

Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting



Agenda:

Date & Time: Wednesday 14 February 2024; 5 PM

Location: Tennis Club of Albuquerque (TCA)

Call to Order at 5:00 pm

Members present: Bill Gannon, Spencer Gerwin, Cheryl Gerwin, Zephyr Renner, Meghan Eastep, Tony Prosser, Ana Maria Casey, Sara Mills

Members absent: Chris Narkun

Guests: Diane Denish, Kylie Renner

Quick Announcements: Comment period for Netherwood Park improvements ended 12 Feb; comments sent to Director Dave Simon.

Usual Business

1. Secretary's Report (Sara; Bill recorded the January minutes). Minutes were emailed to board previously and all comments made. Reviewed briefly with no corrections or additions. Motion to approve minutes made by Tony; second by Zephyr
2. Treasurer's Report and budget analysis (Cheryl): We currently have a bank balance of \$962 after receiving \$160 in dues and a \$5 donation in January with expenses of \$593, \$556.22 of which was the payment of the balance of the Chuck Maguire donation to the youth tennis program at TCA. Motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Sara with a second by Zephyr.
3. Crime Report (Tony); Most notable was reports of 2 armed robberies both on Feb. 11; both in Indian Plaza. Consideration of looking at crime patterns in adjacent neighborhoods.
4. Website (Tony): No new additions; the final copy of the approved bylaws will be posted on the website when received. Bill asked if Tony could make communications buttons more prominent. Could put BIG BUTTON for newsletters and another BIG BUTTON for 1-years minutes. There is space below "recurring events".
5. Newsletter – Drafting first 2024 newsletter. Final newsletter when completed will be posted on the website prior to the annual meeting; a shorter condensed copy announcing the annual meeting will be distributed to neighbors prior to the meeting. Cheryl will work with Bill to draft.

Old Business

6. Reusable signs –Spencer contacted Don Mickey Designs (<https://www.donmickey.com/>) on Girard and Indian School regarding the printing of campaign-sized reusable signs. The cost would be approximately \$25 per sign with an estimated total cost of about \$320 (25 signs). The signs could be modified to include changing information as needed and mechanisms to accomplish this are being explored. Kylie noted techniques to reuse these signs for a variety of events and dates.
7. Bylaws submitted and approved: the bylaws have been accepted by the City of ABQ, ONC. The final copy will be posted on NPNA website.
8. Recycle plant tour (Sara, Cheryl, Spencer, Bill) – the tour of the recycling plant on Feb 8 was interesting for board members who were able to attend. It was useful in clarifying what can be recycled and what prep was needed. The number of products recycled was impressive as well. Further information regarding recycling can be found on the city website (<https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/recycling>). Bill will summarize what was learned for the NPNA newsletter. See news story about Greenville SC who found lost wedding ring in recycle.
9. Annual meeting prep. Brief discussion of who will help set up and provide refreshments. A number of guest speakers were considered including our city, county, and state representatives Laura Kuehn & officers from-APD, principals of Montezuma Elementary and Jefferson Middle School, and ABQ Parks representatives. Bill will contact speakers for availability.
10. Compiled Netherwood Park improvement comments (Bill) – summary and word file with all community comments was sent to Dave Simon, Director of ABQ Parks and Recreation Department (“Parks and Rec”) on 12 Feb 24. Guest Diane Denish requested time to address the board. Concerns were expressed by Diane that some neighborhood members sent form letters to numerous people, not all of whom were NPNA members. She claimed that one person was soliciting responses favoring development of a playground within the park by sending a form letter to her contact list. In contrast, Diane said she had contacted people who don’t necessarily live in the neighborhood but use the park regularly as well as neighbors living directly adjacent the park. Some neighbors who attended the meeting conducted by Parks and Rec on January 20 felt, according to Diane, that the board hadn’t been completely transparent about the playground issue as well as some other comments about board processes. Diane went on with other points, such as the November board meeting had different a Board member composition between the two meetings (refer to November Board minutes); the board listened.

