

Palo Verde Neighborhood Board Meeting

May 18, 2023, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Contact Us - info@paloverdeneighborhood.org

Present: Val Timin, Maribeth Slebodnik, Steve Poe, Paula Chronister, Vicki France, Rachel Dacquisto, Nancy Stromp (Zoom).

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Agenda

- **6:30-6:40 PM Welcome & Quick Intros**

- **6:40-7:20 PM Guest Updates (40 min)**

- **Neighborhood Safety** - Ramon Silvas Tucson Police, Community Service Officer
Officer Silvas is our new Community Resource Officer. He brought us the last month's crime stats for the Palo Verde neighborhood: 23 incidents - 5 assaults, 4 mental health incidents, 2 larcenies, 2 incidents of criminal damages, 2 runaway juveniles, 2 public assistance calls, 1 narcotics call, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 found property, 1 civil matter, 1 miscellaneous.

He provided more detail on several recent incidents.

TPD continues work at Speedway and Alvernon to help clean up homeless activity, as well as at Grant and Alvernon. This sometimes pushes activity out to the rest of the neighborhood. Homeless outreach is currently 2 weeks behind when they are called to report an encampment.

The 311 non-emergency call number is expected to be operational around October.

Officer Silvas will update the Midtown contact list for us as assignments have recently changed. He watches his email and responds ASAP. He will meet with NW groups when requested.

Officers Wakefield and Ashton will be our Community Engagement officers for the next year. His previously supplied officer names were Zebra officers, meaning they are not assigned to a specific neighborhood. (Their information will be shared on the PVNA website when updated.)

In response to a question, he stated that in an area where most residents are tenants, they can join Neighborhood Watch if they wish - the landlord would be good to involve. He will research and get back to us with more information.

In response to another question about ordinances for overnight/long term camping in the neighborhood: folks can live out of vehicles but cannot park long term. Vehicles must be registered, have an association with someone in the neighborhood, and move within 7 days. TPD watches for safety issues and the need to tow, persons in vehicles receive a courtesy notice to move within 7 days. If they have no association with the area, they will be cited and checked within 24 hours.

In response to a question about what to do if the right of way is blocked for walkers, he noted that there must be 3 feet leeway on both sides of the vehicle. If there is not a concrete sidewalk, there is an "implied sidewalk". Vehicles will be cited if leeway is blocked or any kind of safety hazard.

In response to a question about vehicles playing loud music while driving through the neighborhood - if the music is audible to officers nearby with their windows closed, they are in violation. Loud music is not appropriate to report to Traffic Watch. Residents can

send video of speeding or excessive volume to the new [Traffic Watch](#) system with vehicle and drive description and the license plate.

In response to a question about racing on Speedway and in Midtown - TPD is aware and working to deter. The Reid Park area has a significant problem with this.

In response to a question about encouraging local participation in Neighborhood Watch, he suggested focusing on the benefits - getting to know your neighbors, keeping an eye out for each other, reporting out of the ordinary activity and keeping a particular eye out for elderly/disabled neighbors. He encourages security lighting and cameras. Lighting and visible house numbers are required for Neighborhood Watch recognition.

His work cell is 520-784-9250.

- **Prop 407 update** - City of Tucson Representative (10 min) Collin Chesston
Collin is a Project Manager specializing in transportation for the City of Tucson. He gave us an update on the Palo Verde Bike Boulevard funded by Prop 407. Phase 2 of the Prop 407 project is about to begin. This corridor will incorporate ideas from a previous UA student project to build a network of connected streets to increase crosstown connectivity and add traffic safety. The Bike Boulevard stretches from Aviation Parkway in the south to Kleindale Road at the north end. In Palo Verde, it crosses Speedway at the crossing near Whole Foods, goes north on Howard to Bellevue then to Palo Verde and north. The interactive story map with the proposed route can be found here: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/parksbond#>. Hover over the map to find the Bike Boulevard project.
Project design for this is next on the list and the next part of the process, for which a consultant will be hired. Alternative routes will be proposed in response to resident feedback, mostly south of PVN. Collin hopes to bring preliminary results to us in the fall. Impact on neighborhood - Palo Verde will be a low volume low speed street. The City will add speed humps, traffic circles to slow traffic, reduce the speed limit to 20 mph, and add wayfinding signage, particularly at turns in the route. Flooding will not be addressed by this project. After design is complete, it will take about a year to do this project. Construction is estimated to start in August 2024.
The crossing at Waverly and Country Club will be a Phase 3 project so will be several years in the future.
- **Ward 6** Dora Maldonado
The ByFusion agreement has been signed to begin constructing blocks at Los Reales starting in 2024 or so, shredders and blockers are back ordered. Collection will continue. Steve K received a State of Arizona Excellence award for this work.
- **District 5** Nicholas McCullough
Nicholas - Supervisor Adelita S. Grijalva's office is recognizing the month of May 22nd - June 22nd as Period Poverty Week and Drive. The average cost of menstrual supplies is \$70 per month per person, so District 5 is partnering with Ward 6 and public libraries to collect menstrual supplies for those in need. Other donation sites are available throughout the city. See Grijalva website adelitasgrijalva.com/endperiodpoverty.

