ACS office Walter Adams.

**Call to order 3:05 PM (meeting was digitally recorded from 3:05 until 4:30)**

**Quick Introductions (Bill)** – Cheryl, Spencer, Tony, Chris, and Carol were introduced. Sara, Susan, and Ana Maria were noted as absent. We have two Board vacancies. Please nominate some one to serve. “Highly paid, well-trained professionals...” err...volunteers, just like you! John Vittal can speak to the history of NPNA; have a short-written history available. We have several guests, Laura Rummler (District 7) Laura Kuehn (APD), Officers Wood (APD) and Adams (ACS) also introduced.

**Treasurer Report** (5 mins; Cheryl) – Bank balance and “here’s how we spend it!” NPNA funds and programs largely depend on paying annual dues in March. Report available on the NPNA website. Started out last year with \$2529, took in \$1500 in dues, \$186 in donations, with \$5700 worth expenses. We spent 59% - or \$900 - for 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, 24% expenses for October Balloon blast in the park, and other 17% is for checking account (new checks), maps, graphics, etc. Money comes in and goes back out fairly evenly. Likewise, money comes in for food trucks comes and goes out. Apart from the normal budget, \$2000 came in for Chuck Maguire’s memorial bench and all went out to purchase then install of the bench and plaque. All spreadsheets and bank account information are available for inspection.

**President’s annual overview** (Bill, 3:10– 3:15). **Secretary Report** (2 min; Sara, read by Bill); Review of the Minutes from last Annual Meeting on 3/27/2022, online and in-person. Ike Benton spoke about capital improvement allocations, and the success of Tree New Mexico. Commander Luke Languit talked about increasing foot patrols and APD administration. Laura and Jose talked about catalytic converter thefts, overall patrol activity and upcoming APD community events. Rebecca Bolan from Albuquerque planning department talked about overall 12-community planning areas around the city. We conducted elections and discussed food trucks in the park. Complete minutes are available on website. Bill then read the

annual overview, or, “What do you all do?” This was a summary of: COVID restrictions, Chuck Maguire memorial, noting Herb Denish’s passing, calming of Indian School, food trucks in the Park, park maintenance, Urban Forest activities & proposal, NPNA yard sales, block captains/Neighborhood Watch program, golf scramble, monitoring crime activity, Carlisle Corner, Indian School/Girard corridor project, neighborhood and bike path cleanups, and more! Text available on the NPNA website.

**BOARD ELECTIONS** (15 minutes): TWO seats open on Board. Nominations taken. Each nominee has 1 min for comment on why they want to serve. Board positions are 3-year terms. (Note: New Officers on the Board will be elected from current board members at the April 2023 Board Meeting) – Floor opened for nominations to board. Zephyr Renner self-nominated. Gave a 1 min overview. Nominations closed. Motion to elect Zephyr to board. Jason Kent initiated discussion and “cross-examined” Zephyr (Kylie Renner offered some responses). Discussion ensued about Renner’s Airbnb variance. His concern was about a conflict of interest if Zephyr was on the board and Airbnb variance issues would come up. Most time was used by Jason and responses from Zephyr. Chris provided input and reasoned that any decision is not by the individual but by board majority vote. After several minutes of labored discussion the nomination discussion was ended by Bill by a proposal for a vote. Zephyr was elected by a large majority in favor, 2 opposed.

**Introduce our new ABQ City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn and Policy Analyst Laura Rummler** (3:35-3:40; 5 mins): available for questions. If you’d like to contact Councilor Fiebelkorn, email her at [tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov](mailto:tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov) or call Laura at 505-768-3189. Laura introduced herself and said that the councilor is home sick and gave Laura information to share. ABQ Annual budget due out (1 April) and GEO bond budgets are coming up. Tammy’s concerns include affordable housing, people experiencing homelessness, community safety department (ACS), traffic calming in District 7, and climate change. \$325,000 in capital outlay was approved by legislature for the Girard corridor project. Outside NPNA, McDuffy/Twin Parks traffic calming study going on, Manual MRNA renovation plan between Carlisle to I25 is going on, as is the San Pedro street project. District 7 is also concerned about Uptown retail security issues. A City-wide project, the Youth homeless center, focuses on 18-24-year old’s because they have very few services and it is not safe to go to centers. She has proposed a youth shelter for youth to stay 1-2 nights – see details online. The city is still looking for a good place for this shelter. Councilor Fiebelkorn would like to remodel an existing building and is looking at the old Whole Foods as a possibility as it is next to UNM, on the bus line, and close to jobs. She is worried that that building will sit vacant for a while. The shelter would be for youth 24 and under and for kids who want to transition back to school and jobs. Laura knows of programs already established in other cities, specifically New Orleans and Houston, which can serve as models. Laura described those programs and fielded a number of questions. Negative comments included concerns about campers around Circle K, about whether the appropriate zoning is in place, and about whether a Youth center will make neighborhood problems worse. Safety of the young people is also a worry.

