



Agenda:

Meeting Part I:

Date & Time: Wednesday 8 November 2023, early start time: 3:30 PM

Location: Tennis Club of Albuquerque (TCA)

Call to Order. 3:35

Members present: William Gannon, Spencer Gerwin, Zephyr Renner, Chris Narkun, Sara Mills

Members absent: Tony Prosser, Susan Bennett, Ana Maria Casey, Meghan Eastep, Cheryl Gerwin

Guests present: Kylie Renner, Dave Simon, David Flores, Christian Mathias, Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino

Agenda was distributed prior to meeting for this regular NPNA Board meeting, however, because the Special Guests had arrived and were present, we moved to advance to the last agenda item to begin the meeting:

Out of respect to our guests, the Board agreed to move to New Business, Item 3 and would take up the rest of the agenda after that presentation is complete.

NEW BUSINES:

3. Presentation by ABQ Parks and Rec – Christian Mathias, Laurie Firor, and Dave Simon (Director, City Parks) presentation of NP proposals for irrigation renovation and play area. (Note, Laurie Firor replaced by David Flores)

Dave Simon introduced himself and the other members representing Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department and described issues to be discussed at the meeting, including renovation of the existing irrigation system and the option of developing play areas and/ or other features in the park.

1) Modification of irrigation system.

David Flores explained that the irrigation system needed upgrading to save water and the proposed changes would save about 20% of water compared to the current system. The funding for this project is from the City (50%) and from a grant (50%). The irrigation upgrades will include replacing the existing 70-year-old galvanized pipe with PVC pipe with larger diameter to deliver water efficiently and decrease water waste. In addition, to prevent water loss into the surrounding streets a 6-foot border path of

crusher fines material will line park edges. The irrigation controls would also be upgraded to increase watering efficiency and provide more even water delivery to the entire park. The presentation included a poster board depicting the irrigation lines and valve placement. This process would require fencing of the park for a 4-5-month period. They would try to conduct the work when the park is least used – avoiding the food-truck times and other high-use periods. Could begin as early as next month.

2) Development of play area/features

Dave Simon raised the possibility, urged by an area resident, of adding playground equipment or a more natural play area to the park. The urgency of tying the playground idea with the irrigation upgrade was that during the irrigation upgrade they would avoid installing pipe where proposed playground might sit; either the northeast corner or the northwest corner of the park. He expressed awareness of the desire of neighborhood residents to preserve the views from the park and discussed the need for any play area to be kept small. Christian Dias presented diagrams of plans of three possible play area types, 2 traditional types with plastic play structures, benches and picnic areas and one less traditional type which would provide areas for creative play such as climbing ropes, logs to climb on, moats with sandy areas adjacent, a castle and benches. A more natural design would provide a play area that would blend into the park.

Possible areas for a play area could be the northeast corner of Princeton and Schell Ct or the depression on the west side of the hill near Schell Ct. Costs for either of the traditional type of play area would run about \$500,000 plus design fee, gross receipts tax, contingency fees while the more natural type would be about \$360,000 plus the additional fees previously listed.

Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino mentioned that he would request Capital Outlay money in the upcoming legislative session (a 30-day session beginning 16 January) to help pay for such a project. Dave Simon said the city has some available money as well. Senator Ortiz y Pino is retiring from the senate after his term finishes in 2024 so decisions regarding a play area in the park need to be made expeditiously. There were several poster board sized figures depicting the park, its slope, and potential placement of a play area. The three proposed types of play areas were also displayed. Copies of those figures are attached. All stressed an urgency to get an opinion from the Board to pursue funding for the new play area or not.

3) Board members concerns regarding presenting this information to the neighborhood

Because confrontational interactions have occurred recently between neighborhood members (mostly one in particular) to board members, concerns were expressed regarding presenting information about changes in the park to the membership at large.

Kylie Renner pointed out that the entire membership should not be steered by one commanding and bullying personality who stretch truths and creates chaos. Emphasis by all on the need for the City to assist with its established “process” for conducting meetings for discussions of community issues. The City folks acknowledged that and would participate as needed and as possible. It was pointed out that proposals (irrigation and playground plans) should be proposed by the City and the NPNA will act as a conduit of information to inform the community and solicit responses. Imagine if this works? It might help getting honest, representative opinions from the community on other issues that pop up without being hijacked!

Dave Simon said that Parks and Recreation would provide printed information to be distributed to the membership that would describe the changes which will be occurring and the process with which these changes would take place. Also, Dave Simon, Christian Dias and David Flores would attend a meeting where this information could be discussed so that board members would not be accused of overreach. Since the irrigation project will likely need to begin in winter or early spring, a meeting with the neighborhood will probably need to be scheduled before the annual meeting in March. A December members meeting may be necessary.

Bill asked about the potential to be efficient in this decision process. That is, ask Senator Ortiz y Pino to proceed and request funding from the legislature for “park improvements” at the estimate of \$350,000 in the upcoming session. Dave Simon could then use the funding to install playground improvement in Netherwood Park or apply the funds to some other park for improvements if the NPNA rejected improvements to Netherwood Park. Either way, irrigation upgrades are proceeding regardless, and a new playground feature would, or would not complement this.

Because of time constraints Bill moved to suspend the meeting at 4:55 and Sara seconded the motion. A zoom meeting will be held to discuss ongoing neighborhood business in the near future. The Board should refer to the 8 November agenda for that continuance meeting.

