

ROOSEVELT ACTION ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

1/21/2025

WINSHIP HOUSE

Board members present: Joan Kelchner, Bill Scheel; Bryan Korte, Carol Finney, Caroline Van Slyke, Anna Flaaten, Joe Pfeiff

Neighborhood residents present: 8      Virtual: 7

Community Police Officer: 1

**Minutes** of November meeting: Carol Finney

The November meeting was a Holiday Social event at the Winship House. No minutes were recorded. In December, funds from the Block Watch grant sponsored the annual neighborhood Luminaria Festival.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bryan Korte

Bank Checking Account Balance: \$3,654.53

Savings Account Balance: \$35,858.28

**Community Action Officer's Report:** Officer Jeff Howell

Location of Cooling Center, Summer of 2025: no confirmation or denial from the City regarding repeat use of the Burton Barr Library.

Crime incidence: there has been an uptick in graffiti in S. Roosevelt.

Officer Howell encourages residents to report as "criminal damage" to the police department.

Neighborhood residents are informed of several incidences of calls reporting indecent exposure perpetrated by a known sex offender. There have been no arrests due to victims' refusal to press charges and lack of witnesses. The police are pursuing all leads.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Issues related to homelessness:** Joe Pfeiff and Caroline Van Slyke

Both Joan and Caroline attended the Hance Park Conservancy Meeting and presented RAA's concerns for safety of those utilizing the Park, as well as maintenance of aesthetics and cleanliness throughout the Park. Joe reports that loitering and trash in the Park is

worse than it's ever been, despite efforts to communicate the need for increased security. Joan suggested that perhaps some of the profits from Noche en Blanco be used to fund security in the Park. It is also suggested that R.A.A. invite Sarah McCann, from the Office of Homeless Solutions, to present an update on available beds for those in need—at the next neighborhood meeting.

**Le Taco Arizona State Liquor License Hearing:** Kate Kunberger & Patricia Zermeno

A group of residents closest to the Le Taco Business entered into stipulation negotiations with the owners of Le Taco--relating to the new business, concerning noise levels, alley cleanup responsibilities, hours for deliveries, etc. The stipulations are similar to other nearby businesses. Officer Howell clarified the difference between the liquor license, which comes from the State, and the use of stipulations, which are noted by the city—including the police department (who do support them). The residents and the Le Taco business owners have agreed that the stipulations will be presented at the liquor license hearing. At the request of the impacted residents, the President of R.A.A. wrote a letter of support of the stipulations, to the liquor board--however said letter was not authorized by the board or the general membership. After a general discussion, Bill Scheel moved that:

R.A.A. write a superseding letter to the AZ State Liquor Board with the following points:

1. Support for the liquor license for Le Taco with stipulations negotiated between Lynwood neighbors and the business establishment.
2. Affirm that the neighborhood support has been voted on at a full public meeting of the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association, pursuant to RAA bylaws and consistent with Arizona State Liquor Board Requirements.

Kate Kunberger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an "Aye" vote of 18 out of 22. No opposing votes.

**Block Watch Update:** Bill Scheel

RAA's 2025 -2026 grant application was approved for \$14,000. The Second Quarter Report has also been submitted.

A Block Watch sponsored social event is being planned for Spring.

Joan Kelchner presents the need for a laptop that is designated for R.A.A. use only. Could this be purchased with Block Watch funds?

**The Annual RAA Meeting and Elections** are scheduled to occur on February 21. Two candidates have submitted their questionnaires, indicating their interest in running for RAA Board of Directors membership

**Development Update:** Bill Scheel and Joan Kelchner

**McDowell and Central** lot: ground breaking is expected in late summer, 2025.

On 1/6 five RAA Board members attended a pre-Variance Hearing by Intersection Developers who are planning a 12-story mid-rise located at **821 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.** The lot currently consists of two surface parking lots between the historic cottage offices to the south and the historic 2-story brick building on the north. The project will consist of ground-level restaurant/bar, 3-4 levels of parking, and 7-8 floors of apartments. They will be requesting 3 variances related to the street frontage:

1. Resolving a conflict of 3 separate and conflicting setback requirements to allow 16 feet from the curb to the building front. This will include a 6-foot sidewalk and landscaping.
2. Eliminating a requirement for a 2-foot gravel landscape strip next to curb and replacing it with 4 full-size trees with grates at the base.
3. Eliminating a requirement for a 7 foot metal canopy extending from the building and replacing that shade with the full-sized trees mentioned above (if the structured shade would proceed there would be small trees or shrubs in the landscape strip instead).

They expect the variance hearing to be in early February and construction to start between April and June.

**Historic gateway to Roosevelt Neighborhood:** Bill Scheel

The building blocks that made up the old neighborhood gateway have been stored on privately owned property for 45 years. Bill was able to arrange for the blocks to be moved to 2 new locations within the neighborhood—with future plan being to restore the gateway and place it in a prominent location as a welcome to those living and visiting in the Roosevelt historic neighborhood.

**New Business/Announcements:**

Mark Francis announced that David Lujan has been appointed as new **Executive Director of AZ School for the Arts,** and that he will assume his responsibilities on February 1.

Joan Kelchner announced that tonight's meeting will be her last as President of the Roosevelt Action Association. She will however, assist in transitioning of the incoming Board Members. She was given a round of applause in thanks for her service, time donated, and efforts in behalf of the R.A.A.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Joan Kelchner at 7:30 p.m.