

Palo Verde Neighborhood Board Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2023, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Contact Us - info@paloverdeneighborhood.org

In attendance: Val Timin, Val Schaefer, Maribeth Slebodnik, Arlene Danser, Rachel Dacquisto, Patrick Hart, Steve Poe (Zoom), Vicki France (Zoom), Avery Howayeck (Zoom)

Agenda

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

- **6:40-7:05 PM Guest Updates**

- Ward 6 (5 min)

Dora Maldonado - Nothing at this time

- District 5 (5 min)

Elvira Suarez Din - Board of Supervisors meeting 6/20 9 a.m. 6/28 Courthouse will be lit up for Pride Month. Juneteenth is coming, updates on the District 5 website.

- Discussion with Circle K representatives: Troy Beatty, Circle K Region Operations Director; Amanda Adame, oversees Speedway Circle K, Alex Eldred, Circle K representative Troy Beatty answered most of the questions posed by the Board and PVNA neighbors. The store currently has a license to sell beer and wine and is applying to sell spirits. Some stores in the region have onsite or roaming security staff when deemed necessary based on theft, robbery and/or violent crime. The store at Speedway and Camilla does not have additional security. They do have a panic button that employees can use if they do not feel safe to contact TPD for assistance. Neighbors suggested increased lighting, more staff and possibly fencing to discourage loitering. They work with other local businesses, such as Walgreens' and Home Depot, with similar concerns about crime reduction and theft and are partnering with TPD. Walgreen's uses classical music outside their store and has seen reduced loitering on their property; Circle K plans to institute this and other measures, and is considering other changes, such as no cash at night or pass through windows for transactions rather than customers in the store. Also possible partnering with TPD to encourage police cars on the premises while awaiting calls to help deter problems. Employees at Circle K are not allowed to "chase and confront" so theft is frequent. Management present (Troy and Amanda) are interested in working with us to deter crime and to contribute to the neighborhood through volunteer work, a one time contribution to a local organization such as HOPE or Codac (with the possibility of ongoing donations as is done in Phoenix by Circle K), and increased clean up around the store and neighboring residential properties. They have withdrawn the application for an upgraded liquor license and did not discuss reapplication at this meeting. If instituted, all liquor will be behind the counter and all IDs will be scanned before purchase. Any employee who sells liquor to underage customers is immediately terminated - this is typically discovered by the police. Circle K management monitors store video regularly. They are amenable to 30-60 day follow ups with the Board to monitor status.

- **7:05-7:35 PM Board & Committee Reports & Business**

See written updates below

- President See below
- Vice President See below
- Secretary See below
- Treasurer See below
- Communications Nothing to report
- Quadrant Representatives

Southeast: Val & Pat are walking their quadrant and making note of concerns, would appreciate having door hangers to share with folks who appear to have maintenance issues, working to expand Neighborhood Watches in their quadrant.

Rachel has paint/stencils for curb numbers. We would like to plan events to paint house numbers on curbs.

Northeast: Patrick has been walking and meeting neighbors in his quadrant.

Arlene suggested business cards to distribute when talking to neighbors, businesses, with contact information for the website.

■ Graffiti

Arlene has developed a system for walking the entire neighborhood.

She notes that there are 23 bus stops in the neighborhood. Last month she made 36 fixes on individual properties, and at the 23 bus stops.

She will be carrying large trash bags and is hopeful that with regular attention the situation will continue to improve.

Ace Hardware on Country Club will give us a discount on supplies for graffiti abatement with a letter from PVNA, Val will provide a letter.

○ Old Business

■ Vote/Discussion: [Advertising Rates](#)

The board discussed the advertising rates. Patrick volunteered to help write sponsored blog posts for an additional fee/contribution (to be determined) to PVNA. Passed without objection.

Val will develop the forms for advertisers to initiate/renew advertising on these platforms.

Question about our social media reach - we have about 700 people on the Facebook page, and about 1300 people on the Constant Contact list.

○ New Business

■ Vote/Discussion: Micah Samuelson. SW Quadrant representative. applicant. [View Application](#).

Moved: Maribeth Second: Val Schaefer. Unanimous vote by show of hands. Welcome, Micah!

■ Approve funds for graffiti removal supplies (Arlene) Up to \$200 plus tax for supplies. Passed without objection.

Discussion about bus stops throughout the community, not just PVNA.

Dora will reach out to Steve Spade at SunTran about cleaning up bus stops.

- Bylaws revision: Vicki suggested an article about coming changes to bylaws in the e-news; Val will write an update for the e-news and run by Vicki and the rest of the Board; Vicki & Val will plan a Thursday night Zoom meeting focused on bylaws for the Board.

Vicki will work on a draft set of bylaws for that meeting and share with the Board.

■ PVNA T-shirts (Val S.)

Suggestion from Val and Pat; need to research design and details for future discussion, may look for a local sponsor.

■ PVNA events outlook

Suggested PVNA refrigerator magnets with contact info (logo, website, email) for distribution during the parade - initial pricing is about \$225 for 1000 magnets. Ruth R suggested pens, others suggested mouse pads (but those are too expensive). Tabled for additional research; Maribeth and Val will investigate and share with the Board.