- **7:20-7:45 PM Board & Committee Reports & Business**

- Brief Reports
 - President (Val)
See written report below. Val noted a utility pole in the NW quadrant tipping in an alarming fashion, she called TEP to report it and it has been repaired.

- Vice President
N/A
 - Secretary (Maribeth)
See written report below. Maribeth found empty envelopes that had included checks; she contacted the senders, who stopped the checks and notified USPS. A suspect was apprehended when he tried to pass one of the checks. New USPS mailboxes are being ordered to help prevent mail theft at dropoff locations.
 - Treasurer (Rachel)
An additional \$200 + \$1556 from Art in the Gardens for the Traffic Circle Project. Funds were collected to contribute to the Traffic Circle project.
Need to approve domain (\$20) and website renewal (\$276) - \$296 total. In the absence of objection, this expenditure was approved. Total in PVNA checking is \$13,050.72. Val recommends continuing with the website since we are in the process of setting up donation systems at that address.
 - Communications (Steve)
Nothing new at CHS once graduation is over on 5/25. Residents can more easily use the track, tennis, etc. when school is not in session.
 - Quadrant Reps
Paula Chronister (NW) - See written report.
Nancy Stromp (NW) - Using SeeClickFix to report problems, working to reactivate NW in that quadrant.
- Old Business
- Reflection: Board retreat (Val)
We agreed that the retreat was a productive use of our time, and will plan a Part 2 meeting with revising bylaws as a focus. Five themes identified and prioritized during a visioning exercise: Safety, Business/Organization Relationships, Communication and Connections, Walkability and Cleanliness. Other topics included events programming, public art, families, green living, parks and infrastructure. Another topic of concern - how do we support our senior neighbors? We will use these priorities to shape our work as a Board. See summary document. At the Part 2 meeting, Zoom access will be available for Board members.
 - Discussion: Advertising Rates (Val)
Modeled on former rates, emphasis on simplicity. Rate levels for business and organizations - "Ongoing Supporter". List of neighborhood businesses will be published and "supporters" have enhanced listings.
Special event announcement - \$10/week for PVNA, \$20/week outside PVNA.
Yard sales, special events, etc.
New idea: Sponsored blog post (\$50) word and photo limit. Subject to review and approval by the Board.
Discussion needed to refine. Val will revise.
 - Status update: Bylaws project (Vicki)
Vicki sent a video to the Board that outlines the approach she would like to take for revising the bylaws. Summary: Bylaws should reflect our vision and purpose; generated by us; avoid hard prescriptive requirements like # of Board members,

etc. Revised, user-friendly bylaws will help recruit Board members who are a good fit for the neighborhood.

- Status update: Nonprofit restoration project
Nancy has reached out to resident Darin Guthrie (CPA). They are ready to get started with this process. The Board will need to vote on funds for finalizing the process at the June meeting.
- Status update: Budget project
Deferred due to time constraints.

○ New Business

Dianne Teegarden offered her resignation this week. Brian Gill has also left the neighborhood and stepped down as VP. We are grateful to both of them for their service to the neighborhood!

