Willo Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

Jan. 12, 2023

Board members present in person: Bob Cannon (President), Brad Brauer (Vice President), Linda Doescher (Treasurer), Opal Wagner (Secretary), Patrice Wappel, Charlene Gum, Sandra Lefcovich, Aaron Searles. Board Members present via Zoom: Jeremy Schachter, Ann Bommersbach, Erika Gagnon

Board members absent: Kush Govani, Jackson Modrak

Guests: Xandon Keating, Deputy Director Phoenix Community Economic Development Department; Tricia Gomes, Phoenix Zoning Administrator; and Helana Ruter, Phoenix Historic Preservation Officer

Neighbors attending in-person and via Zoom include: Gene Nance, Venancio Berrocoso, Tom Doescher, Decker Williams, Eric Gilmore, Jan and Kevin O’Rourke, Doug Plascencia, Scott Ferreira, Jim Gabler, Addison Dent, Wylie Carhartt, et al.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Bob Cannon, Willo Board President

Approval of Minutes: Opal Wagner, Board Secretary, made a motion to approve the December, 2022 Board minutes as previously presented to the Board. Brad Brauer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Linda Doescher reported the monthly financials are In the black and 2023 Willo Home Tour income is steadily coming in. The Block Watch Grant funds awarded to Willo are almost used up. We have applied for a grant of $14,361.00 for the upcoming grant year. Our financial position is improving after having no Home Tour income in 2021 when the home tour was canceled due to the pandemic. The Chase checking account balance is $40,578.00. The Edward Jones Money Market account balance is $69,482.00. The Willo Neighborhood Association’s net worth is $143,796.16. Brad Brauer made a motion to approve the financial report. Patrice Wappel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Willo Kids Club Update: Valerie Lane Gentz reported the Willo Kids Club met this past Sunday and 6 new moms have volunteered to help with the Kids Club next year. Willo Kids Club is hosting a snow event at Lewis Park on Jan. 29th from 3-5pm. There will be a snow machine for kids to play in the snow. Willo Kids Club will have a booth at the Willo Home Tour on Feb. 19th, with balloon artists, etc., and lots of volunteers to help sign up parents interested in joining. They are also having a book drive this year, so anyone who wants to may bring books or make a donation. Anyone who walks by can take a book. Anybody can drop them off at Valerie’s house. Any extra books will be donated to the City of Phoenix Burton Barr Library. Kids Club is planning a big Easter event on April 2nd at Encanto Park from 3-5pm, along with the Roosevelt neighborhood. There will be a bounce house, egg hunt, etc.

Willo Home Tour 2023 Update: Over 500 tickets have been sold for Sunday, Feb. 19th, and the Home Tour Committee expects sales to pick up over the next month. The Home Tour brochure is done. Eleven homes, two gardens and the historic firehouse will be on tour. The radio ads are done (KJZZ and KBAQ). Ads will appear in Phoenix New Times – one in the Super Bowl Issue and one on the Thursday before the event. Ion AZ has been advertising, as well as Phoenix Home & Garden magazine.

The Twilight Tour is moving along. Little O’s is going to be doing the food and bar, and there will be music. We also will be having a VIP event offered only to those who have purchased Twilight Tour tickets. There are 30 seats available. Marshall Shore will conduct a special tour. There will be a silent auction at the Twilight Tour. All permits are waiting on final approval. We have postcards printed out to distribute. We want a record-breaking crowd. We need help putting up signs. Lisa Naccarato is doing an excellent job as volunteer chair. Volunteer sign-up is on the website. Volunteer opportunities include taking tickets, picking up trash, docents for houses. Twilight Tour is Feb. 18th, from 4-7pm. The beer and wine tent, silent auction and music goes on until 10pm.

Guest Speaker: Xandon Keating, Deputy Director, City of Phoenix Community Economic and Development Dept. is here to present on Super Bowl 2023. Also joining us are Tricia Gomes, Planning and Development Department; Stephanie Germaine of DTPHX, Inc., Det. Laughner, Phoenix Police Department; Alexis Yaple, Public Works Department. We are 32 days away from Super Bowl LVII on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023. The big game is in Glendale, but the bulk of NFL events leading up to the game will be in and around downtown Phoenix. Next week is the load-in at Hance Park and the build for the event structure will start next week. Events downtown include The NFL Experience at the Phoenix Convention Center – a family-friendly NFL theme park and opening night at Footprint Arena.

The Bud Light music fest will also be at Footprint Arena. The Superbowl experience at Hance Park (the free one for residents) is a big festival with entertainment. It is family-friendly with local food vendors, etc. The Host Committee focused on women-owned, mentorship businesses. The first ever NFL-sponsored Superbowl Watch Party will be held at Hance Park. Admission is free. Bring your chairs and hang out.

