

THE ROOSEVELT NEIGHBORHOOD

MINUTES OF THE ROOSEVELT ACTION ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY MEETING

APRIL 18, 2023, at 6:15 PM

Winship House, Phoenix, AZ 85003 & Google Meets

BOARD PRESENT: Officers – President Joan Kelchner, Treasurer Chase Kassel, Secretary Braxton Hynes

Board – Bill Scheel, Kate Kunberger, Claire Nelson

BOARD ABSENT: Vice President Michael Koss, Bill Scheel

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Caroline van Slyke, Aaron Kane, Helena Ruter, Jeffrey Ferns, Jim Scrug, Michelle Scrug, John Zanotti, Maria Zanotti, Oscar Selles, Terri, Shara Galonsky, Kim Kasper, Andy Miller, Cassandra Lucas, Emily Crain, Krista Andersy, Frank Giordano, Rick Naimark

AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Joan Kelchner called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of last month's minutes will be deferred to the next meeting. Due to the transition of the new board, the full member email list is still being updated. Both February and March Minutes need to be approved.

GENERAL WELCOME Joan Kelchner, President

Joan gave a general welcome and introduced the new Members of the Board and the community members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT Chase Kassel, Treasurer

Written report is included in the Appendix.

NEW BUSINESS

CRIME & TRAFFIC SAFETY DISCUSSION, Community Action Officer Ben Harris

Officer Harris stated that he looked up calls for service all the way back to January 1st. Both officers (South and North were invited) only North (Ben) was in attendance. He stated he is more

frequently dealing with trespassers along McDowell Rd and Central. Graffiti issues in 500 block of Lynwood. Most prevalent issue has been stolen vehicles. Club on the steering wheel is the best deterrent. People leaving a spare set of keys inside the car - please don't do this.

Community member asked if he is patrolling encampments. He stated no, patrol officers do that. Community member asked which calls should go to 911. He stated, medical emergency, violent crime in progress. Crime Stop should be reserved for crimes already happening or about to happen but not emergent nature such as suspicious behavior like casing. People that are in the alley that don't belong there. His phone number is (602) 684-3079. Best way to reach him is via e-mail benjamin.harris@phoenix.gov.

Community members highlighted numerous dangerous traffic issues: 5th and 3rd ave traffic issues. 3rd ave & McDowell. Very dangerous intersection, South side, doing donuts at 7th ave and McKinley. Bike Lane construction in Willo - recommended officer with traffic control department. Difficulty on 7th ave and Roosevelt, being able to take a right on red onto 7th ave would be good. Claire indicated that the "old timey" street lights are broken lights. Not sure if it's vandalism or wear and tear.

"THE ZONE" UPDATE, Aaron Kane, Ansari's Office

The Zone is the area around the human services campus around CASS where people are camping on the streets. Sued to make it illegal for people living on the street. Being in the vicinity of the zone keeps. Almost all of our shelters are full. Lot of talk about people not accepting services, but the fact is that they're just not there at the moment. What we're working with the state and governor is temporary shelters. Indoor building that the state owns that they've moved offices out of that they're looking to open as an emergency shelter. Looking that turf and shade is available and it's a limited space. 800 shelter beds coming online in the next year and half at 22nd ave and lower Buckeye. Congregate and non congregate shelter. Couple more shelters are coming in the next year or so.

Community member asked where the building and state lot are. Mr. Kane responded that he doesn't know the exact cross streets and that the city must comply by July 1st. Opening more shelters throughout the city.

Community member stated that the old Kmart at Northern and the freeway, such a bad intersection where the unsheltered are camping on sidewalks at the bridge at the Starbucks and the other fast food restaurant. They don't let you in the building anymore because it's gotten so bad. Mr. Kane stated that the City purchased the Kmart building and it's being turned into a Workforce development center.

Community member asked if there is going to be a date when everyone is cleared out. Mr. Kane stated July 1st. He said they are starting relief outreach May 1st to make sure people have access to cooling centers and supplies. He can reach out to our Homeless Services Office to give updates as well

COMMITTEE UPDATES

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, Kate Kunberger

Grant has been obtained for redevelopment of City Motel, it's going to be preserved and converted into a hotel. A new Farmer's Market will be implemented at Walter Studios, which will be an interesting addition to the neighborhood.

BLOCK WATCH COMMITTEE, Mark Davis and Caroline Van Syke

Neighborhood-wide newsletter delivered to each house 500 copies. Still need to get the Zoom

invoices from last year and Quickbooks from Chase. South Roosevelt steering committee focus on paseo and 1st avenue, getting it narrowed to help with traffic. Doing community outreach to have better communication. Fenced property on 3rd avenue between where paseo would go through their site plan they have submitted to the city for a huge high rise apartment complex. That piece of the paseo looks like it's going to happen.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE, Bill Scheel and Joan Kelchner

Update from Helena Ruter, Phoenix Historic Preservation Officer. Status of 850 N. 2nd Ave House

