

Willo Neighborhood Association Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Robert Cannon, Willo Board President

Board members present (in person and via Zoom): Robert Cannon (President), Brad Brauer (Vice-President), Opal Wagner (Secretary), Linda Doescher (Treasurer), Ann Bommersbach, Jeremy Schachter, Erika Gagnon, James Varela, Kush Govani, Sandra Lefcovich, Patrice Wappel, Charlene Gum

Absent: Aaron Montañó Searles

Approval of Minutes: Opal Wagner, Board Secretary, corrected an address in the Zoning Report from 541 to 549 W. Cambridge and moved for approval of the corrected January 13, 2022, Willo Neighborhood Association Board Meeting minutes. Jeremy Schachter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Doescher, Board Treasurer, presented the financial update and reported money was withdrawn from the Edward Jones account to cover Home Tour expenses and, as a result, Willo is about \$13,000 in the red at the end of January, which is typical pre - Home Tour. Block Watch Grant money is close to being used up on the items it was earmarked for. We are hoping our new Block Watch grant application will be approved. If so, it will start in July. The Edward Jones account has a current balance of \$76,579. Checking account balance is \$15,528. Jeremy Schachter made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Sandra Lefcovich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Home Tour Committee: The Home Tour Committee met at Bob Cannon's house last night. Teresa Fontana reported Home Tour 2022 is in good shape and signage is going up today on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Aves., in the roundabouts, etc. News crews came out and did a story on 83 W. Encanto. It will be on Monday on the "Cool Homes" segment by Fox news' Celeste Rodriguez. The Willo Home Tour will be promoted as part of that segment. David Roth-Gonzalez has interviews lined up with Channel 15 on Tues. pm. Billboards have been up for a week or so courtesy of Clear Channel. Flyers are being distributed at the farmers markets. We will sell out of Twilight Tour tickets - forty tickets are left. "Day of" ticket sales are 570 at this point. We'll see sales jump as we get closer to Sunday. We have good momentum. Fourteen musicians and groups will be playing throughout the neighborhood, with Vinyl Nova on the main stage at Walton Park. Volunteer training is in the park this Sat. We have a few gaps in volunteers. We have great sponsors. Covid protocols will be observed.

Rock the Block on Saturday night is free for Willo residents. There will be a DJ from WOW factor radio station with live broadcasting from 7-10pm.

3.5 Streets and Traffic Safety Committee Update: Opal Wagner reported the January 20, 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues North Improvements 90% Design Meeting was held online, hosted by the City of Phoenix Streets Transportation Department. Thanks to everyone who attended. There were no major changes since the last meeting. A slight majority (52%) of people voted for a 2-way pedestrian pathway on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., rather than a 1-way path on either side of the street, so that is what is included in the updated design. There will be stop signs on Encanto Blvd. at both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues. This should have a significant impact on slowing down traffic. Roll plots are posted on [3rdand5thAvenuesnorth@phoenix.gov](mailto:3rdand5thAvenuesnorth@phoenix.gov), along with a video of the Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Since Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, we have been in contact with the new communications person for the Streets Transportation Department - Yvette Roeder – to find out when the 100% Design will be complete. We're waiting for her answer on that, which she said will come as soon as tomorrow. They will try to coordinate the 100% update with our normal monthly Willo NA meeting. Per Yvette Roeder, having the funding for the construction phase of the project on the draft Capital Improvement budget update and having it ready to be presented to the Council is the hard part, and we've already surpassed that. The City's Fiscal Year 2023 budget process starts in March and before the end of June 2022 it will be voted on by Council. Everything looks good at this point, and it is expected to pass.

Social Committee Update: The February Happy Hour will be tomorrow evening at Gil Hernandez and Robin Pearson's house, 104 W. Holly.

Inside Willo Update: The March issue is expected to have 32 pages - 90% devoted to the Home Tour. The deadline is extended to Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. Expected delivery date is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Kids Club Update: Valerie Gentz reported WKC is planning an Easter/Earth Day Event on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Easter bunny/egg hunt are planned.

