

Palo Verde Neighborhood Board Meeting

September 21, 2023, 6:30 to 8:00pm - Zoom Only

Contact Us - info@paloverdeneighborhood.org

Present: Val Timin, Steve Poe, Maribeth Slebodnik, Vicki France, Val Schaffer, Micah Samuelsen (Paula Chronister and Nancy Stromp attended the TEP Open House about the Midtown Reliability Project to represent the PVNA Board.)

Guests: Christopher Osen, Jesse Butler, Troy Beatty (Circle K), Jack Hollowell, Patricia Perry, MacKenzie Samuelsen

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

Agenda

6:30-6:40 PM Welcome & Quick Intros (10 minutes)

- **6:40-7:05 PM Guest Updates (15 min)**

- District 5 (5 min) - Nicholas McCullough - D5 office attended installation of the new Tohono O'odham Chair. The most recent Board of Supervisors meeting was this past Tuesday, 9/19 - recap at <https://www.adelitasgrijalva.com/>. Follow the District 5 social media/website for recap of all BoS meetings. From 9/15-10/15 we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with free public events every Friday at the Historic Courthouse downtown in partnership with Visit Tucson. See visittucson.org/viva for additional HHM events. Saturday, September 30 - 2nd annual Yellow Heart Memorial Walk - 7-10 a.m. + annual Drum Up for Peace event at Kennedy Memorial Park Fiesta Area.
- Ward 6 and Mayor's Office representatives were not able to attend.

- **7:05-7:35 PM Board & Committee Reports & Business (30 minutes)**

- Brief Reports (~60 sec updates)
 - President (see written report below)
 - Vice President (see written report below)
 - Secretary (see written report below)
 - Treasurer (see written report below)
 - Communications
 - Steve recently sent a reminder to our business partners about advertising. Concern has been expressed by neighbors about the lack of upkeep around Catalina High School, forwarded to Tori Bacal, our CHS liaison. Concerns about amended bylaws - Vicki France pointed out the need for paper copies of bylaws to neighbors without internet access. We planned to distribute through Ward 6 but that option is not open. Vicki suggested three possible methods - ask to notify us by email if you want a paper copy, give paper copies to Quad reps for distribution, or put copies in publicly available containers like those used by real estate agents. According to the timeline in our bylaws this will need to be done now and again in mid-October when changes due to feedback have been applied. Posters with details could be posted at Circle K (per Troy Beatty) and at the Pocket Park. Vicki requested that the bylaws information be added to the PVNA website ASAP. Steve suggested we print 25-30 copies until we know there is more demand, also add to neighborhood Little Libraries (Jesse). We will also make posters letting folks know where they

can find copies of the draft bylaws.

Steve - today we received an email from Emmanuel Baptist Church re graffiti on their property that was mitigated by the Graffiti team. Since that is private property, this mitigation was problematic so needs to be communicated to the team.

- Quad Reps

Patricia Perry SEQ - Officers Ramos and Ali, evaluating Winstel between Fairmount and Bellevue, working on setting up a new Neighborhood Watch in the SE quadrant, have identified >50% of neighbors who are interested.

See NE quadrant report in written Board reports.

- Graffiti - see written report

- Clean Up - N/A

- New Business

- TMM Lee/Camilla Update - Christie Lee from TMM did not attend, we will schedule her for another meeting.

- Draft letter regarding Pima development. Vicki stated there is not enough information from the consultant about the proposed development to form an opinion; however, the consultant did not show concern for neighbors and there is conflict between the information the City wants and what the consultant shared. The developers stated "no more meetings" but we will request additional meetings with Steve K, the new head of Planning & Development, and the city engineer who is reviewing the proposal (not the consultant). Vicki will forward email addresses to Val for contacts. The draft message was displayed and has been distributed to the Board; will be sent from PVNA.

- Old Business

- Circle K Updates - Troy Beatty - Liquor license application is in limbo at present - resubmitted but don't know when it will be voted on. Have taken initiatives to reduce loitering - new lighting for perimeter has been approved, working with Pat Marshall at Walgreens' for fencing vendor information. Fence is already on the west side of the building, has been cleaned up by landscapers and will continue to remove vegetation but not sure a fence is warranted on the east side; MiniMobile storage on site has been emptied and arrangements are being made to move it. Store managers in the Midtown area have been meeting with TPD to build relationships. Troy is now on the board of 88-Crime anonymous tip line and will be posting information about it in stores. He is hopeful that connection with that group will help. He is also working with the TPD Zebra team to build relationships. Last 88-Crime meeting included high ranking police and discussions to help optimize police response since TPD continues to be short staffed.

Litter reduction - they have arranged additional dumpster pickups and are policing the area more frequently. Have also added more waste receptacles + removal of the MiniMobile storage unit.

Donations to HOPE Services - \$3K + another \$3K to someone else (not clear).

This amount (\$6K) is now in Troy's discretionary income to donate annually. He is also donating food to AGI and other events. The Speedway/Camilla store will also be upgraded inside within the next year or two.

Maribeth - Following up on the idea about egress only through exterior window at night - only for most challenged stores, is an option for the future but crime will just move elsewhere. No cash in store in the evenings - only debit, credit, EBT for purchases. Robberies down 50% over the City of Tucson in Circle Ks in the last year as a result.