- Vice President Role
Nancy - volunteered as VP and submitted her resume. Maribeth Slebodnik moved and Steve Poe seconded. **Approved** unanimously by raised hands. Nancy would like to step down as SW Quad Rep, and will reach out to neighbors to fill that position.
- New Board Member Review/Vote
 - Arlene Danser - Graffiti abatement coordinator
Arlene met with Rich Knutson, former GAC, and she obtained the supplies from him. Vicki France moved, Paula Chronister seconded. **Approved** unanimously by raised hands.
 - Val Schaefer - SE Quad representative
Lived here times 12 years, has previously been on the Board. Paula Chronister moved, Steve Poe seconded. **Approved** unanimously by raised hands.
 - Pat Perry - SE Quad
Patricia Perry has also volunteered for this role, and will be formally approved when the bylaws are revised to allow co-quad rep status.
 - Patrick Hart - NE Quad
He would love to make his quadrant as beautiful as the rest! Steve Poe, moved, Vicki France seconded. **Approved** unanimously by raised hands.

Mentoring - we will have two for each new Board member and each will also receive the onboarding packet. Current quad representatives Nancy and Paula will mentor Val and Patrick.

Thank you to all new and current Board members for your contributions!

- PVNA events outlook
 - TRRG May 23 meeting
Val will contact the Board regarding a statement for TRRG to request more support for neighborhood associations. Neighborhood resource meeting simultaneous with this meeting will be repeated and all resources made available.
 - May 27 Cleanup Walk
Draft poster - send edits before

- June 1 Neighborhood training - How to Have a Great Meeting - Rebecca Ruopp
Val will share this information for Board members who wish to attend it.
 - 4th of July; seeking committee members (Kat Robey)
Stay tuned to emails about this - need additional committee members, flyer support for the event.
 - Nancy test project/event
Deferred due to time?
 - New: PVNA meetups
Nancy and Diane propose using the concept of Meetup to plan an event at the Loft for neighbors. Could go into e-news/FB for publicity, possibly expand into other activities. Paula Chronister, Steve Poe moved to pilot this with a Loft event. Nancy will check this with the Loft. **Approved** unanimously by raised hands.
 - 08/26 WMG Save the Date
Deferred due to time?
- **7:45 Neighbors Q&A (10 min)**
Trees blocking stop signs - Dora will take this info forward to Transportation. (Trees at the corners of Lee & Jones and Lee & Camilla) Recommended to also use SeeClickFix.
Success of the Art Walk - would like to approve having it annually so the team has most of a year to prepare this time.
 - **7:55 to 8:00 PM (5 min)**
 - Reflection & Next Agenda Setting
Fourth of July planning, crafting the agenda around Board priorities, nonprofit restoration project.
 - **8:00 PM**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Written Reports/Updates

A place to expand upon items that will be shared or discussed at the meeting.

- President (Val)
 - Organized & facilitated board retreat; successful event in setting some shared vision and direction. Nice to connect with everyone outside of the monthly meeting.
 - Took calls from Val S. and Pat P. regarding board interest
 - Participated in bylaws project meetings
 - Assisted a neighbor who reached out on Facebook about starting Neighborhood Watch on 3500 Elida
 - Contacted TEP to replace a tilting pole at Seneca and Chrysler; new pole is on-site and pending install (or has been installed). (Suggestion to put this in handbook that TEP is to be contacted for TEP infrastructure issues.)
 - Drafted new advertising rates
 - Scanned board retreat materials
 - Reported some minor things on SeeClickFix; potholes, broken vertical post markers.
 - Got updated contact info from TPD CSO for our website, but received a message that it may be incorrect. Investigation is in progress.
- Secretary (Maribeth)
 - Drafted minutes for the April 20 Board meeting
 - Working on process for virtual approval of Board minutes
 - Attended Board retreat
 - Monitoring SeeClickFix submissions from the neighborhood
 - Walking the SW quadrant daily, removing trash.
 - Found stolen mail while walking and contacted the senders; investigation started by USPS Sun Station.
- NW Quad (Paula)
 - Unsuccessful at getting any neighbor to step up as the block captain in the 3200 block of Lester. I am publishing the updated names and addresses to the updated list and encouraging them to reach out to each other on the block.
 - Walked sections of the quadrant and if needed submitted requests to SeeClickFix
 - Drafted Quad Rep role as part of onboarding committee work
- SW Quad (Nancy)
 - Walked sections of the quadrant and if needed submitted requests to SeeClickFix or City of Tucson (weeds)
 - Drafted VP role as part of onboarding committee work