



Final Playground Vote Results

Background

The Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association was asked in March by Dave Simon, Director of Parks and Recreation Department, City of Albuquerque to provide a formal position statement on the creation of a playground in Netherwood Park. While the board may have wished to stay out of the middle of a potentially divisive vote, it was our responsibility both to all of our neighbors, whether a yes or no on the playground, and to our relationship with the City to provide a clear answer as requested. Thankfully the City's Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance and our bylaws provide the framework for arriving at a formal position statement that is democratic and inclusive.

Results

We had a tremendous response via all means of voting from electronic to last day drop off votes. We are proud to say we have a strong gauge of where the membership stands and many,

many new members. We received 562 ballots total in an area of 900 some residences. This is a record turnout on the order of 5 times higher than ever before in this neighborhood association. The tallying committee has worked through 100% of the ballots, validating 493, which means we received a membership affirmation with name, address (within the boundaries of Indian School to I40 & Carlisle to the Diversion Channel), email, and phone number. We followed up with the 43 incomplete ballots and were able to collect valid membership information from 7. There were 33 ballots, either duplicates or without sufficient information to follow up. The final tally:

Question: Should the City of Albuquerque, Department of Parks and Recreation, investigate the possibility of a playground somewhere within the bounds of Netherwood Park?

Yes: 301 (61.05% of 493)

No: 192 (38.95% of 493)

The NPNA would like to thank you all for your participation in the recent vote about the playground. Our neighborhood is better because of your participation and we are grateful to you. As the results suggest, there are many, many people on both sides. If you find yourself knowing only neighbors of your own position, we suggest that you will make our neighborhood an even better place by broadening your view of who your neighbors are, as we are obviously a diverse group that sometimes happens to share little more than proximity. **The historically strong turnout may give weight to this official position, but we want to reiterate that we are not the people who make these decisions. We have no power to make a playground happen or not happen.**

Such a decision is made by our elected representatives and City officials. It is the City's park and public's money. Being able to provide this much more democratic result has been made possible by the recently revised law governing neighborhood associations and we have our City Councillor, Tammi Fiebelkorn to thank for that.

Next we will present this official position to the City, as requested, along with the information that it was a vote of the general membership and the result. We will provide courtesy copies of this information to public official who may be able to influence the future of the park.