

# Willo Neighborhood Association

February 9, 2017

## Minutes

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Marilyn Rendon, President

**Approval of Minutes December/  
January:**

A motion was made by Opal Wagner and seconded by Patrice Wappel to approve the revised December 2016 minutes. The motion passed.

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Charlene Gum and seconded by Don Vallejo to approve the January minutes. The motion passed.

**Financial Report:** Linda Doescher reported that we will still be operating at a deficit until after the Home Tour proceeds are evaluated. A motion was made by Don Vallejo and seconded by Charlene Gum to approve the financial report. The motion passed.

**Home Tour Report:** Co-Chair Don Vallejo stated that everything is on schedule for the tour. There is always room for volunteers so if you want to help, come to the tour or contact Allison Powers.

The Willo Affair will be Saturday night from 6:00 – 10:00 pm. We still need volunteers for this event as well. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help at the Willo Affair is welcome to participate. Our tour events have been successful because of the efforts of the volunteers.

**Action Item:** Gene Nance reported that in the past we have given a gift card to those volunteers who have delivered the Inside Willo Newsletter. He asked that we consider reinstating this tradition. After discussion about how much to allocate per person, and what kind of gift card to purchase, a motion was made by Jon Whitcomb and seconded by Linda Doescher to approve an allocation of \$800.00 for the gift cards. The motion passed.

**Action Item: Grid Share Bicycle Plan:** Joe Perez, Bicycle Coordinator for the City of Phoenix shared information on the safety advantages of promoting bicycle usage in Willo. The City is proposing an installation of Grid Share stations at Walton Park on the south curb and one on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Encanto in the parking spot near the Round a Bout.

Mr. Perez presented data on the use of bicycles as a mode of transportation, the growing popularity and seasonal use of bicycles and how 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues would be modified to accommodate new bicycle and pedestrian lanes. This would leave one lane for automobile traffic and two - way travel for pedestrians and bicycles.

There were questions regarding how such changes would change current street parking, the need for bike racks in an historical neighborhood, do grid bikes motivate usage for transportation, are they buffered for safety, do they serve to calm traffic, is there a contract and trial period involved with the neighborhood. What if the nearby residents object?

Mr. Perez presented a bar graph of the usage of present grid bikes. It indicated an increase in seasonal popularity from May – June, no increase in summer months and increase during the winter months. Opal Wagner has observed a nearby grid station as never empty and questioned the need for additional stations. Mr. Perez reported that the stations are removable if there are objections from the neighbors.

No action was taken by the Board.

**Action Item: Flooding 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and Virginia/5<sup>th</sup> and Vernon:** Marilyn Rendon reviewed the history of the street flooding problems at Virginia and Vernon. Dick Staats has been instrumental in coordinating with the City that has resulted in improving the drainage at 5<sup>th</sup> avenue and Vernon. The problem still exists at Virginia but a storm drain has been discovered and the City has proposed directing overflow water from current drains to the newly discovered drain at 1<sup>st</sup> avenue and Virginia. A motion was made by Jon Withcomb and seconded by Opal Wagner to designate Marilyn and Linda to compose a letter encouraging the City to move forward with the proposal. The motion passed.

**BMO Sign:** Harvey Schoman, Stop Bright Signs, spoke to the BMO sign issue. Mr. Schoman presented information to the Board regarding the detrimental effects of the sign on the neighborhood. There have been complaints from residential high rise neighborhoods as well as from Willo residents regarding the intrusion bright light into their homes. The goal of Stop Bright Signs is to work with BMO Tower to reduce of the brightness of the light at night. If BMO does not wish to work with the group, they will explore more formal solutions.

Mr. Schoman has asked the Board to consider support for the organization in the form of a motion. This would provide backing for any future meetings with BMO. The Board delayed any action on this request.

**Block Watch /Street Safety:** Jon Whitcomb reported that Patrice Wappel's bike was stolen. A meeting with Block Watch captains will be scheduled for next month. Don

Vallejo stated that there were notifications regarding a “Peeping Tom” in the neighborhood. A man was apprehended who turned out to be a convicted felon.

**Kids Club/Social Committee:** The Kids Club has seven spaces at the home tour.

**Kleanstreets:** Patrice Wappel spent five hours on the cleanup of 7<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> avenues. She also cleaned the alley behind Windsor on her own. If anyone wants to volunteer to help, please contact Patrice.

**March 2017 Election Report:** We are on track for the March 9<sup>th</sup> Willo election meeting.

**Zoning Committee:** Paul Benjamin related that the Board of Adjustment has overturned a request to deny the approval of a Medical Marijuana facility. The owners of 38 W. Wilshire are going forward with the construction of a single - story addition instead of a two story as originally proposed. Paul did research on properties in the transition zone that are currently zoned CO. There are two groups of homes zoned CO; one on Virginia and one on Almeria.

Don Vallejo mentioned that he had observed a fourth restaurant going into the My Florist complex where the zoning stipulations only allow three restaurants. Paul will verify the zoning stipulations.

**APS Sub-Committee:** Tom Doescher said that APS is still in negotiations with buyers for the sale of APS property.

**FAA Sub-Committee:** Opal Wagner reported that oral arguments for the City of Phoenix and neighborhoods’ lawsuits against the FAA will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit. The Roosevelt Action Association will be hosting a celebration of historic preservation social and fundraiser at the Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 W. Latham ST., Phoenix on Thursday, April 27, 2017 from 5-7:30p.m., with proceeds going to the FAA legal fund. The \$10.00 tickets include a glass of wine and nibbles donated by Forno 301 restaurant. There will be a silent auction featuring local art, books by local authors and tickets to local eateries and events.

**New Business:** There was no new business to discuss.

**Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Respectfully,

Charlene Gum, Acting Recording Secretary