

Willo Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 2023, 6:30 p.m.  
BMO Harris Building, 1850 N. Central Ave., Sedona Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Brad Brauer, President.

Board members present in person: Brad Brauer, President; Aaron Searles, Vice President; Linda Doescher, Treasurer; Dan Childers; Eric Gilmore; Sandra Lefcovich; Jonathan Roberts; Lara Sands

Board members present via Zoom: Nicole Armstrong, Secretary; Robert Cannon, President Emeritus

Board members absent: Wylie Carhartt; Charlene Gum; Patrice Wappel; Jeremy Schachter

Other attendees: Sandy and Ken Sands; Zak Holman; Tom Doescher; Erika Gagnon; Keith Aldridge; and Erin Richardson, Sarah W., and Jim Gabler via Zoom

Guests: Officer Ben Harris, Phoenix Police Department

Approval of Minutes: Doescher moved to approve the draft minutes for the May meeting with one correction, Childers seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The Association's total assets as of May 31, 2023 are \$137,494.93. The Association's Block Watch grant ends this month, and renewal has not been confirmed. Doescher will present more information regarding the Edward Jones account in September. Roberts moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Lefcovich seconded, and the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues/Traffic and Safety: Committee Chair Robert Cannon reported that construction continues on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Construction will continue over the summer, east side curbs first, then west. There are no updates on bollard alternatives on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Work on the intersection at Thomas Road and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue will not begin until well into the fourth quarter due to discussion with the hospital. Cooling pavement is in testing with the city, so this project will not get it since it is not ready. Updates will be shared over the summer on social media.

Block Watch: Committee Chair Erika Gagnon reported that promotional items like reflective bands for cyclists and runners will be ordered soon. New signs to replace worn out neighborhood signs are here but have not been hung. New signs for households will be ordered in the next round of grant funding if it is awarded.

Officer Ben Harris gave an update on neighborhood crime incidents in the last five weeks:

- One residential burglary occurred when the suspect walked into an apartment while the tenant was walking outside of the apartment, and then locked himself inside. Hospital reports indicate that he was intoxicated at the time. He fired an unsecured Glock handgun that he found inside the apartment. He was removed by the SWAT team.
- One Willo-adjacent vehicle burglary occurred in the 500 block of West Thomas Road, in a parking lot.
- Other Willo incidents earlier in the year include one theft of a catalytic converter and one stolen vehicle.
- Motorcycle officers on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue during the past 3 weeks made 74 traffic stops.

In-person Block Watch meetings may resume later this year with Officer Harris in attendance.

Officer Harris asks that neighbors be vigilant regarding people in alleys, which is considered suspicious behavior, particularly between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. during the week.

Communications Strategy: Committee Chair Lefcovich reported that neighborhood feedback was positive regarding implementation of a text alert system for residents, so more information will be presented in September.

Inside Willo: The next issue will be in September. The deadline for this issue is July 1 because our graphic designer takes summer vacation. There will likely be a new printer for the September issue going forward. Advertising rates will increase by 10% in September, with an additional charge for inserts. Regular advertisers will pay the old price until January.

Social: Committee Chair Roberts reported that happy hours will take a break over the summer and resume in September. The Committee seeks hosts for the rest of the year. Roberts reminds neighbors that he will help prepare for happy hours, and he would like to continue monthly themes. The Committee is also potentially developing a coffee meetup and gardening group, and other ideas will follow.

Social Media: Committee Chair Lefcovich reported that Facebook discussion of the recent residential burglary incident resulted in extra monitoring of the group.

Zoning: Committee Chair Tom Doescher reported on three bills pending in the Arizona Legislature regarding construction of buildings up to 80 feet tall, in proximity to public transit (light rail). Current expectation is that nothing will happen with the bills in this session, but there is potential for similar bills in the next session.

#### Old Business:

- Financial audit: Treasurer Doescher is in talks with potential auditors. It is expected that a recommendation will be made to the board in September.

- Board Member Positions: Board members present at the meeting declared their preferred committees and individual goals for their term.

New Business:

- The Willo Neighborhood Association will not meet in July and August
- Searles reported that a letter from the Neighborhood Association was sent to Councilwoman Pastor in March, or thereabouts, regarding crime in the neighborhood. He wrote another letter to Pastor for all board members to sign, asking for increased police patrols in the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. following a motion by Searles and seconded by Roberts.

The next meeting of the Association will be September 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the BMO Harris Building, 1850 N. Central Ave., Sedona Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Nicole Armstrong, Secretary