

Willo Neighborhood Association Minutes

June 11, 2015

Attendants: Paul, Patrice, Gene, Jon, Don, Jerry, Anthony, Theresa and Marilyn

Minutes for May were presented and it was noted they needed to be changed to state "Blockwatch was on Vernon" rather than the previously reported Monte Vista, Don motioned to approve with this correction by Don and this was seconded by Patrice and approved by the board.

Zoning: APS presented an update on the substation project. An alternative location is still being researched. A pet supply store is slated for the area at 5th Ave and McDowell. A wall to screen our neighborhood from the parking has been approved. Art house lofts at Coronado and 1st Ave will be breaking ground in August or September. There is a preliminary meeting with Willo in September to review their plans.

Opal Wagner discussed the FAA and updates on the current issue with the flight paths. The city has filed legal action against the FAA after an unsuccessful negotiation. This process is expected to take a few years to resolve. Progress is being made and Congressman Gallego has been working on an amendment approved to would put added pressure on the FAA.

There was some discussion regarding considering parking permits for Willo. This might become more important as we have more development happening around us.

Home Tour: Co-Chairs Darryl Collins and David Miranda (Monte Vista) stated that seven homes have already been secured. More updates on the home tour will come in the upcoming meetings.

Special presentation to Brad Brauer to honor all of the hard work he put in during his seven years as our president. Brad will be our new representative to the major's office. Christina Coash was also recognized for her past work with the Kidsclub. Leslie Stackpole and Bob Thomas were not present at the meeting but were also recognized for their efforts.

Marilyn and Kendra Lee (APS) discussed the recent homeless shelter closure downtown. Fortunately more bed may be opened at another facility. Homes First is a project that might possibly be starting here in downtown Phoenix to provide housing for the homeless.

Crime/block watch: According to Jon it has been pretty quiet. However we should encourage new neighbors to make sure their belongings are well secured, especially in the moving-in process as this is a common time for burglars to target homes. We need a block watch captain for Cypress.

Committee Reports:

Social - looking for homes for the fall

Kids – no new updates

Streets - concern about the safety of bike lane at 5th Ave and McDowell, the city might be willing to replace sidewalks on the sides of houses but not the front, contact Jon for questions

Rep Ken Clark spoke with an update on the recent legislative session – with the help of the neighborhood a liquor license protestation change was killed, in addition to that legislation that would have allowed redefining what a small grocer is and who can sell alcohol near a church or school as well as legislation allowing predatory loans called flex loans with 218% interest was also defeated, BeAZ events (nonpartisan events that couple a tour of different areas with a discussion of related policy) are on the second Wednesday of each month, for more info call 480-442-6167. If you have specific questions for Rep Clark, you can contact him at 602-456-9388 or email kenclark@azleg.gov

Mayor candidate Anna Brennan gave a brief overview of her platform and what she values as well as her skills.

Emily from NAU College of Nursing who is studying public health in urban neighborhoods asked the participants to complete a survey regarding life in an urban area.

New business - There was some discussion about feral cats. Willo as a neighborhood cannot be involved in coming up with a solution to this issue, as there is much debate about the desirability of these cats in our neighborhood.

Old business - Call APS if there is any concerns with the upcoming storms

Meeting was adjourned after a motion by Don, which was seconded by Patrice and approval by the board.