Had some phone calls about OC Thompson house on 2nd ave and Roosevelt with concerns about demolition. It is designated as a Roosevelt historic district. Went out last Friday with consultant that does house moving and were looking at a number of properties downtown. Unfortunately, Chris Mackie and community ED had been tipped off about this property. She did reach out of the attorney's office. They do plan to move some staff back in there and reactivate the building. There are no intentions to demolish or move the building. It's an attorney that owns it that will be reactivating it. Joan stated that she thinks that is part of a streetscape along Roosevelt that cannot be turned down or moved. She knows the AZ preservation foundation has listed their grant process for Main Street Grant. She thinks of Roosevelt St as the Main St for the Roosevelt Area. One of our [RAA's] missions is historic preservation. We have assisted private owners with saving buildings. Helena stated that one of the lots in question was on 5th ave, it was a city owned lot. She had done different consultations with folks and looked at moving it there specifically. The city decided to hire someone who does house moving (one left in the state of az). By that point, Matt had started discussions with Salvation Army who has the lot across the street. Due to width of the house and height of the house, level of deconstruction and reconstruction doesn't make it feasible to do it. She introduced a May 3rd event (see appendix). Lifting 375 n 4th ave in June. The commission said that the building is turn of the century, not in the best condition, felt it was eligible for designation. Commission initiated designation. Owners worked with an architect to retain the house but remove the subsequent addition and do a new development. Came back before commission, commission withdrew the initiation. We approved to demolish the rear addition. Heard rumors that it's going to come back on the market. Andy stated to make sure the board puts their full weight behind the Pew House. Helena said it's the same property owners who have owned it for decades. Several convos with Goldie Birch (owner). Reached out to their son, he wants to reactivate it as a resto. We can assist with grant funding ,whatever we can do. Think he has good intentions, but it's hard... Will keep following up with him and make sure that he knows we're ready to help. Rick said if you see something, say something. Lots of issues with trespassing and drugs. Be sure to call the non-emergency line.

HANCE PARK UPDATE, Caroline Van Syke

On Friday, the Hance Park Conservancy is having their annual meeting.

WINSHIP HOUSE VACANT LOT DISCUSSION

Joan stated that they are reimagining goals and what they want to be doing with the park and the vacant lot. She has been trying to push for some ideas so that we don't have a vacant lot anymore. The lot is not in the current master plan. Rather than try another master plan, there have been discussions about what we can bring up and what we can fund. Can we fund at least elements that work in that vacant lot, such as sculptures, landscaping, more parking for friendship garden, pick up and drop off lane, hardscape that would be pretty and look like plaza, bricks idea, something that is also handicapped

accessible. We want to work with Sister Cities and some other people. Traffic needs to look at this. Funding. We're not getting any bond money for the park. City hasn't done bonds for 15 years. If we wait for the city to do an RFP, we're looking at another 5 or 10 years before anything happens. RAA is a 501c3 nonprofit. We have been doing fundraising since 1984. What do we use it for? Newsletter. Website. Anything physical? We almost never do. And yet we're doing fundraising, we should be setting aside some of the stuff we do fundraising for that beautify the neighborhood, support historic preservation etc. Terri stated that she has not been able to find out the Hance Park plan to eliminate the parking lot. Rick stated that the plan hasn't changed. He can bring back the parking numbers - they did an analysis. He'll bring it to the next meeting. One of the things Joan and he have worked on, rather than focus on how many spaces are attached to the park itself, is to think about parking holistically. Plan to do a parking plan for the whole park. Shuttle from the library parking lot. **A Portland in the Park resident** said that he is concerned that we're once again talking about parking. In this empty lot, the backyard of the building, we had a rather large community meeting. We had consensus that this should not be used for parking. It's great that it's part of the park and a really unique residential street.

AZ MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE

The Open House is on Friday, April 28th 3-5 PM at 1415 N 7th Ave (at Lynwood). Chase said that it's the commercial lot on the south side. Inviting everyone to come, with nibbles and drinks. It's an office building that's been an office building for decades. Attend if you can.

NEWSLETTER

Joan stated that digital newsletters should go out once a month in between meetings. It's going to have a lot of information. Want something going out a couple times a year. Terri advocated for hardcopy information out.

FINANCIALS

Chase moved to remove outgoing board members (Bryan Korte, Ryan Tempest, Doug Churchill, Kevin Haasarud) from the RAA Chase Bank Account and to designate current board President Joan Kelchner as the new owner of that account. Claire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Joan adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

May 16, 2023, 6:15 PM at the Winship House & Google Meets

Appendix

I. Treasurer's Written Report

The balance of our Chase Bank account was **\$38,328.98** at the time of our last RAA meeting on March 21, 2023.

In the past month, the following deposits were made into our account:

- \$50.00 in membership dues
- \$.31 in interest

The following expenses were incurred:

- \$31.98 for Zoom
- \$32.58 for QuickBooks
- \$3.51 in PayPal processing fees.

The current balance of our account, as of April 17, 2023, is: **\$38,311.32** with \$811.48 in checking and \$37,528.42 in savings. The difference in balance from last month is -\$17.97.

There is a balance of \$0 in our PayPal account.

II. Phoenix Historic Preservation Event on May 3rd at 6 PM

PHX HISTORY TRIVIA NIGHT!!!

WEDNESDAY MAY 3, 2023
6 PM

PHOENIX MASONIC TEMPLE
345 W. MONROE STREET

- OPENING REMARKS BY MAYOR KATE GALLEGO
- TEAMS OF 3-4
- PRIZES & REFRESHMENTS!

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH TO
[HISTORIC@PHOENIX.GOV.](mailto:HISTORIC@PHOENIX.GOV)

Hosted by the PHX Historic Preservation Office & The
Mayor's Office Official Historian

METERED PARKING ALONG THE STREET OR PAY AT 305 W.
WASHINGTON STREET GARAGE (ENTER OFF 4TH AVENUE,
SOUTH OF WASHINGTON ST)