

## **BBVNA Neighborhood Meeting -- Meeting Minutes September 26, 2018 Robison Elementary School Cafeteria**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, with Board President Barbara Becker presiding.  
Attendance: Approximately 40.

- 1) Welcome messages. Barbara opened the meeting and welcomed the group.
- 2) Minutes from our last neighborhood meeting on March 15, 2018, were brought for consideration, and were approved by a vote of those in attendance.
- 3) Treasurer's Report. Rita Toland reported that we currently have \$16,231.83 combined in our checking and savings accounts. Further details were provided in the Historic Designation presentation later in the meeting.
- 4) Greetings from Robison School.
  - New principal Norma Flores was introduced, and welcomed us to the school. Norma has 20 years of experience with TUSD, and her orientation to Robison is going well. She encouraged neighbors to consider volunteering at the school, and to use the state credits on their income taxes to support the school through donations.
  - Andrea Selleck was also introduced. Andrea is community liaison at the school, and coordinates donation drives that benefit the school's population. She thank us for the donations of children's socks and underwear that neighbors brought to the meeting. With many students coming from lower-income homes, Robison also tries to provide shoes, food boxes, and hygiene kits to the students in need. Donations of these items can be brought to the school anytime.
- 5) Neighborhood Watch programs / Introduction of TPD Office Barghout.
  - Margaret Johnson encouraged neighbors to sign up as volunteer block captains for our neighborhood watch program, or as volunteers in the new TPD program "Dog Walkers' Watch". People who regularly walk or jog the neighborhood (with or without dogs!) can attend a short TPD seminar on how to spot signs of crime that should be reported.
  - Margaret introduced Officer Zack Barghout, the new Lead Police Officer for our part of Midtown. As an LPO, Officer Barghout's focus is on chronic, non-emergency issues in the neighborhood (e.g., graffiti, stolen bikes, etc.) See the new link on the TPD website where any individual can contact Officer Barghout to bring these issues to his attention. Online, go to TPD's website, click on Midtown, click on "Contact your Lead Police Officer", then click on our neighborhood on the map, and it will bring up Officer Barghout's contact information. Officer Barghout also said that the Department will be working internally this month on the scheduling of bicycle officer resources for us again this year on Halloween. Agreed is that Margaret Johnson will be a central point of communication that night, and will have the ability to contact the bicycle officers directly if any issues arise.
- 6) Living Streets Alliance. Jacqui Bauer, BBVN neighbor and volunteer with Living Streets Alliance, presented on two topics.
  - a) There is currently a "Complete Streets" ordinance under development by the City which will provide design guidelines to ensure roads safely accommodate all forms of travel (cars, bikes,

walkers, strollers, wheelchairs, etc.). These guidelines would be implemented for new road designs and when existing roads are renovated.

- b) Proposition 407 will be on the ballot this November, and if passed, will fund significant infrastructure improvements in roadways, walking and bike paths, and other connectors in the County.

During discussion, neighbors brought up several road safety concerns within the neighborhood:

- Continued concerns regarding traffic and confused drivers on Eastbourne Ave near Broadway Village;

- Concerns about cars driving unsafely and too fast along South Stratford, and at the intersection between Stratford and Devon, Exeter, and Croyden.

Due to limited time in the agenda, no formal action steps were decided, but these topics may warrant further discussion.

#### 7) Historic Designation:

- Mike Weingarten provided an update of the Historic Designation project, highlighting the following points of progress since our last neighborhood meeting in March:

- a) We now have the definitive list of which homes will be recommended as contributing properties;

- b) We have raised about \$12,500 in that time, through fundraisers and neighbor donations; and

- c) We have acquired a grant, which will bring us \$15,960 of state money.

Elaborating on the grant: The money comes from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and is administered through the City of Tucson's Historic Preservation Office. The City Manager has now signed off on the grant, making it officially approved. The grant comes with a 60-40 match requirement, so we are required to raise \$10,640 in order to qualify for that state money.

- Rita Toland provided a review of the finances. Bottom line, with the grant in place, we have made exceptional progress in funding this project.

- We have already paid via cash and volunteer efforts \$43,320 toward the total \$76,000 contract for this work.

- The grant of \$15,960 plus the required \$10,640 in local match will fund the remaining work needed to complete the nomination and get it submitted for review – a truly significant milestone point! We have already raised, since July 1, about \$8000 of that \$10,640 requirement, meaning we only need about \$2600 more to get to the point of funding the completed and submitted nomination proposal.

- Beyond that, we will need to raise \$6080 more to pay for the final work by our consulting architect to manage communications with the review bodies to support the nomination through that review process.

- Chris Evans, our consulting architect, was on hand to share his perspectives and to answer questions.

He noted that the research on the neighborhood has been completed, as well as the evaluation phase of judging each house. Still to go is building the extensive documentation sheets, in the required detailed formats, with the information about each home. He described the process ahead of us. He expects to be able to complete that documentation work and submit the nomination within the next 6-12 months. At that point, it typically takes another 6-12 months for the review processes to be completed. Three different bodies must review the application: SHPO, the State Historic Sites Review Board, and then the National Register.

Once our nomination is approved, Chris will provide the neighborhood with a set of guidelines for how to maintain the historic character of our homes, and instructions on how to file the application forms to change the tax status of the contributing properties. The district maintains its status for 15 years, and then can be renewed. To date, Chris has not seen renewal refused for any district. Asked about the probability that we will be approved, Chris said that there is no guarantee, but given how quickly and strongly our ROPE (the screening pre-application process) was approved, and the fact that the City has listed us as a top-10 candidate for historic designation, he fully expects that our nomination will be approved.

There was further general discussion about potentially disqualifying home changes, particularly regarding windows. There are alternatives for window replacements that meet the historic character requirements on our website. There was also discussion about how to raise the remaining funds needed. Many neighbors have been very generous in their contributions to this project, and we are greatly thankful to them. And while the recent letters and newsletters have generated excellent new donations from others, there are still many neighbors who own contributing properties who have not yet contributed. We agreed that we need to increase the communication and the education for these homeowners about the financial advantages that historic designation will bring to them, and to solicit their participation in the final fundraising efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Weingarten, BBVNA Secretary