

McDuffie-Twin Parks Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Temporary Steering Committee Meeting, June 11, 2008, 6:30pm
Highland Senior Activities Center – 131 Monroe NE, Albuquerque

Temporary Steering Committee (“Board”) Members Present: Bill Hoch, Charlene Brown, Enid Howarth (late), Gary Harrison, Kathleen Kimler Altobelli, Laurie Moye, Mark Hyland. Absent: Carla Kugler, John Scariano.

Guests: Sergeant M. Grossetete with the Albuquerque Police Dept (APD) SE Area Command, the architect on the 4412 Avenida Estrellita plan, and about 20 neighborhood residents.

The meeting began at 6:35 pm with a welcome by Bill followed by self-introductions.

The owners of 4412 Avenida Estrellita presented information on their request for a conditional use permit to change a back-yard shed to a bedroom and bathroom. They asked for a letter of support from the Neighborhood Association. Following discussion, Gary moved that we support the conditional use permit for 4412 Avenida Estrellita NE. Laurie seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Bill will send a letter to the Hearing Examiner to relay our support for the permit.

Sgt Grossetete from APD provided some information on fireworks regulations in anticipation of July 4th (legal limits in the city: no more than 10 feet high, no more than a 6 foot radius, no louder than pistol caps) and said to call 311 if see illegal fireworks. Information on recent criminal activity was shared by neighborhood residents and Sgt Grossetete will follow up on some items (possible drug dealing, car going at high speeds). A resident reported calling APD substation to report on multiple break-ins on Avenida Estrellita – she was told that APD would do extra rounds in the area. Sgt Grossetete stressed that anyone making a brazen break-in is likely to be on drugs and that residents should not interact with the person, but call the police and give as much detailed information as possible. The sergeant was thanked and left.

The empty lot across from Twin Parks was discussed. Residents reported that a 7500 sq foot residence is planned for the lot, but that the lot is also for sale and construction has not started yet. Neighborhood folks are concerned about the size of the residence and the condition of the empty lot. Laurie informed us that there are fugitive dust and storm water runoff prevention laws as well as regulations requiring silt fencing around dirt lots. The owner must abide by these regulations. If the building plans meet R-1 code requirements, there will be no action that the neighborhood association can take. Kathleen encouraged everyone to call 311 with complaints about non-compliance with city regulations as well as for other problems, and to note the tracking number for later follow-up if the problem is not resolved.

Laurie reported on the Neighborhood Association Leadership Meeting that Sally Mayer held. Several associations are dealing with liquor sales issues and there are currently hearings being held on the validity of city laws that are more restrictive than state laws, so there will be more developments on this issue soon. Ideas that Laurie got at the Meeting about attracting members were discussed. Briefly: leaving self-addressed envelopes with membership applications on doors, holding a bike safety program for adults and youth and offer bikes and helmets, collections for Roadrunner Food Bank, stuffed animal collection for hospitals or shelters in the holiday season, “safe homes” for Halloween, offer services like evaporative cooler connecting and lawn mowing to the elderly (perhaps working with City’s Office of Senior Services), do clean-up in April (Keep Albuquerque Beautiful Month), collect hazardous wastes and e-waste, invite the neighborhood’s state senators and representatives to an April meeting to discuss just-finished legislative session. Julia Jones (who is with another Neighborhood Association) is willing to talk to associations about membership recruitment, so Laurie was asked to invite her. Kathleen volunteered to check with City’s hazardous waste program about possibilities for neighborhood clean-ups and possibly a battery collection program.

Bill announced that brochures from the City’s annual block captains meeting will continue to be available at our Board meetings and encouraged folks to take them to find out the latest in crime prevention. He also had about 30 “Slow Down Albuquerque” yard signs available – and is willing to get more from APD SE Area Command if needed. It was suggested that we work on getting a sign on every corner.

Gary asked about political signs – they must be taken down within 30 days of the election – and offenders can be reported by calling 311. [Enid arrived.]

It was decided that the next flyer should announce that National Night Out is August 5th and residents are encouraged to participate.

Charlene reported that we have \$176.75 and 49 memberships.

A resident suggested that the flyers have a brief section, "This is what you missed at the last Board meeting" as a way of getting the word out about what happened and to encourage attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm on a motion by Laurie, seconded by Kathleen.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli