



### MINUTES

Date & Time: Wednesday 12 June 2024; began at 4:05

Location : Tennis Club of Albuquerque (TCA)

Board Present: Meghan Eastep, Bill Gannon (acting as secretary), Christopher Narkun (arrived late), Tony Prosser, Kylie Renner, Zephyr Renner

Board absent: Alon Carter, Sara Mills

Guests: Diane Denish, Jason Kent, Michael Long, and Kevin Murphy

**Quick Announcements:** Rules of order (handout). Zephyr opened that the Board has adopted “Robert’s Rules of Order; The Basics for Small Boards” to conduct meetings. The Board has encountered outbursts, bullying, and generally rude behavior by attending members during the past 6 months – including the annual meeting – that has caused us to conduct meetings in a more formal manner than accustomed. Under the Rules, the Board will conduct its business following the approved agenda and then conclude in order for all in attendance to experience courtesy, order, consider one item at a time, allowing all board members to be heard, following a majority rule, and all-the-while protecting rights of all members (viewpoints) including minority.

### **Usual Business**

1. Approval of the Agenda as drafted: (Bill) Asked for corrections or additions to the agenda. None heard. Kylie moved to approve, Meghan seconded. Agenda for this meeting approved as presented.
2. Secretary’s Report (Sara: Bill will present). Presentation of Minutes as distributed. Kylie moved to approve, Meghan seconded. May Board meeting minutes approved as presented.
3. Treasurer’s Report and budget analysis (info from Cheryl for Megan on maternity leave; Bill provided overview): Only notation is that under “New Web Hosting” no expense was provided as the web fees were paid last month. This category is unfunded, but it is in the report in the event that the Board finds a new web designer to work with Tony to update the design of the web site in the future. No funding is reserved for this project at this time. Kylie moved to approve, Tony seconded. Treasurer report is approved as amended.
4. Police Report Activity (Tony); Tony presented the monthly report. Zephyr and Kylie noted that there was a car accident and a vehicle theft close to their home that had been reported to APD

in late May that was not on the Activity Report. The Board was concerned that reports are inaccurate. Tony looked into this with Laura Kuehn and reported shortly after the meeting that the system was undergoing a data migration and there are at least 2-3 weeks of data not displayed. This started on May 14, 2024, so our crime may not be as low as we thought. Unclear if APD will enter missing data. Tony will update us at next board meeting.

5. Website (Tony); Tony will post PDF of Cheryl Gerwin's NPNA events flyer and approved minutes to website.

### Old Business

6. July 4th in Netherwood Update and nailing down who is doing what! (Bill). Bill walked through July 4th plans. Signs will go up by June 20<sup>th</sup> – Kylie will write them out and members of the Board will place them across the NPNA. Discussion of a source for a vehicle to lead the parade came up with a few options that Bill will track down. Need to find materials used to do all the games (sacks, banners, awards, etc.). Sara emailed that she would get the pinata and candy and had cups and other beverage items. Meghan said she has plates, cups, etc. (see spreadsheet) she will make available. Spencer Gerwin arranged for a "food cart" through Marcus Tenorio ("Aisle Twelve on Facebook) to supply coffee, vegan pastries. He also arranged for neighbor Troy and Tori Romero to run games (Troy since backed out due to family circumstances and Julianna Chavez will run games). "Skeleton Crew" will play as the band (\$400). Will try to still get a breakfast food truck. All in all, the date is coming together.
7. Indian School Safety Update: (Bill) Sent an email to the other two relevant neighborhoods forming a Coalition Steering Committee – which is Maia Mullen (President of North Campus NA) and Joe Brooks (Summit Park NA president), Bill Foote (Summit Park), Zoe Lees (North Campus), and Carol Toffaleti (NPNA) to get the ball rolling. This meeting was to get acquainted and for each NA to identify its members (up to 8) working on this issue. All have done that. Bill will put together a list of names for Zephyr to appoint to work on Indian School safety after July 4<sup>th</sup> event.
8. Playground Exploration Committee Report and Recommendation for Board Motion (Chris). See exhibit A; This item was **delayed** until Board member Chris arrives; he's held up at work.

### NEW BUSINESS

9. Newsletter (Bill): A sample newsletter from North Campus was passed around and is only available on their website and very brief. It advertised a coffee mingle meeting. We distributed our 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter of the year electronically to about 300 recipients. Spencer mailed about a dozen hard copies to those requesting that. He also distributed newsletters to the Shadows apt, Netherwood North, the Cedars (whitepeakmgmt.net; 1700 Indian Plaza NE, 505-337-0898) and condos just east of the Sandia Shadows. Made good contact for future distribution. Meghan asked if Cheryl needed help with newsletter and that she was "waiting in the wings" now that motherhood (#3) isn't so "fresh". Cheryl produced a detailed 5-page newsletter including a short article on the Archaeological Conservancy on Girard.
10. 2024 Albuquerque Bikeway and Trail plan – proposed network (Bill). Bill asked Jeff Hagemann, Luke Dunklee, and David Broudy to comment (all avid distance bikers). Others interested? Dave

Brody responded that the plans are developing and would be good to have a safer path along Indian School Rd that connects with the Arroyo arterial (perhaps to connect to trail by The Green Jeans complex?).