Willo Social Media/Communication Update: Jeremy Schachter thanked Sandra Lefcovich for providing a summary every month with everything going on in Willo. Jeremy has published lots of other posts about volunteering for the Willo Home Tour, weekly food truck updates, etc. Approximately 20 different postings have been made this month. Willo's social media is still growing.

Zoning Committee Update: Tom Doescher reported the appeal on 309 W. Monte Vista was heard by the Phoenix City Council on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Laura Pastor made a motion to uphold the Historic Preservation Commission's ruling with a stipulation that the proposed structure be no higher than 14 feet (the height of the highest roofline of the historic home). The motion passed 8-0.

A Historic Preservation Hearing was held on January 27<sup>th</sup> re 549 W. Cambridge on the application to add a rear addition, increase the rear patio, tear down the carport and build an enclosed garage which would be moved closer to the front of the house. The Staff report recommended the improvements except for the enclosed garage. The Willo Zoning Committee

supported and spoke in favor of the staff report. The Hearing Officer approved the application, including the enclosed garage. The WZC met the deadline for filing an appeal on February 2, 2022 and is now seeking the Willo Board's approval to proceed with the appeal. Brad Brauer made a motion to support the appeal filed by the Willo Zoning Committee re 549 W. Cypress. Sandra Lefcovich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The appeal of a 5' pool fence in the front yard at 78 W. Cypress was continued to March 3, 2022, due to the Planning and Development Department's delayed response to the Willo Zoning Committee's public records request. Attorneys Tom Galvin and Jennifer Hall are reviewing the documents and will advise us of the best avenue for proceeding.

Michelle Dodds is retiring this week and we don't know who the new HP Officer will be.

A bill (SB2674) was proposed in the Arizona State Legislature last week that would permit fast-tracking developments in all municipalities, waiving local control over zoning issues. The bill would permit a minimum of 8 units per acre and multifamily units up to 75 feet high by right anywhere, including single-family historic districts like Willo. The bill was touted as a remedy for affordable housing but did not contain any specific requirements that new construction be affordable. The League of Cities and Towns opposed the bill, which was co-sponsored by State Rep. Cesar Chavez. The bill was pulled from consideration on Monday by State Rep. Robert Meza, Commerce Committee member. The bill may be reintroduced next session or folded into another bill.

Block Watch Update – Brad Brauer reported he had posted on Willo's Facebook page asking people to fill the missing Block Watch captain positions.

Phoenix PD has reduced its funding allocation for Community Action Officers and cut their staffing by 50%. Our current CAO has been with Willo for 13-14 years. He will keep his CAO status, but he is going to have to bid. The size of each CAO's area will double, so they will not have the time for Willo they have had in the past.

Willo Photo Book Update: – Diana Herman reported the Willo Book has been distributed to those who pre-paid. Everyone is thrilled with the book. If you haven't bought one, they will be on sale at the Willo Home Tour. Authors Jon Talton and David Peterson will also be at the Willo Book's Home Tour Booth to sign books.

Bob Cannon said the book had been positioned to break even and came close to doing so. He said 10-12 books were provided to the City library, the City Council's Office, the Mayor's Office, etc. at no cost as a good-will gesture and for Willo branding. Bob thanked Diana Herman for her strategic vision and for getting the price where it needed to be. Ann Bommersbach requested the cost of the gifted books be separated in the financial report for easier cost analysis. Neighbors asked about a second printing, but none is planned at this time. Venancio Berrocoso stated the book is beautiful, but marketing could have been more strategically planned since it is not fair to widely market something that is scarce. A second printing would be a good idea

but would need some careful planning by someone in the book trade, if the board determines that it merits reprinting.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The Encanto-Palmcroft Home Tour is on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are now available.

Adjournment: Brad Brauer made a motion to adjourn. Jeremy Schachter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.