Approve up to \$250 for general supplies (signs, food, additional supplies) to match sponsor donation. Moved: Vicki France Second: Val Schaefer. Passed by unanimous show of hands.

- 4th of July; seeking committee members AND access to a generator or electricity for the musicians' amps

Kat Robey requested more volunteers and she suggested anniversary t-shirts. Digitized photos from earlier parades obtained and will be uploaded and shared. Sign up sheet was circulated to all attendees. Parade route will be similar but it will start at the PVNA Pocket Park. Music by the Manhattan Dolls and an enhanced sound system from earlier parades, The Grand Marshal is a member of one of the original founding families of Palo Verde.

- Nancy test project/event

Nancy won't be able to update us in person. Val is reporting for her. Also see written updates at the end of the minutes.

- New: PVNA meetups

Nancy is working with the Loft to set up our first meetup. They have suggested some films that might work well. Date pending.

- Door hanger project - Nancy, Val and Maribeth are working to design a friendly, nonjudgmental way to inform neighbors that they may be in violation of City codes, and to suggest ways to correct and offer assistance if possible. Question from Vicki about legal ramifications of delivering notices like a door hanger. We understand we can use the same route that a delivery person would use, not permitted to use mailboxes, not permitted on posted property. We will verify that information.
- Val would like to make the Saturday one week after the Board meeting a recurring walk/talk/trash pickup event every month. The event itself will vary based on suggestions and needs.

● 7:35 Neighbors Q&A

A neighbor offered his golf cart for the Fourth of July parade, licensed for street use. He expressed concern about homes that are in long term, chronic disrepair. He does not believe residents will respond to a door hanger. Dora Maldonado noted that code enforcement will result in clean up and expense to the homeowner..

A neighbor suggested that we reinstate the neighborhood yard sale. Board will discuss and consider making it one of our ongoing events.

A neighbor asked if there is any news about the Odd Fellows hall on Jones north of Speedway? It seems to be rarely used and appears to be boarded up. We will investigate.

● 7:45 to 8:00 PM (10 min)

- Reflection & Next Agenda Setting

● 8:00 PM Adjourn 8:08 p.m.

Written Reports and Status Updates (Board Officers)

● President (Val)

- Circle K Liquor License Update: Drafted and edited letter on behalf of PVNA and submitted. Had a couple phone calls with Steve K. before the Mayor & Council meeting to discuss options and plan. After the meeting, he reported that since the Circle K representative said, "We want to be partners with the neighborhood," Steve K. suggested that they hold the application until they can reach out with the neighborhood and work out some concerns. Circle K agreed, and so we will

welcome their representative at this board meeting for a discussion about the liquor license and any other issues. I'd like to thank all residents who wrote in or attended the meeting to help achieve the positive outcome so far.

- Bylaws Project Update: Project slowed a little due to myself being under the weather and spending time on 4th of July and the Circle K project. Will pick this back up stronger in June, and as suggested by Vicki, I will help organize a dedicated Thursday evening board Zoom to talk bylaws.
- Budget Project: Not quite fully active yet. Will pick up speed in coming months. *Maybe* can have a first draft to review for the July Board meeting.
- Published April & May Board Meeting Summary Blogs
- Answered various inquiries from neighbors and board.
 - e.g., Former board member Rich K. shared concerns about maintenance needs at the pocket park on Willard. We are taking action to work with Tucson Clean and Beautiful and other parties to evaluate needs and get the park the care it needs.
- Facilitated Thursday night zoom meetings; Shared some tips & tricks for Facebook Admin duties with Maribeth so she can further assist me in this area
- Collaborated on weekly e-news
- 4th of July as a focus project right now. Planning, outreach, etc. Can greatly use more board support in this area in the coming weeks, and possibly some folks to help run the event and represent the board the day of. [View planning doc here.](#)
- Attended new quad rep welcome Zoom meeting, and completed various onboarding tasks ●

Vice President (Nancy)

- Nonprofit Restoration Project Update: Result of e-vote to approve up to \$500 in expenses: 11 - Yes, 1 - Pass

● Secretary (Maribeth)

- Monitoring Facebook Group and Gmail daily
- Drafting e-news weekly and meeting minutes monthly

● Treasurer (Rachel)

Current account balance: \$13250.98

Income: Art in the Garden: \$200

Expense: Domain renewal \$21.74

Expense (upcoming) : Website renewal \$276

● NE Quad (Patrick)

- No real updates- I've been out walking the neighborhood more to try to get some neighbors. I'll be asking about neighborhood watches in the coming weeks.

● Graffiti Removal (Arlene)

- I have been busy with graffiti abatement this month. I have gone through all 4 quadrants and alleys. I am nearly finished with each bus stop. I have made over 40 "fixes" so far. Rich gave me his supply of spray paints. I have already used many. I will need to replenish supplies soon. I think 18 to 20 cans should be a good start. That will be at least \$140 plus tax figuring a can at about \$7.00 each. I am sure the purchase needs board approval. I would be happy to make necessary purchases and submit the receipt for reimbursement. Please put this item on this month's agenda.