**APD Laura Kuehn / Sergeant Joshua Wood, and ABQ Community Services (ACS) Walter Adams** (3:45 – 4:15, 30 mins): Laura Kuehn (APD Senior Crime Prevention Specialist [lkuehn@cabq.gov](mailto:lkuehn@cabq.gov) 505-256-2050) began with outlining command changes: Jose retired. Hiring his replacement is in process. She wants to help start new neighborhood watches (NW). She describes Block Captains as the “cruise directors of the block”. She puts on April and October NW conferences. Sgt Wood described the new University Area substation as a pilot program where the Southeast Area Command is now east of San Mateo with the University Area Command is west of San Mateo. Sgt Wood is with the new Command. Call response

times now under 30 mins (big improvement). Teams include 3-5 officers, 3 teams (day, graveyard, night). 9 officers on duty each day. Five levels of priority are in place. Number 1 priority is usually the person waving a gun and indicates an immediate danger; priority 5 is like a cat in the tree. The command center will likely be by Isotope Park on Bradbury. (Should make substation at abandoned Whole Foods!) Jason asked APD to act for increased law enforcement of drag racing along Indian School. Walter Adams then spoke and talked about Albuquerque Community Services (ACS). In 6 months ACS has responded to 27,000 calls, with 16,000 being diverted from police. The ACS doesn't enforce, but they motivate people to seek services. This has been very effective at moving non-violent folks along. A question was asked about where do those people go after an ACS intervention (Bill)? According to Sargeant Wood, many take on services while some just move along. Teresa made observations of drug use, etc and campers just hanging around in the parks. Officer Adams wants to catch them when they are not high and get them help. In a situation where concerning behavior is being observed, intervention should be based on risk with low risk activities requiring a call to 311 and a request for ACS assistance from the operator. If the risk is more elevated, concerned individuals should call 242-COPS or 911. ACS is housed in Fire department. See annual meeting fliers that went to doormats with all the contact info. Bill asked, what do you do about – Abandoned cars? Stolen property? How do you proceed? What's "shot spotter"? Per Jason, APD is currently hiring. He said Albuquerque has 846 officers which is the, "same number as when Mayor Keller was elected and when he promised 1200." Sgt Wood added., "Pay has increased and we get paid well". APD app now on AtlasOne

**The Calming of Indian School Road – Community discussion/plan forward** (4:15 - 45 mins; Bill provided overview, Carol and Zephyr co-facilitated) Members commented on issues around speed and traffic on Indian School. An overview of the issue with traffic and safety on Indian School Road was presented. The discussion included lessons learned from 2018 effort to calm the road. The Google survey results were summarized. In addition the need and desire for coordination with other neighborhood associations was emphasized. Next steps to be taken were mentioned and the floor was opened for discussion with the process being emphasized as one which needs to not be contentious and everyone needs to be heard. As a board, we see problems with Indian School and the way it is – safety, street crossing and the need for the Indian School through street to steer traffic through the community safely and not to be a raceway. The board emphasized that our neighborhood includes many neighbors and the potential for healthy business growth. A handout was provided as a rendering by the board to offer a suggestion/idea to achieve the goals of safer traffic through the neighborhood. The need for more balance between pedestrians, bikes, and cars was emphasized. Carol opened the presentation with the result that, even though we had just 54 official, paid NPNA members, 70 responses were received! This being said, it was mentioned that the Google survey was only out for a week. Carol highlighted 6 points (2/3 support) that are positive and 3 negative comments. Jason requested one of the three available 18-page paper copies that had been made prior to the meeting.

Discussion proceeded regarding the original plan which had been proposed in 2018 and accepted by North Campus and Summit park neighborhood associations but rejected by Netherwood Park. This plan was subsequently pushed through by Councilor Benton and has been approved with it's implementation waiting for funding. A somewhat complicated rendering of the 2018 plan is available online. The 2023 plan is somewhat different from the 2018 plan but both recognize the concerns of the neighborhood for slowing traffic to make Indian School safer for pedestrians, bikers and cars. The current plan would improve bike lanes and sidewalks and perhaps would decrease traffic on Indian School.