Mackenzie - drove by today, somebody sleeping outside Circle K, encouraged Troy to adopt a more rapid response to our concerns. He noted that the air pump on site is a traffic hazard; reports air pumps consistently cut at Circle Ks around the community and asked to move the air pump to a safer location and be maintained better. Troy Beatty - will deal with the air pump; not aware of its hazardous condition prior to this discussion. Build a fence or not build a fence - requests have been received from both perspectives? Troy was asked to estimate increased income as a result of liquor license. Answer - tough to say, to be determined. The Speedway store will be a small version of a liquor store without a drive through. Asked Troy if employees are punished if they do not upsell liquor purchases - customers are asked for phone #s and to download Circle K app, not used to punish employees if they do not do this. "We make more money on Polar Pops than we do on liquor."

More receptacles and recycling containers - do not have access to recycling bins through Circle K. Can add additional trash cans - they seem to fill quickly which results in trash on the ground. Employees are supposed to check and empty when needed once per shift.

Appreciate open lines of communication with Troy and Amanda. Troy's email is available from Val and from any Circle K store.

We will check in with Troy in 30-60 days.

- Annual Meeting Planning: Raffle Item Requesters, Roles, Food, Entertainment, Guests

Board members will collaborate for event raffle - a document was started to track

(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x4RFvugFgU_VoqrjJamkm90o_MoaRBH7tifZUjLvoug/edit). See current status of document for updates. Each Board member will approach several organizations for raffle items. Patricia and Val S both volunteered to approach vendors.

Discussion about food vendors, snacks available (contained only for safety and ease).

We will plan to have a raffle but not a silent auction to decrease effort.

Configure like Art in the Park with containers for purchased raffle tickets by each item.

We want to have the capacity to take cash donations on site using Square/etc.

Val is working on this.

Brainstorming the itinerary/agenda for the evening - Board members

encouraged to contribute ideas.

Vicki suggested that the bylaws be early in the agenda so an explanation of changes can be shared and folks have time to vote, votes be counted, etc.

We will begin meeting separately as an event committee between now and the annual meeting.

- Commercial Real Estate news: no updates currently
Camilla Blvd at Lee
Bellevue Apartments (3100 block)
TMM
- Feedback & Call for Planners/Volunteers: Hallo-Verde
First publication in 9/24 e-news
Kick off with a gathering in the Pocket Park with kids' costume parade - agreed this is a good idea.
On 10/31 or another date? - stick with official Halloween
- Standing Business
 - Reimbursements
 - Nancy - e-vote or in November meeting
 - Calendar Outlook:
 - Monday, September 25: Bike Boulevard Meeting - lots of RSVPs
 - Saturday, September 30: Fourth Saturday Gathering - tbd
- **7:35 Neighbors Q&A (10 min)**
 - Facebook Group rules; grey area about what is political / accepted - See drafts from Board and from Brian Maxwell. Will need to continue the conversation to come to a consensus.
 - Water Harvesting at Fairmount St. / Pocket Park - Neighbor Elaine C. is working with Steve K to investigate the possibility of additional basins for water retention in the park.
- **7:45 to 8:00 PM (10 min)**
 - Reflection & Next Agenda Setting
 - Annual Meeting (October)
 - Chris Osen Board Application (November)
- **8:00 PM Adjourn** (adjourned at 8:00)

Written Reports and Status Updates

- President (Val)
 - Finalized Bylaws with help from the board
 - Coordinated CoT DTM Bike Boulevard meeting and created webpage, graphic, Facebook postings

- Created webpage, Facebook postings, flyer for TEP Poles efforts
- Created graphic for and assisted with publishing MeetUp Movie
- Regular administrative duties; weekly e-news, co-managing info@ email inbox
- Prepared board meeting packet + calendar event; recorded how-to video for calendar event
- Rachel and Patrick notified her of their absence at this meeting
- Thank you to those who attended the August clean up event at Seneca Park
- Avery Howayeck has tendered her resignation from the Board due to full time school and work obligations
- Vice President (Nancy)
 - Attending TEP Open House to represent PVNA with Paula Chronister; met with Steve K and prepared questions for PVNA reps at the meeting
 - Leading the MeetUp Movie events - next one October 5th at the Loft
 - Actively working on the PVNA Budget for next fiscal year
- Secretary (Maribeth)
 - Seneca Park Clean Up - Great event and the verge looks much better! We found out from Tucson Clean and Beautiful that they prefer prior notice to pick up trimmed vegetation - we will build into future plans. We did not anticipate the number of volunteer trees that needed trimming.
 - Otherwise, weekly e-news draft and monthly PVNA Board minutes.
- Treasurer
 - Val delivered the Treasurer's report due to Rachel's absence
 - Total funds = \$13,251.07, restricted use funds = \$2421; books reconciled through 8/31/2023. See treasurer's report for additional detail.
- NE Quad (Patrick)
 - Good turn out for Seneca Park Clean Up (about 15 people) and a lot of thanks from neighbors. Good choice to work together and make it more accessible for all; looking into setting up more opportunities for park clean up
- Graffiti (Arlene)
 - We received trash bags and a few cans of spray paint from Sun Tran in support of our bus stop efforts.
 - A purchase of spray paint was made from Desert Vista Ace Hardware. They gave us a 15% discount and have offered 20% on other items such as tools. Receipts were submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement.
 - Graffiti totals for August and September are as follows: 10 out of 24 bus stops had graffiti abated. 30 locations within our boundaries were also abated. NW-9, NE-7, SW-8 and SE-6.
 - Please report graffiti directly to me at ardanser1@gmail.com for prompt abatement.
- Liquor Licenses (Vicki)
 - There have been no new applications according to the State Web Site for Class 9.
 - We are waiting to hear back from the City Clerk about fixing the broken notification system