

Willo Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Oven + Vine, 14 W. Vernon Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Brad Brauer.

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

Board members present via Zoom: Linda Doescher, Treasurer; Lara Sands

Board members absent: Jeremy Schachter

Other attendees:

In person: Bobbi Ryals; Tricia Amato; Courtney Sutherland; Reid Mertens; Gregg Carrington; Ed Buckel; Bob Cannon, President Emeritus; Tom Doescher; Venancio Berrocoso; Shawn Torstveit; Beth and Doug Plascencia

Via Zoom: Ellen Fong; Scott Ferreira; Jim Gabler; Barry Sparkman

Guests: Joseph Brown and Brenda Munoz, City of Phoenix

Approval of Minutes: Secretary Armstrong presented the minutes from the January meeting. Searles made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Wappel, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Doescher presented the Treasurer's Report as well as a comparison of Home Tour budget and expenses for last year and this year so far. The Association's total current assets as of January 31, 2024 are \$140,231.73. Searles made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as written, seconded by Lefcovich, motion passed.

Guest Presentations:

Joseph Brown, Director of City of Phoenix's Street Transportation Department, addressed the membership. Brown began work with the City in November, coming from New York, and has inherited our project on 3rd and 5th Avenues. There are still property/real estate issues to resolve with respect to the project. One of 2 contractors is preparing to start work on 3rd Avenue - it could be finished in April at the earliest, but may take longer. 5th Avenue will restart shortly, as well, once property issues are resolved. Both are very close to being done.

Condemnations and acquisitions are the hold-ups. Brown is not aware of any redesign for 5th Avenue. He has no information regarding multiple streetlights recently added along 3rd Avenue: how bright will they be, will they also be installed on 5th, will they affect trees in the right of way, etc.

Bob Cannon revisited original discussions of historic streetlights that were taken off the table due to cost. He stated that Willo would have preferred historic versions of lamp posts rather than current lights being installed that we don't recall seeing on any previous plans. Brown will report back on lighting issues.

Brenda Munoz, from the Communications wing of Laura Pastor's office (District 4), attended the meeting, introduced herself to the membership, and shared her contact information:
Brenda.munoz.murguia@phoenix.gov (602) 262-6214

Committee Reports:

3rd and 5th Avenue/Traffic and Safety: Committee Chair Bob Cannon reported that there are no big changes to report since last month's meeting. There are concerns about the lack of progress on both 3rd and 5th Avenues.

President Brauer explained that the letter discussed in last month's meeting was not sent in deference to hearing the presentation from Director Brown at tonight's meeting. He plans to send the letter following tonight's meeting.

Social: Committee Chair Roberts reported that tomorrow is the February happy hour. The theme is winter white.

Social Media/Communications Strategy: Lefcovich reported that over 150 people have joined the neighborhood's texting service. Our website has lists of vendors, food trucks, and music for Home Tour. Short term rental info has also been posted on the website and Facebook.

Inside Willo: Committee Chair Lefcovich reported that the March issue will have a Home Tour focus to recap the event.

Home Tour: Committee Co-Chair Courtney Sutherland reported on ticket sales (526 for Twilight Tour and 668 for Sunday as of this afternoon). There are 9 sponsors this year. The street fair has 135 vendors that have paid, with 146 spots, so they are waiting on some final payments. There is a wait list for next year's vendors. All homes will have musicians. *New Times* ad and billboards came out today. KTAR radio interviews will be broadcast on Sunday morning, plus other ad spots on other stations. President Brauer is working with some TV stations for spots. February 16 will be the final organization meeting prior to the tour, and last-minute stuff. There will be a March meeting to wrap up and start planning for next year.

Zoning: Committee Chair Tom Doescher reported that 2 new bills with the exact wording as bills from last year regarding historic preservation have been introduced under the guise of "affordability," although the text of neither bill includes that term. There have been several hearings with lots of pushback from historic neighborhoods because they are not exempt from requirements in the bills.

The Historic Preservation Office has meetings coming up to look at how Phoenix preserves its history, etc. T. Doescher will share information about them so neighbors can participate. A study done by PlaceEconomics, containing recommendations, will be discussed.

Block Watch: Committee Chair Ryals recently installed new signs with the help of volunteers. She has recruited 5 new block captains, though some blocks still need captain volunteers. New signs for either the window or a yard with a new design in red will likely be ordered.

New Business:

- President Brauer again noted the price increase of \$700 for rentals associated with the Home Tour. The Association may want to consider whether we buy more of our own equipment or do we keep spending on rentals.
- Willo recently had no representation in the Arizona Legislature since both of our representatives resigned. Vice President Searles reported that Sara Ligouri was selected to fill the seat of Jennifer Longdon. A replacement for Amish Shah will be selected soon.
- Rules for short term rentals within the City of Phoenix were recently published by the City. A link to the information is now posted on the Association's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. following a motion by Searles and seconded by Carhartt. Motion passed.

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

Nicole Armstrong, Secretary