

Meeting Minutes
Willo Neighborhood Association Governing Board
January 14, 2021

A regularly-scheduled meeting of the Willo Neighborhood Association Governing Board was held on January 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom web meeting. Board members in attendance were: Dr. Robert Cannon, President; Brad Brauer, Vice President; Linda Doescher, Treasurer; Charlene Gum, Secretary; Ann Bommersbach, Kush Govani, Lisa Helm, Sandra Lefcovich, Gene Nance, Jeremy Schachter, James Varela, Opal Wagner, Patrice Wappel. Absent: None.

Guest Speaker: LD 24 State Senator Lela Alston provided a legislative update, including pending short-term rental bills in the Arizona House and Senate, limited public access to the State Capitol due to COVID-19 precautions and recent riots in Washington, D.C. Members of the public can weigh in on Bills via the “Request to Speak” program available on the azleg.gov website. Contact Mary Peralta if you have questions on signing up or requesting to speak on a bill (mperalta@azleg.gov). Neighbors provided comments and questions to Sen. Alston about the AZDHS COVID-19 vaccination program, which she answered and also referred neighbors to the AZDHS vaccination website for the latest information: podvaccine.azdhs.gov.

Motion to Approve November, 2020 minutes was made by Brad Brauer and seconded by Jeremy Schachter and approved unanimously.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Brad Brauer and seconded by Sandra Lefcovich and approved unanimously.

Dr. Cannon expressed gratitude to Chris Norton and Cari Payne for their leadership on a successful Willo Luminaria 2020 event. Despite challenges with COVID-19, there was 100% block coverage for the luminarias again this year.

Committee Reports:

Luminarias: Chris Norton provided an update on the 2020 Willo Luminarias event and thanked all block captains, including 13 block captains who were new this year. Thanks in part to neighbors’ generous donations, 4000 higher-capacity

batteries and 1500 new LEDs could be purchased. Chris described improvements to battery selection and timer lights based on testing he performed, which will provide cost savings. Linda Doescher stated that she applied for Block Watch grant funds for 2021 to defray the cost of luminarias this coming year, but we won't have a decision on the grant until June.

Inside Willo: Sandra Lefcovich reported IW's content remains strong despite cancellation of the 2021 Willo Home Tour due to COVID-19. She plans to publish an events calendar again. Brad Brauer asked how many people read IW online. Kush Govani and Linda Doescher said they would follow up.

Election Committee: Ann Bommersbach reported she had emailed the list of candidates for the 2021-23 board cycle and it would be finalized on January 15th per the By-laws and will be published in Inside Willo and on willophx.com.

Zoning: Tom Doescher reported that the Encanto Village Planning Committee had approved a new U-Haul building fronting Thomas Rd. between 2nd and 3rd Streets with sign lighting limits matching those of the U-Haul Tower on Central Ave. Tom also reported that someone turned in complaints about over-height walls in Willo and Encanto-Palmcroft. He recapped the wall-height restrictions in the Willo Conservation Plan and said he would submit an article to IW. The Historic Preservation Officer denied an application for a 2-story addition at 133 W. Palm Lane because it did not comply with the Historic Preservation Guidelines. Dr. Cannon reported the Board had received a letter from Willo neighbor Sarah Bradley regarding the decision and had replied on behalf of the Board. An application for zero rear setback for an addition at 529 W. Windsor was granted by the Zoning Adjustment Hearing Officer after approval by the HP Office.

Social Media: Jeremy Schachter reported that Willo's Facebook followers continue to grow in number and posting of neighborhood events such as food trucks has been well received.

Willo Architectural Photo Book: James Varela and Diana Herman reported on the status of the photo book. They've met with photographers and are proceeding with the planning stages.

Welcome Committee: Carl Schurz reported that 40 welcome bags have been delivered to block liaisons and an email list has been compiled to stay in touch with new neighbors.

Old Business:

Dr. Cannon reported that the 4-Corners historic neighborhood presidents have been meeting monthly and will soon publish a press release about the organization's goals of working together in harmony and collaboration for mutual support.

Brad Brauer recognized Board Member Gene Nance for his service to the Willo neighborhood.

New Business:

Jeff Cree suggested looking into mitigation of train noise as has been done in Mesa and Tempe.

Adjournment.