Meeting Part II:

Date & Time: Wednesday 29 November 2023, 4 PM.

Location: Tennis Club of Albuquerque (TCA)

Members present (zoom): Bill Gannon, Spencer and Cheryl Gerwin, Ana Maria Casey, Susan Bennett, Meghan Eastep, Tony Prosser, Sara Mills

Members absent: Zephyr Renner, Chris Narkun

Call to Order: 4:05

Quick Announcements: Anyone attend Block Captain conference, 21 Oct? Bill work with Dennis Vasquez (Parks) on Urban Forest interpret project. Bill talk with Commissioner Balboa on “pollinator project”. Taylor Kirk confirmed recycle plant tour 8 Feb 24 9 AM.

Usual Business

1. Secretary’s Report (Sara). Minutes from both October 11 and November 8 were reviewed and discussed. Bill moved to accept the minutes; Tony seconded the motion.
2. Treasurer’s Report and budget analysis (Cheryl): Donations for the neighborhood association have been generous over the past 2 months and membership dues have been collected as well. Sara moved to accept the treasurer’s report and Tony seconded the motion.
3. Crime Report (Tony); No new crime report was presented but all agreed that extended crime reports over 60-90 days were useful in assessing the neighborhood crime.
4. Website (Tony): Website was updated for the balloon blast and the current bylaws were posted prior to the balloon blast allowing neighbors to read them prior to the meeting. Eventually get all membership used to going to website for information like newsletters. What could be other social media that could be useful for communicating??
5. Newsletter – Fall 23 newsletter distributed. Regular quarterly newsletters were discussed at the meeting and Cheryl had prepared a newsletter mock up for presentation. All agreed that the mock up was very good. Cheryl discussed further modifications of the newsletter that could be included. We discussed the cost of printing newsletters for distribution (when not distributed via

email or for neighbors who don't have email). A shortened version of the newsletter could be distributed to decrease the printing costs and neighbors could be referred to the website for additional information. Put BIG NOTICE across next two (and last) mass neighborhood papering efforts telling members they have to provide their emails to us – and/or go to website in order to receive the nifty, colorful, and very useful newsletter. Cheryl provided a demo of the new format. Bill needs to go through this draft and comment then back to Board.

Old Business

6. Netherwood Park NA Sign: (Bill, Spencer, Zephyr); Bill presented an idea to have 20 “distributive” re-usable signs to advertise usual, annual events. Adjacent neighborhoods such as Summit Park use such a system and Bill will contact the neighborhood association president for Summit Park (Joe Brooks) to find out where their signs were made. The reusable signs would be placed around the neighborhood by board members to advertise upcoming events.
7. Memorial to Chuck Maguire (Susan): Bench and plaque have been placed and are very attractive. Chuck's family visited and were pleased with the memorial to Chuck. The remaining money (approximately \$600) will be given to TCA for the youth tennis program. We will give Youth Program, through TCA, a card and check and will notify donors of the placement of the bench and plaque and the donation to the youth activity.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bylaws committee Update (Susan): Revised Bylaws approved by membership present at Balloon blast meeting. Sara will check on when the ONC membership renewal is due and will provide an updated version of the bylaws with the renewal. Bill will see that the approved Bylaws are forwarded to the City soon (was due 27 Nov).
2. Solar eclipse/Balloon blast 14 October (Cheryl) – The balloon blast was an outstanding success and was very well attended (approx. 300). Cheryl asked for receipts to be provided to her ASAP for reimbursement for expenses. Meghan donated staples (creamer, paper products, etc) for the event. Bill donated whatever.
3. Recap and Direction as a result of the Presentation by ABQ Parks and Rec (presented by Christian Mathias, David Flores, and Dave Simon at Part I of this meeting on 8 November). Presentation of NP proposals for irrigation renovation and play area. The presentation of the plans for the irrigation system in the park was straightforward and required no further action by the board as Parks staff was alerting us that the upgrade will happen in early 2024 and that the park will be mostly closed for 5 months during that time. The Playground plans were more up in the air as they presented three proposed playground layouts and placement of the equipment. Funding for this would come from the next legislative session. As the placement of playground equipment can be controversial, the board asked that Parks provide a neighborhood meeting explaining their proposals.

Dave Simon suggested that the city provide info regarding the park plans to a general neighborhood meeting and all board members agreed that this was desirable. The meeting would likely take place in January (perhaps Jan 20 or 21; MLK day is 15th) prior to any changes which are planned for the park. The City Parks and Recreation representatives would inform attendees of the irrigation work to be done and detail a proposal for a playground area. They

will then solicit and consider the comments of neighbors. The neighborhood board would be responsible for distributing information provided by the City – particularly to the blocks most immediately affected by these changes - prior to the meeting to announce it. The Board was appreciative of the City’s representatives and to their attention towards maintenance and improvements in our neighborhood.

Next board meeting to be held 10 January 2024 (!) at 4:00 at TCA. Meeting adjourned at 4:59.

2024 Calendar of Events:

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 16th? Saturday – Palm Sunday 24th – Easter 31st**
- Abq Great American Clean-up (Indian School) – **April 20**
- Start NP Bites Food Trucks in the Park **8 May** : <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 – **14 August**
- 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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