After Carol reviewed the positives and negatives of the project based on survey responses, Zephyr described the rendering (drawing) of structural changes to Indian School road from Carlisle to Broadway. Jason was then called on for a response and described the difficulty of turning onto Odelia at Broadway (not in our NPNA), and that this road issue had been turned down flatly at the last Annual meeting where it was proposed (2018) even though pushed by Councilor Isaac Benton. The neighbors at the time did not support reducing Indian School lanes from 2 to 1 from Carlisle to University. Concerns from some neighbors involved the possibility of increased traffic congestion by decreasing number of lanes making it difficult to turn on to Indian School from side streets and from driveways. The possibility of this could cause more aggravation of drivers and possible road rage.

Many other points were made. A hydrologist likened traffic modeling to the modeling of fluid systems in nature and that we needed to contact professional traffic engineers to make any proposals.

Bill finally asked – mainly to Jason – if “reducing lane number was taken off the table, would he support other ways to calm IS and to make the roadway safer.” He agreed. Some of these things might include reducing the width of lanes, installing bumps or low fencing on the road itself to better indicate and protect bike lanes, install a traffic light at Stanford and IS, install lighted cross-walks (such as what is installed on other big roads such as Carlisle by Smith’s), install radar speed signs to show a cars speed back to drivers, increase enforcement of laws and increase patrols and citations, as well as other ideas.

The board took all comments under advisement and will discuss next steps at an upcoming Board meeting.

**General questions or continue discussions on previous topics:** (Bill) Discussion was halted at 4:55 to encourage members to bring up any other issues or to make other points on any issue discussed during the meeting.

5:07 PM: Adjourn: **Next Annual Meeting: Sun Mar 24, 2024 3:00 pm TCA**

**Current 2022-2023 Officers, Board & Standing Committees**

**President** – Bill Gannon

**Vice President** – Sara Mills

**Secretary** – Sara Mills

**Treasurer** - Cheryl Gerwin/Spencer Gerwin

**Web Master/Crime Mapping** – Tony Prosser

**At-large Board Members:** Susan Bennett, Ana Maria Casey, Chris Narkun

Tony Prosser, Zephyr Renner

**Committee to Calm Indian School Road** – Zephyr, Chris, Carol Toffaleti, Jason Kent, Randall Hicks

**Newsletter**– John Vittal

**Urban Forest Guardians:** David Broudy/Rifka Stern, Jim/Jana Cornfield, Cheryl/Bill Foote, Bill Gannon, Sarah Geiger, Jeff/ Susan Hagemann, Teresa Law, <vacant – end of Lafayette>, Tony Prosser, Eugene Seden, John Vittal / Debbie Ham, Cindy Yenson

**Contact us:** [netherwoodpark@gmail.com](mailto:netherwoodpark@gmail.com) or visit the website at [www.netherwoodpark.org](http://www.netherwoodpark.org)

**Guidelines if You See Crime – Report It**

The Board requests that neighbors respond and report what they see. Pathways to report include:

- \*Go to NPNA website and follow CRIME tab <http://www.netherwoodpark.org>
  - \*Go to APD website <https://www.cabq.gov/police/> to file a crime report
  - \*Go to APD APP (search ABQ Police in App store) to file crime report, crime mapping and more
  - \* URBAN FOREST campers/homeless/needles: Call 311 and ask that campers be removed by the DE-ENCAMPMENT team (not City Parks); for needles and hazardous waste go to environmental health <https://www.cabq.gov/environmentalhealth/sharps-disposal> Albuquerque Fire and Rescue -
  - \*CALL 242-COPS (2677) or 911(if crime in action) and report your crime.
  - \*Go to NM DOT website <https://dot.state.nm.us/> download traffic accident report. Take completed report to APD substation to file.
  - \*Go to ABQ311 web App <https://www.cabq.gov/311/abq311/311-web-app> Report and upload photos
  - \***DO NOT confront** criminals or act on your own. Know your neighbors. Keep in touch with block captains who work with NPNA.
  - \*Homeless Assistance Hotline 505-768-HELP (4357)
    - \* For needles and sharps found in public spaces on City property, citizens have two options: Call 311 to report it and someone will be dispatched to pick it up although response times may vary depending on who is available at the time. Use the ABQ311 App on any smartphone or device and report it by selecting the "Needles" icon and filling out the information requested for the incident. The report will be emailed to the appropriate resource and someone will be dispatched to pick it up
    - \*Report abandoned cars on neighborhood streets and request they be towed away. Call 311 to make a report, download the ABQ311 App on your smartphone, or online at [www.cabq.gov/report-abandoned-vehicles/report-abandoned-vehicles](http://www.cabq.gov/report-abandoned-vehicles/report-abandoned-vehicles)
  - NPNAalert@gmail.com or [netherwoodpark@gmail.com](mailto:netherwoodpark@gmail.com)
  - NP Bites Nite Website (info, calendar, vendor/music applications): <https://daysintheparkabq.com/>
  - Instagram posts: <https://www.instagram.com/daysintheparkabq/>
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