

Willo Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Oven + Vine, 14 W. Vernon Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by President Brad 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; Lara Sands; Jim Smith; Patrice Wappel

Board members absent: Jonathan Roberts; Jeremy Schachter

Other attendees/Guests:

In person: Ed Buckel; Courtney Sutherland; Reid Mertens; Tricia Gomes; Tricia Amato; Bobbi Ryals; Tom Doescher; Decker Williams; James Rex Nelson; Rudy Ramirez; Anne Carman; Jessican Sallurday; Jen Barnett; Eric Prochnow; Chris Norton; Crawford Breedlove; Valerie Lane Gentz; Xandon Keating

Via Zoom: James Gough; Jim Gabler; Jordyn [no last name]

Guest Presentation: Xandon Keating, Deputy Director of Economic Development from the City of Phoenix, addressed the membership regarding the “mega event” planned for the first weekend in April when the men’s NCAA Final Four basketball playoff games will be played in Glendale. Major events associated with the playoffs will occur downtown, including a fan festival at the Phoenix Convention Center and a music festival in Hance Park. Keating was joined by several other City employees, staff from DTPHX, and colleagues from the 501(c)3 non-profit host committee.

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

Armstrong also stated that she will not be present at next month’s meeting; therefore, another board member must take minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Doescher presented the Treasurer’s Report. The Association’s total current assets as of February 29, 2024 are \$186,190.32. The report included financials from last month’s home tour: total ticket sales were 601 for the Twilight Tour and 2647 on Sunday. Total income from this year’s home tour was \$117,293.78, and total home tour expenses were \$56,725.07.

Committee Reports:

Zoning: Committee Member Tom Doescher reported that the bill he discussed in last month’s meeting is on the Governor’s desk for action. Construction is also underway at the lot between Virginia and Cambridge on 1st Avenue.

Communications Strategy: Committee Chair Lefcovich reported that photographs taken at last month's home tour will be posted on the website and social media.

Inside Willo: Committee Chair Lefcovich reported that the next issue will feature a centerfold of photographs from the recent home tour.

Home Tour: Committee Co-Chair Crawford Breedlove reported that there will be a wrap-up/feedback meeting on March 15 for committee chairs and other home tour participants to share thoughts about this year's tour, and start planning for 2025. The Co-Chairs have some survey responses from this year's participants. Board Member Childers recommended that future tours include a first aid station.

Block Watch: Committee Chair Bobbi Ryals reported that an individual suspected of creating graffiti in the neighborhood as well as thieving a package is close to being apprehended. Ryals recently emailed all individuals identified as Block Captains and revised the active volunteers. There are eleven Block Captain vacancies. The first meeting of Block Captains will be April 27 at Walton Park, with guest speaker Community Action Officer Ben Harris. Harris plans to discuss the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol program.

Kids' Club: Committee Chair Valerie Lane Gentz reported that she recently took on the Chairperson's role again. She encourages any neighborhood parents to contact her if they are interested in helping with Kids' Club or planning events. The Kids' Club's next event will be March 29: a Safety in the Park Spring Fling partnership with the Roosevelt Action Committee and the FQ Story Mothers' Group. The event will be on Amphitheater Island in Encanto Park.

New Business:

- President Brauer appointed Reid Mertens as Quartermaster of the Association's storage unit.
- President Brauer stated that Luminaria Committee Chair Chris Norton submitted a request for purchase of new equipment, which will be addressed in next month's meeting.
- President Brauer reported that someone in engineering from the City of Phoenix will attend next month's meeting to discuss recurring flooding in the neighborhood along 3rd Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. following a motion by Armstrong and seconded by Gilmore. Motion passed.

The next meeting of the Association will be Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Oven+Vine, 14 W. Vernon Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003.

Nicole Armstrong, Secretary