The timeline for the NFL Experience is Sat. Feb. 4th - Sun Feb. 5th – open a weekend early before all the crowds come in the next weekend. Opening night is Mon. Feb. 6th at Footprint Center. The Bud Light Music Fest at Footprint Center includes Paramore on Thurs. Feb. 9th, the Dave Matthews Band on Fri., Feb. 10th; Imagine Dragons and Kane Brown on Sat. Feb. 11th. The Watch Party at Hance Park is on Sun. Feb. 12th.

The NFL Host Committee’s list of Super Bowl LVII events can be found online at <https://www.azsuperbowl.com/events/>. The City of Phoenix webpage with Super Bowl info. including transportation options is <https://www.phoenix.gov/pio/superbowl>.

The load-out for Hance Park will begin on Feb. 13th, and the City hopes to have everything out by the 15th.

Access Points Around Hance Park – Entrance is on the east side of the Central Ave. bridge. There are two additional entrances on 1st St and 2nd St. on the south side of the event. Willetta north and Portland south and Central and 3rd St. north and south for access.

Waste Diversion. In 2015, we set a goal for 80% waste diversion. We came up a little short. We were at 73%. We were on the leading edge of Super Bowl waste diversion at that point. We want to do better and have set a 92% diversion goal this year. Ninety percent is the industry standard for a zero-waste event. Minneapolis has the record for the 2018 Super Bowl: 91.3% waste diversion. How is this accomplished? Recycle program, food de-packager, state-of-the-art compost facility, etc. Volunteer Zero Waste ambassadors will be assisting during the downtown events.

Parking platform will be through the ACE Parking App.

Where do you go for information? The NFL Host Committee website: azsuperbowl.com/events/, the NFL One Pass App has all the information for events. You can also purchase tickets on this app. Questions? email info@azsuperbowl.com.

Questions from neighbors:

Q: Will the downtown homeless not be placed into other neighborhoods during the Super Bowl events?

A: (Xandon Keating): They have a right to be there. We work together with Community Bridges, Phoenix PD, etc. to inform them of the upcoming events - park closure for events - and make sure they get services.

Q: Are there places for me to lock up my bike there?

A: We are pushing the NFL Host Committee to make sure that happens.

Block Watch Update: Erika Gagnon reported she has ordered 6 new signs for the neighborhood and is waiting for them to come in. She will start on Almeria and Edgemont with the signs and move into the center of the neighborhood as we purchase more of them. 1st Ave. and Wilshire - somebody ran into the dead-end wall. The City has been contacted.

Streets and Traffic Safety Committee Update: Opal Wagner reported we are waiting to hear back from Michael Cano, the project manager, for an update on when construction will begin on Phase One of the 3rd and 5th Avenues improvement project. The Streets and Transportation Department has been busy with Super Bowl preparations.

Zoning Committee Update: Brad Brauer reported the appeal regarding a two-story outbuilding at 309 W. Monte Vista takes place in Maricopa County Superior Court tomorrow.

Social Committee Update: Willo Happy Hour is tomorrow at 305 Windsor, hosted by Carey and Ben Fredlake. February’s “I Love Willo”-themed happy hour will be on Feb. 10th hosted by Patrice Wappel and Decker Williams.

Inside Willo Update: Sandra Lefcovich reported the Feb. submission deadline has been met and the February edition is largely devoted to Willo Home Tour 2023.

Social Media Update: Willo’s Facebook pages are continuing to grow. Fake spammers are monitored and removed as expeditiously as possible.

Elections Committee Update: Ann Bommersbach reported the Willo Board elections will be held in March of this year. Everyone needs to opt in by Feb. 15th to vote in the election. Nominations are complete with 12 candidates running for 13 board positions. Voting will be electronic, so everyone who has opted in will receive an email and a text with a link to the ballot. The list of candidates is Brad Brauer (President), Aaron Montaño Searles (Vice President), Linda Doescher (Treasurer), Charlene Gum, Dan Childers, Wylie Carhartt, Eric Gilmore, Jeremy Schachter, Jonathan Roberts, Lara Sands, Patrice Wappel and Sandra Lefcovich (Board Members). The election information will be published in Inside Willo, Willo Facebook and willophx.com.

Kleen Streets Update: Patrice Wappel reported she was out today and worked on the area around 5th Ave. and Windsor.

Old Business: Bob Cannon thanked Chris Norton for his work on Luminarias 2022. He also thanked Lara Sands for decorating Walton Park and for the Phoenix Spokespeople holiday bike ride.

New Business: Aaron Searles reported a theft by a porch pirate on Dec. 27th. Aaron made a motion that the Willo Board authorize its President Bob Cannon to write a letter to Councilwoman Laura Pastor with a copy to Phoenix PD requesting increased patrols in the Willo Neighborhood. Sandra Lefcovich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Decker Williams informed neighbors that Curtis, the gentleman known to many in Willo who had lived along Edgemont for many years had passed away.

Kevin O’Rourke expressed appreciation and thanks to Bob Cannon for the time and effort he has given leading Willo for the past 6 years. His service is very much appreciated.

Adjournment: Brad Brauer made a motion to adjourn, Patrice Wappel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The Willo Neighborhood Association Board’s next meeting will be on Feb. 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.