



Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:00-5:00 PM

Location: Tennis Club of Albuquerque

Board members: Bill Gannon, Pres., Zephyr Renner, VP, Sara Mills, Secretary, Cheryl and Spencer Gerwin, Treasurer, At-Large Members: Tony Prosser, Ana Maria Casey, Chris Narkun, Meghan Eastep

Guests: Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn, APD officers Area Commander Ray Del Greco, Officers Laura Kuehn, Lieutenant Jenn Chacon, Mayor Keller's office representative Sandra Sanchez, Director of Public Affairs Doug Small, State Representative Bill O'Neill

Call to order: 3:07 PM

Quick introductions (Bill): Cheryl, Spencer, Tony, Chris, Sara, Ana Maria, Meghan, and Zephyr were introduced. We have two Board vacancies and elections will follow the body of the meeting. Guests Tammy Fiebelkorn, Ray Del Greco, Laura Kuehn, Jenn Chacon, and representatives from Mayor Keller's office Sandra Sanchez and Doug Small were introduced.

Secretary's report (Sara): Minutes from the 2023 annual meeting were reviewed. Kylie Renner moved to accept them; Susan Bennet seconded. Approved by acclamation of members present.

Treasurer's report (Cheryl): NPNA funds and programs largely depend on paying annual donation (formerly termed dues) in March. We started out last year with \$2036.03, took in \$1928.00 (yearly donations \$1625.00 (\$20 per household), general donations \$273, T-shirt Sales \$30). Total expenses this year were \$2733.35 (see website for detail) leaving the ending bank balance at \$1230.68. Non-operating/miscellaneous fund balances totaled \$48.04 leaving a final operating fund at \$1182.64. Zephyr moved to approve the treasurer's report; Susan seconded. Approved by acclamation of members present. More detail on expenditures and income sources is available in the complete treasurer's report on the website

President's annual overview; Goals for the upcoming year (Bill): The NPNA board has been very successful in regular events such as the food truck nights, July 4 parade, Balloon Blast, Chuck Maguire Golf Scramble, neighborhood cleanup days, yard sales, and responding to neighbors' issues. More challenging are issues such as playground site at the park, Indian School safety, Girard corridor proposal, electronic communication for neighborhood information, Block Captain program, unhoused persons, and dog poop pickup. We will work on all of these issues during the next year and form sub-committees to focus on complicated issues such as Indian School road safety and park proposals.

Presentation from City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn: Councilor Fiebelkorn presented 2 new legislative pieces: the human feces cleanup bill which provides for trained contractors to dispose of human feces (call 311) and the "demolishing troubled buildings" to help streamline the process of removing structures which are not inhabited and are often sites for squatters and vermin. She discussed the actions of the Middle Rio Grande Housing coop which is an entity that helps to provide affordable housing to individuals in need. Councilor Fiebelkorn also reviewed the Air Quality Board debacle where the board was dissolved by a vote of the city council and is now back in place to ensure air quality which is especially bad in some areas such as south valley. The budget process for the city's \$1.4 billion budget is beginning and if neighborhood members have concerns about the budgeting process or would like to see something added to the budget they should contact Councilor Fiebelkorn at tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov. Spencer raised a question about the Menaul redevelopment plan and Councilor Fiebelkorn discussed the process briefly. She referred interested parties to her website on the city site for more information. Questions were raised about the old Whole Foods building and Councilor Fiebelkorn explained that the building is privately owned and not for sale. Concerns were raised about panhandling and Councilor Fiebelkorn suggested contacting her office with specific concerns; trash pickup and litter are ongoing problems and she suggested contacting Solid Waste to act. She explained that the Solid Waste department currently is understaffed which likely explains the delay in litter cleanup.

