

WNA November 2011 Mtg.

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Present: Tony Weir, Patrice Wappel, Bob Thomas, Jon Witcomb, Jason Bliss, Brad Brauer, Gene Nance, Phil Fleming, Andrea Meury, Don Vallejo.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Tabled until next meeting.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT/APPROVAL**

Tabled for next meeting, to include approval of October and November reports.

## **COMMUNITY ACTION OFFICER**

New CAO Ben Harris introduced himself to the Board and the neighborhood. Mr. Harris has the same cell phone number as former CAO Julie Smith (602) 361-4501. Officer Harris's office phonies (602) 495-6682. Officer Harris reported that he has been to a few of the recent block watch meetings offering an overview of what he does as a CAO.

Officer Harris also reported on recent criminal activity in the neighborhood:

- Forced entry burglary confirmed at 309 W. Coronado Rd. at 9:20 a.m. No suspect information.
- 17 W. Lewis, break-in.
- 140 W. Granada – theft of purse that homeowner left on front porch.
- 140 W. Coronado Rd. – break in into a locked detached garage. Personal items taken.

Officer Harris also reported an update on retail development at McDowell and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Officer Harris reported that one prospective tenant, a sushi restaurant, is now applying for a liquor license, in case neighbors have objections.

Finally, Officer Harris reminded the neighborhood of some basic crime prevention tips, and advised that a speed trailer would soon be placed on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

## **THIRD AND FIFTH AVENUE CONSTRUCTION**

Brad Brauer reported that all WNA permits necessary for construction have been issued. The project contractor is still waiting on its permits which are expected to be issued this week. After the contractor obtains its permits shovels can hit the ground.

## **WILLO WEBSITE DEBUT**

Greg Corns is working on debuting the new website this weekend.

## **HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON CENTRAL AVE./WILLO CONTRIBUTION – ACTION ITEM**

The City of Phoenix is putting up Holiday decorations on Central Avenue and is asking for contributions to assist with the costs of maintenance and installation. WNA has been approached to contribute. Contribution is in the form of the purchase of an individual holiday decoration that will include signage for the organization making the contribution. Discussion ensued about paying \$250 to purchase a holiday decoration on Central. Board was unanimously in favor. Don Vallejo moved to approve this expenditure, and Andrea Meury seconded.

The Motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Don Vallejo reported that the GAIN event went well.

Jon Witcomb gave a Block Watch committee update. Blocktoberfest continues with meetings on Wilshire and Coronado last week. Both were well attended and successful.

Bob Thomas reported that Energize Phoenix has proposed expanding the western edge of the current boundaries from the present 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue alignment to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which will have the effect of including all of Willo. Phoenix City Council still has to approve. The issue was on the agenda at the last Council meeting but was tabled. It is currently on the agenda for the next City Council meeting. Bob Thomas encouraged anyone interested to e-mail Councilman Mike Nowakowski or any City Council member to express your support for the expansion of the program boundaries.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Brad Brauer gave an update on the construction on the North side of McDowell and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Lawrence and Geysler intends to construct a building at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and McDowell that “mimics” the pre-existing construction at the northeast corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and McDowell (although Historic Preservation requires that it look sufficiently different to identify it as non-historic). L & G does not presently have the funds to construct this building, although some site work including a stormwater drainage/retention system is currently being installed.

NYPD Pizza is a committed tenant for the pre-existing building at 7<sup>th</sup> and McDowell. Habit Burger Grill is a potential tenant for the dining room area of My Florist Café

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The City of Phoenix owns an L-shaped portion of property north of the vacant lot on the northwest corner of Central and McDowell. The lot is located to the west of the Walsh Brothers Furniture store. The City is looking at options for this property one of which may be re-zoning to mixed use residential and retail.

Bob Thomas reported on the grant matching program available through the historical preservation society in which grant funds match 50/50 (or 80/20 for those under a certain household income) for exterior improvements to homes such as roofs, windows, and exterior finishes. Application are due by March. The receipt of grant funds requires that the homeowner agree to a 15-year easement related to the improvements.

Don Vallejo moved to adjourn.