11. Proposed to Invite our City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn to monthly board meeting (Bill): How can we support her in the upcoming Legislative session and on City initiatives. Related: Gilbert Ramirez presented an update on homelessness and the Gateway center at Tammy's last "Connections" Zoom meeting 7 June. Kylie made a motion that the "President reach out to our elected representatives to see how we can support their initiatives" – Meghan Seconded. Some discussion about making a policy on inviting candidates to NPNA meetings. Near North Valley NA did a candidate forum last month. Other discussion was that our currently elected officials/representatives should come and talk about whatever they want to/is important to them. We can also ask them for advice/comment on specific issues. Motion passed unanimously.

Kylie also commented that the Board should take up as New Business on how to deal with candidates and candidate forums in upcoming elections. Should we accommodate candidates with a members meeting inviting all candidates We will discuss next meeting.

8. The Board decided to take up Item 8 at this time even without Chris, but he may arrive soon. This part began with the 3 of the 4 guests jockeying to speak and attempting to distribute materials to the Board. These materials included copies of a postcard that had been distributed by proponents of a park playground, and a letter drafted by Jason Kent including a signatory line for President Zephyr. The letter was addressed to Parks Department director Dave Simon basically informing him that postcards were being distributed and that they misrepresent the neighborhood association and that he should disregard them. The three guests were so disruptive that Zephyr had to ask them to stop talking and that there was no agenda item for public comment. Amendments to the draft agenda were solicited at the beginning of the meeting and no one asked to be included on the agenda to make comments and therefore there was no item on the agenda for the guests to speak. However later in the meeting the Board decided to include comments from anyone present as a matter of courtesy.

Given that, one unfortunate incident occurred when one of the guests, Diane Denish, kept speaking over everyone as was asked to be respectful and she proclaimed that she had no respect for the Board and that she did not care about Roberts Rules and would continue to speak anyway. She eventually quieted and the meeting proceeded. Chris then arrived and was able to read his statement that was provided in the agenda regarding his assessment of the subcommittee and the lack of potential that it had to complete its charge. He suggested that the City had unfairly burdened the neighborhood with the responsibility of assessing public opinion on a park playground and that the NPNA should go back to the Parks and Rec director to solicit opinion. At this point the Board had to move from the room to accommodate another scheduled meeting; the Board relocated to the TCA kitchen, at which time Ms Denish left the meeting.

Chris spoke to the point that the contentious playground issue is not moving and is undermining NPNA's ability to foster community and instead this issue drives partisanship and is negative; not good for the neighborhood.

Kylie spoke and asked that Chris clarify a rumor that Zephyr was actually steering the subcommittee and that Zephyr was undermining the subcommittee by excluding Chris from conducting his work on the board. Chris said that this is false and that in fact Zephyr and the Board have given him an unusually generous amount of slack because of his work and family life complexity and that he was most grateful to Zephyr for that.

Chris then restated his stance from his letter to the Board and said the subcommittee quickly got off track from its charge to consider Dave Simon's recommendations from his 11 March 2024 letter to the Board. Had they looked at those recommendations, progress would have been made, but the subcommittee participants were too extreme in their positions to see actionable ground.

Kylie had seen a news article stating that Netherwood neighborhood had 60 comments in favor and 20+ comments opposed to a playground but that the NPNA did not support this.

Meghan commented that running a survey through the Board to settle the issue would be informational only.

Bill stated that the bylaws have referenced a structure to conduct surveys and that we should follow that – in 15 days we would tally the “yays” v the “nays” and this issue could then be sent to the City to take action.

Chris asked the Board to refer to the wording in the letter for the survey and recommended that the City investigate. He was concerned that any survey that we did would stoke additional divisiveness.

Meghan restated that a survey would be a benefit to them to get the opinion right.

Zephyr mentioned a list of many questions that Dave Simon would like to have us ask. In general Board sentiment was that, “have the City ask as many questions as they like but they need to do all the work” (copying, mailing, collecting responses, compiling, etc).

At this point the Board turned to the three remaining guests (Michael, Jason, and Kevin) for public comment.

Kevin Murphy had been patient during the meeting. He had three points: A – Chris is on the right track, B – there is no need for the Board to conduct a survey – let the City work through this. C – He was visited by a nice lady, Agnes Maldonado, who presented him with a post card and sat and talked for about 30 mins on the issue of a playground. Originally against a playground as presented initially by Dave Simon's group in January, Agnes – saying this was the position of the NPNA – convinced him to support a playground and to sign a postcard to be sent to Dave Simon. He later found out he had been misled and was not happy with this.

Michael Long spoke next and largely agreed with Chris' comments. This was the City's mess to deal with. He also got the postcard sales pitch from Agnes. He knew it was not from the NPNA and the subcommittee (she had even told him that Zephyr, the NPNA president, approved this) and he did not sign.