APD Laura Kuehn, Area commander Ray Del Greco, Officer Jenn Chacon: Commander Del Greco reported on the development of the University Area Command by Mayor Keller and Captain Medina which increases police coverage of our area. He explained that last year all the crime numbers (homicides, burglary, larceny) decreased from prior years but this year the percentage of burglaries is up 33% with much of this crime being from burglary of storage units and "smash and grab" burglaries. He explained that much of this burglary is to help support fentanyl use by selling stolen goods. Sergeant Chacon explained that 2 police squads regularly patrol the Netherwood Park area to increase police visibility and deter crime. She explained that the patrols particularly target the area directly around the park but are available for other issues. Laura Kuehn emphasized that the best defense against crime is a robust neighborhood watch presence and encouraged increased participation in the neighborhood watch program. She discussed three new programs: SMART 911 where individuals can set up a profile with health issues, etc that can help a first responder who comes to the home. The profile would only be visible to the 911 operator if 911 is called and then can be communicated to first responders. The second new program is a camera portal in the Uptown area which combines private and public cameras in a data base to help provide more information in solving crimes. Private cameras would only be accessed with the owners' permission. Third, Zen City is a public safety survey mechanism for Albuquerque. Laura provided handouts on these topics (posted on website with these minutes).

Sandra Sanchez, liaison, Mayor Keller's Constituents' office & Doug Small, Director of Public Affairs: Doug Small discussed priorities of the Mayor's office with the first being public safety. He explained that crime has decreased citywide and attributed that to an increased number of police on the force and the benefit of the ACS (Albuquerque Community Safety department) which addresses nonviolent crime

situations and has enabled the response time for police for more serious crimes to be decreased by greater than 1 hour. Homelessness: He explained that the city works to clear encampments as quickly as possible. He explained that affordable housing remains the greatest challenge to decreasing homelessness. He discussed the Gateway Center (the old Lovelace hospital on Gibson) which, when completely functional, will offer services to homeless individuals to help them find housing and treatment for addiction, and referral for needed services. Delays due to unforeseen asbestos contamination during construction. Currently it provides emergency housing for medical respite and last-minute housing for individuals in need. Ultimately it will serve 1000 people/day (currently offers shelter only for about 300 people) and the ACS will be available to help transport individuals to the center. Rail Trail: The city is working to develop a 7-mile walking trail from downtown to the Hispanic Cultural Center which will be an urban pedestrian parkway which will have homes and businesses along it. Mutt Mitt stations: Mr. Small discussed provision of poop pick up bags to help with park, sidewalk animal waste pickup. He explained that city boards and commissioners are looking for volunteers and interested parties are encouraged to apply. As with all this progress, he stressed that the City is finally turning the corner on these serious issues – especially with the quick establishment of the ACS - but that there is much more progress to be made.

Board Elections: Two seats on the board are open and terms are for 3 years. Each person was given 1 minute to explain why they want to be on the board. Floor was opened for nominations. Jason Kent self-nominated and gave a one-minute overview explaining his feelings about how he could improve the function of the board. **Alon Carter** was nominated by Fred Chriest and explained that he had been on the board in the past and discussed his reasons for wanting to join the board at this time. Kylie Renner self-nominated and gave a one-minute overview of the areas in which she could offer unique skills and perspective. Bill opened the floor for discussion and questions from the members present with focus on the three candidates. After some discussion, and with comments starting to veer off topic, discussion was closed and a vote followed. With 3 candidates and 2 open slots, paper ballots were distributed for each member present to vote for 2 nominees. Alon and Kylie were elected to the board with majorities of votes.

Final comments: After completion of the elections the floor was opened for general discussion. The playground in the park issue was the immediate topic for discussion. Members wanting the playground felt sandbagged by the withdrawal of funds where Gov Lujan-Grisham specifically vetoed \$200,000 for Netherwood Park specifically as the only veto in the appropriation. While members not wanting a playground felt that the process for proposing a playground was inappropriate and the playground proposal was flawed. Bill formed a subcommittee made-up of interested parties to come to a consensus on this issue. Alon Carter read from Director Dave Simon's determination letter (dated 11 March 2024; on website) citing that there are possibilities to move forward with the playground following a suggested process. Alon, as one of our new board members, will serve on this subcommittee with other members. A member asked why the neighborhood board didn't form committees for members outside the board to participate in ongoing issues and she was assured that committees are in place for working on a number of issues including but not limited to the Indian School Calming study and the Girard improvement plan. Discussion continued for about 25 minutes with additional exchange of information but without clear resolution and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Next monthly board meeting is Wednesday 10 April, (time TBD) at TCA to conduct normal business and select officers for next terms. The next Annual Meeting is proposed for Sunday, 30 March 2025, 3-5 pm.

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**
- 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>

* 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

*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/>
-