Board comments included that the Google Form survey created by Galen Loughrey regarding a playground in Netherwood Park that was conducted 2 years ago was a similarly unscientific process. The November 2023 board meeting was split across two dates where board members attended. The first meeting was dominated by Parks and Rec representatives explaining irrigation system repair and a playground proposal. State senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino attended that meeting at the invitation of Director Simon without notifying the board and he coordinated the Parks and Rec presentation. From those two November meetings, the board moved to have a community meeting as early as feasible (January 20, 2024) in order to inform the neighborhood of these plans. Refer to the minutes of November for further details. Parks and Rec would present their ideas and manage the meeting. These events and the process of gathering neighbors’ comments was criticized by guest Diane as being improper.

Our current understanding is that Parks and Rec will proceed with irrigation system upgrades as early as this spring. Diane informed the board that the funding is far short of installing any playground feature into Netherwood Park so it will not happen. The Board, along with guests Diane and Kylie, continued by revisiting perceived issues involved in playground installation. It was pointed out that there were efforts on both sides of the issue (for playground and against) to rally written comment support presented to Director Simon. Diane mentioned a number of times that the anonymous person who rallied for the playground by personally appealing to Sen Ortiz y Pino did not identify themselves at the January 20 meeting. Other issues included the existence of covenants, that all ABQ residents are tax-payers and should have an opinion about park features, nostalgic references to the park's beauty and special nature, and more. It seemed clear, that no matter if you live on the park or in apartments 10 blocks away, ABQ Parks and Rec has the ability to manage parks as they deem necessary. Community input is important, perhaps in nuance of park improvements, but community may not be able to approve or deny changes.

The most important point of this entire discussion was Meghan's question of the role of the board (and the NPNA by extension) on issues that come to them (us). The board discussed that its role is primarily as a conduit or portal to provide information to the neighborhood about relevant issues brought them by the City, a business, elected representatives, or from neighborhood members about their issues. The Board is not "top-down" or a policy making body. The City is ultimately responsibility to inform the community about its actions but also has control over changes which affect the neighborhood.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Poop fairy signs – A neighbor had complained about other neighbors not cleaning up after their dogs and that it was particularly bad near the corner of Apache Ct and Cutler NE adjacent to the "flower petal" park benches there. Signs about cleaning up after your dog have been placed. Bill will contact Arroyo Maintenance / Water authority about responsibility for the site.
12. NPNA map – updated draft (Zephyr): Zephyr developed a new neighborhood map to accompany the bylaws sent to ONC. This map will be modified to include block captain areas, etc. and will replace the well-worn 20-year-old map that Chuck Maguire provided.
13. Indian School Safety Coalition committee – Bill has been having discussions with Maia (President, North Campus Neighborhood Association), Joe Brooks (President, Summit Park Neighborhood Association) regarding the safety coalition and these discussions are ongoing. Looking for a few other neighbors to serve on this ISSCC and begin a process to improve Indian School Safety.

Next board meeting to be held is the Annual Meeting 17 March 2024 at 3:00 – 5:00 at TCA. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm

2024 Calendar of Events: Verify calendar

Looking ahead at the official calendar for full year of NPNA neighborhood activities for 2024

- 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 17th**
- Abq Great American Clean-up (Indian School) – **April 20**
- Start NP Bites Food Trucks in the Park **May 8** : <https://daysintheparkabq.com/>
- July 4th Activities and Parade – **July 4th**--No Board meeting
- Annual NP Yard Sales – **September 14**
- Food Trucks last Wednesday for the year – **August 14**
- Annual Chuck Maguire Neighborhood Golf Scramble – **September 28**
- Balloon Blast – **October 12**
- December – No Board meeting

Current 2023-2024 Officers, Board & Standing Committees

President – Bill Gannon

Vice President – Zephyr Renner

Secretary – Sara Mills

Treasurer - Cheryl Gerwin/Spencer Gerwin

Web Master/Crime Mapping – Tony Prosser

At-large Board Members: Susan Bennett, Ana Marie Casey, Meghan Eastep, Chris Narkun

Committee to Calm Indian School Road – Carol Toffaleti

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

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

- NPNAalert@gmail.com or 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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