

Minutes

2019 ANNUAL Meeting



Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association
Annual Meeting of the Neighborhood,
24 March 2019, 3:00 – 5:30 PM
Location: Tennis Club of Albuquerque

Members Present: The Board, officers, and neighbors in attendance; headcount just prior to vote (see below) at 69 people.

Guest(s): Albuquerque City Councilor Isaac Benton, Albuquerque Police Department (APD) SE Area Command Officers Elsmann and Carter, and Crime Prevention Specialist Laura Kuehn.

Call to Order. 3:03 PM

1. **Introduction of the Board Members present:** Susan Bennett (NPNA President) ran the meeting and opened it by asking Board members to introduce themselves - Chuck Maguire, Tim Butler, Peter Burton, Tony Prosser, Herb Denish, Sara Mills (treasurer), past Board member and newsletter writer John Vittal, and Bill Gannon (secretary; minutes) present. Cheryl and Spencer Gerwin, absent.
2. **State of the Neighborhood:** President Bennett provided the following written summary (below) and commented that our area has about 935 households in the Netherwood Park Neighborhood area. We have a new bench to enjoy our new bench at the top of the park. Thank you to the efforts of Councilor Benton, assistant Diane Dolan, and Golf Scramble organizers and participants, for funding the installation of this bench!

Written summary: It has been a busy 2018 and a huge thanks go out to the Board and to everyone who have made our great mix of events and efforts successful and fun! The weekly Wednesday Netherwood Bites Food Truck Nites will be back for a third year on April 10, 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!

Early morning on October 13 was the Balloon Blast at the top of the hill with the usual yummy burritos, coffee, and donut holes. 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; they declined. So the funds were redirected toward the second bench installed January 9th this year at the top of Netherwood Park.

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...keeping an eye on vacant property; respond 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!

3. **Safari Run:** Rifka Stern – reminded the group of the Safari Run at the UNM North Golf Course to help support Global Health Partnerships work in rural Kenya. There will be a running clinic, 1K kids run, 5K fun run/walk, and 8K race. Bernalillo County Commissioner Maggie Hart-Stebbins has given support as there are a number of community sponsors. See you Sunday, March 31st 830 AM.
4. **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" 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. 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 NA, but will likely remain 2 lanes in each direction.

Neighbor's Responses & Comments: (All comments are represented by the following highlights, eliminated most redundant comments).

Traffic increasing. Neighbor A (opposes reducing lanes) gave a fact based (he read report and looked at other statistics extensively beforehand) argument against changing IS to narrower/slower. Neighbor B (opposes) as a driver, would like to see a fix to turn into Whole Foods from IS, fix speed at Girard. Neighbor C (oppose) as a pedestrian; traffic "calming" leads to congestion hard to cross roads. Neighbor D (oppose; consistent speed) learned to drive here – change of speed (from 30 to 45 to 35 to 40 again) is difficult to adjust to as a driver; make speed signs consistent. Neighbor E: (oppose) walks and has noted volume of traffic increased with highway – enforce speed limit and bring down to 35 mph. Neighbor F (supports?) speeders race on weekend and go from Girard to university; racing difficult for him to get out of garage. Neighbor G (here since 1963) – speeders are awful. Neighbor H (opposes) don't change. need more patrols and such, too many homeless in tents; who is new kmart owner? Neighbor H, "I live on Norte Dame now and it is difficult to get out onto IS". Neighbor I, "This proposed plan will end up like Zuni which is horrible to try to get into traffic! Don't do it. Neighbor J, Install speed signs with a radar speed display like on Washington between Indian School and Constitution. Neighbor K: A family commented (oppose) keep four lanes but put a delay on Girard light and add a cross walk light at diversion channel. Neighbor L One idea, (opposed lane reduction) install a round-about at Girard and Indian School. Neighbor M (undecided) asking to clarify, "How do the changes just made to Girard affect Indian school traffic or calming plan? There is increased bike use now on Girard. With keeping two lanes each way on IS but narrowing those traffic lanes to widen sidewalks and bike lanes a possibility?" Councilor Benton responded, "yes, but that is not the motion/proposal we are voting on here." Twelve additional comments reinforced the idea of fixing inconsistent speeds (from 30 to 45 to 35 to 40 again) to one speed – either 30 or 35 for the entire route.

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 narrowing 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 light (that went to red?) operated at diversion channel/bike trail. Most people in attendance did not want to narrow to one lane traffic each way.

5. POLICE Presentations,

Officers Elsmann and Carter as well as Laura Kuehn were on hand to talk about neighborhood concerns. Comment 1: A neighbor who lives over at Indian School Plaza spoke passionately about the problem of encampments, fires, concerned about safety, replacing planks in fence; she has been here a long time. **POLICE RESPONSE:** Call 311. Use the APD APP. They follow a protocol for routine neighborhood patrols of the

general sector area with beats. They routinely conduct patrols on way to 911 calls.

Comment 2: How is community policing working? Are you “our” cops? **RESPONSE:** SE Area command has 94 officers, but a huge area including Mesa del Sol. Comment 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! Comment 4: What is done with RING camera data or just seeing crime. **RESPONSE:** Report it! Ring camera video can be submitted along with any report and include the video. It goes to their RealTime Crime Center – cops watch a TV for crime and video – Go ahead and make a report and submit the RING camera footage. Use the APD APP. For suspicious activity – 242-COPS. Emergency – 911. Comment 5: Are they taking license plates? **RESPONSE:** Yes criminals will swap out plates – be sure yours is yours – and get the special screws from auto stores to secure plates.

Laura Kuehn presented a bit on Neighborhood Watch (NW) – New signs installed for a cost of only \$35. Block captains organize a block party and invite Laura. She and an officer will make a presentation. Submit blocks nominee to Laura’s office to register. Bill Gannon presented on the progress so far in reestablishing neighborhood watch throughout the Association. About 10 neighbors signed up to be block Captains. Sign up to be captain. Neighborhood Watch Captains have a party. Buy in. Read from handouts provided by the City. Buy a sign; current signs that are installed are indicated on the NW zone map (displayed at meeting). Recommend to block captain to set up a group text or a phone chain, etc. Bill set up two 24x36 posters showing the delineations of the block captain zones that had been drawn historically when the NW was thriving.

Bill and Chuck Maguire will follow up and move this all along in the next 6 months.

Other business.

6. Chuck Maguire– nominated to Board position. Motion to approve made by Dick McClade, second by Rifka Stern – pass by acclamation.
7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Sara 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 Nites. The report was accepted as submitted. Tony Bird moved to approve treasurers report – Richard Strunk seconded - approval of treasurer’s report pass by acclamation.
8. **Secretary’s Report (Bill):** Minutes from last annual meeting were distributed and are also posted on the NPNA website. No changes made. Motion to approve- Chuck, seconded Sara; approved by acclamation.
9. Thanks again to Tony for website and to John Vittal for newsletter prep. Also, thanks to all those who walked the neighborhood distributing newsletter prior to this meeting. It should be noted that the Board is active on both the KMART space (such as the city environmental planning commission meetings) and the progress of developing the old Alpine Sausage = Nikel distilleries (now).

