

Willo Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m.  
Oven + Vine, 14 W. Vernon Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Brauer.

Board members present in person: Brad Brauer, President; Aaron Searles, Vice President; Nicole Armstrong, Secretary; Linda Doescher, Treasurer; Wylie Carhartt; Dan Childers; Eric Gilmore; Sandra Lefcovich; Jonathan Roberts; Lara Sands; Jeremy Schachter; Jim Smith; Patrice Wappel

Other attendees:

In person: Bobbi Ryals; Ed Buckel; Zak Holman; Brenda Munoz; Venancio Berrocoso; Decker Williams; Crawford Breedlove; Reid Martens; Courtney Sutherland; Erika Gagnon  
Via Zoom: Heidi Tancredi; Bob Cannon; Barry Sparkman; Danielle and Matt from Lewis Ave.

Approval of Minutes: Secretary Armstrong presented the minutes from the December 2023 meeting. Childers made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Doescher, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Doescher presented the Treasurer's Report, including financial reports comparing the Home Tour budget from 2023 and 2024. The Association's total current assets as of December 31, 2023 are \$150,842.26. Childers made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as written, seconded by Lefcovich, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues/Traffic and Safety: Committee Chair Bob Cannon reported on email communication he received recently from Rubben Lolly, the Deputy Street Transportation Director. Although the design of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue portion of the project is complete, the City is still in the process of acquiring right of way on some parcels. Streetlight installation along 3<sup>rd</sup> will happen soon, followed by additional work once right of way is acquired. Signage along the route has been updated and the section is anticipated to be completed this spring. Chair Cannon has not seen the final design, as it stands, for 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Design for the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue portion is also complete, with reviewing and finalizing occurring in the coming weeks, along with additional right of way acquisition that is expected to be complete within 60 days. Construction on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue will resume once right of way acquisition is complete. No date for completion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue portion of the project was given.

Board Member Schachter noted that he is eager for permanent stop signs to replace the temporary stop signs at cross streets along 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Cannon requested that President Brauer send a letter to the Street Transportation Department to express the neighborhood's disappointment in the project's progress along both avenues, asking the City to uphold their initial promises from when the project began. Schacter made a motion that the letter be written and sent, seconded by Smith, motion passed.

Block Watch: Committee Chair Erika Gagnon reported that she has received new Block Watch signs for posting, and the hardware to do so will be coming soon. She also announced that she is resigning as Chair of the Block Watch Committee. Bobbi Ryals (Lewis) volunteered to serve as the new Chair. Roberts moved that Ryals be appointed as the new Block Watch Committee Chair, Wappel seconded, motion passed. Ryals stated that her initial goal as Chair is to identify Block Watch Captains for each 100, 300, and 500 block throughout the neighborhood. Crawford Breedlove stated that he will personally donate \$400.00 to a Block Watch meeting/party if Roberts sends an informational email to the Social Committee's email list and if Schachter sends an informational text to subscribers of the neighborhood's new texting service, informing subscribers about the event.

Social Media/Communications Strategy: Committee Chair Schachter reported that there are 108 subscribers to the neighborhood's new text messaging service. There have been some technical issues with receiving text announcements and subscribing to the service. Home Tour Committee Co-Chair Courtney Sutherland reported that both a Tik Tok and Instagram page for the Home Tour have been created, but no content has been posted yet. There was discussion of who will manage these pages once the 2024 Home Tour is over since there have been problems with this in the past.

Home Tour: Committee Co-Chairs Courtney Sutherland and Crawford Breedlove reviewed the schedule of upcoming events: January 19 is the next organizational meeting for the Home Tour team; January 27 is the appreciation dinner/cocktail party for homeowners and committee chairs; February 2 is the happy hour/training session for Home Tour volunteers and docents; February 16 is the final organizational meeting for the team prior to the Twilight Tour the following evening and the Home Tour the next day.

There will be food trucks near the beer tent on the evening of the Twilight Tour. There will be 2 coffee carts on the morning of the tour – one near Cambridge and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and one near Lewis and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

105 vendors have applied to participate, 85 of those have paid. Sunday will include a composting workshop at a non-tour home.

The Co-Chairs discussed receipt of some negative comments and rude interactions while planning this year's tour. President Brauer asked for more information to be shared privately.

Local real estate agent James Judge is responsible for accruing 6 houses in the final hours of tour planning, essentially saving the tour from cancellation.

Inside Willo: Committee Chair Lefcovich reported that the next issue is going to print at the same time as the Home Tour brochure. It will include a flyer regarding the neighborhood's new text message subscription.

Luminaria: Committee Chair Chris Norton was not present to discuss 2023's luminaria. President Brauer mentioned one complaint he received from a resident, with whom he is in contact.

Social: Committee Chair Roberts reported that the January happy hour's theme is the 1980s. Volunteers loaned 2 firepits and a propane heater to the host's backyard for the event. Happy hour hosts are booked through October 2024.

#### Old Business:

- Board Member Smith presented ideas to waterproof luminaria for future years. Although it did not rain during the luminaria period in 2023, humidity destroyed many bags. Smith proposes an inquiry to compare costs of converting to 100% reusable plastic bags. He will work with Committee Chair Norton and other volunteers to present information in future meetings.
- President Brauer led discussion regarding the north side of the 500 block of Edgemont and its unsightly state. He proposed the question of whether the neighborhood association should commit funds to clean and maintain that area. Discussion followed, with initial consensus of those present answering no. Brauer asked that everyone go take a look at the area and think about feasible solutions. Discussion tabled.

#### New Business:

- President Brauer stated that materials the neighborhood rents for the Home Tour have gone up in price by approximately \$1500 this year, so the budget for Home Tour may increase next year.
- President Brauer asked that all board members answer the question: What do you, as a board member, want to accomplish in 2024? Responses will be presented and discussed at the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. following a motion by Childers, seconded by Wappel, motion passed.

The next meeting of the Association will be Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Oven+Vine, 14 W. Vernon Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003.

Nicole Armstrong, Secretary