Jason Kent then spoke, within a 2 min limit, also agreed with Chris, Kevin, and Michael also had the same lady come to his door. He requested that we send a note to Dave Simon, provided a draft with a signature block for Zephyr, stating that these postcards are not from the NPNA.

Eventually after some more discussion, a motion was made that the question should be put to members asking “yes” or “no” **Should the City of Albuquerque, Department of Parks and Recreation, investigate the possibility of a playground somewhere within the bounds of Netherwood Park?** More discussion included the method of asking this question. According to the bylaws, we would distribute this question (perhaps with a small bit on the background of the issue in case the member had not heard anything prior to this) NA-wide to include all members (“member” means any household, rental, or business within the boundaries of the NPNA that provides name, address, email address, phone number to the roster); approximately 900 households. The vote was 5 in favor and 1 against. The Board will work to construct and distribute the question for a vote within the next 3 weeks. The survey will be open for 15 days electronically and in paper formats ending with a special meeting open to the membership to take the last votes and tally all that has been received in the 15-day voting period.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm (supposed to end as 5:30). Next board meeting August 14 2024; TBD, 4-5:30. No meeting in July!

**Exhibit A:** (Email from Chris Narkun, Chair of the Playground Exploration Committee, to the working group of community members, copied to the Board with his recommendations for the Board to consider.)

All,

It is clear that the subcommittee is not going to come to an agreement on language that might be used to survey neighborhood opinion, and maybe this was a quixotic effort in the first place given the clear divisions among participants and in the neighborhood on this topic.

As I expressed at the committee meeting, I already have a low opinion of the city's lame attempt to pass the responsibility on this topic off to a volunteer neighborhood association that has no decision-making power and little to no influence on PRD's ultimate choice of whether or not to investigate the possibility of a playground in park. Having seen the further discord and vitriol generated by this debate, I am even more of the opinion that the neighborhood association has no useful role to play in this process. At best the association's involvement in this playground debate only drains time and energy away from the efforts of the neighborhood association to create spaces and opportunities for neighbors to come together and build a community, and at worst it directly undermines those efforts.

The various partisans on each side of the issue should direct their influence efforts where they have belonged the entire time: The City of Albuquerque's Parks and Recreation Department and the various elected officials who represent our neighborhood at the city, county, and state level. If the board feels the need to offer the association's membership a chance to offer their opinion on this topic in a simple vote of some sort in the future on the question of whether or not the association believes the city should investigate the possibility of a playground, then the board can create a simple question with a yes or no response, hold a vote (to be clear, an

entirely non-binding and purely informational vote) in accordance with our bylaws, and provide the results to the city. Perhaps at that point we as a neighborhood can focus our time and attention on other matters.

Thanks,  
Chris

### 2024 Calendar of Events: Verify calendar

Looking ahead at the full year of NPNA neighborhood activities! “Official” calendar.

- Board meetings every second Wednesday of the month (except for July and Dec)
- Urban Forest Clean-up – **February 10th**
- Bike Path Clean-up – **TBD**
- Annual Meeting – **March 17<sup>th</sup>**
- Abq Great American Clean-up (Indian School) – **April 20**
- Start NP Bites Food Trucks in the Park **8 May**: <https://daysintheparkabq.com/>
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities and Parade – **July 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30-11:30** -- No Board meeting
- City Albuquerque National Night Out – **6 August**. (good for Block organization)
- Food Trucks last Wednesday for the year – **7 August**
- Neighborhood Yard Sales! - **31 August 8AM-12PM**
- Annual Chuck Maguire Neighborhood Golf Scramble – **September 28**
- “Company’s Coming” City ABQ Cleanup (before balloon fiesta!) - TBA
- Balloon Blast – **October 12 7AM**
- December – No Board meeting

### Current 2024-2025 Officers, Board & Standing Committees

**President** – Zephyr Renner

**Vice President** – Chris Narkun

**Secretary** – Sara Mills (Bill Gannon as Co-secretary)

**Treasurer**: Meghan Eastep

**At-large Board Members**: Kylie Renner, Alon Carter, Bill Gannon

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

**Playground Exploration Committee** – Chris Narkun (Chair)

**Committee to Calm Indian School Road** – Bill Gannon (Chair)

**Newsletter/Historian**– John Vittal

**Urban Forest Guardians**: David Broudy/Rifka Stern, Jim Cornfield/ Jana Bordegaray,  
Bill Gannon, Sarah Geiger, Jeff/ Susan Hagemann, Teresa Law,  
Tony Prosser, Eugene Sedeno, John Vittal / Debbie Ham

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### **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>

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\*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

\*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/act on your own. Know your neighbors/NPNA, Keep in touch with block captains

\*Homeless Assistance Hotline 505-768-HELP (4357)

\*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 [ww.cabq.gov/report-abandoned-vehicles/report-abandoned-vehicles](http://ww.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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