

## 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

(as amended & approved by AGNA Board May 12, 2015)

Alvarado Garden Neighborhood Association

Griegos Neighborhood Center

April 27, 2015

Board Members Present: Carolyn Siegel, Pres.; Kristin Hogge, VP; Jill Schneider-Taylor, Secy; Yolanda Homann, Treas. Sallie Andrade-Cervera, Bruce Baumgartner; Barbie Brennan, Catherine Hogan, Don Michaelis (web page), and Veronica Reed.

Total Attendance: 48 people

Total Dues Paying Members: 29

- ❖ The Annual Meeting of the Alvarado Neighborhood Association was called to order at 6:30 pm on April 27, 2015.
- ❖ Adjustments to the agenda were announced.
- ❖ The Board members introduced themselves.
- ❖ It was announced that the Board was seeking volunteers to become Board Members.
- ❖ It was announced that the Board was also looking for a person with web skills to assist with the maintenance of the AGNA website.
  
- ❖ TREASURER'S REPORT – Yolanda Homann
  - There is \$1135.38 in the AGNA bank account.
  - Final funds from the Keep America Beautiful grant have been spent completing the landscaping on the north east end of Veranda Road.
  - It was announced that the AGNA would be glad to accept donations to continue landscaping the along the north side of Veranda.
  - The books have been closed on the Alvarado Academy grant. The Leftover funds from this project equaled \$123.00 and this was returned to the grantor Bernalillo County.
- ❖ It was announced that the annual membership dues of \$5.00 per household were completely voluntary.
- ❖ There was a request, moved, seconded and passed that the Treasurer's Reports be posted on the website.
- ❖ RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER STATE PARK – Beth Dillingham, Superintendent
  - Herbfest will be held May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the RGNC.
  - Summer Camp for Kids will be held after the public schools adjourn for the summer. For more details contact the RGNC.
  - Details of the Keppners \$125,000 bequest to the RGNC were explained.
    - The funds will be used to build a crane/bird watching platform at the edge of the existing parking lot, overlooking Candelaria farms.
    - Judy Kowalski, Landscape Architect and Design and Development Bureau Chief, and Rob Love, Architect with NM State Parks were introduced to explain the design and process.

- Project must be compatible with City of Albuquerque building codes and regulations.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that construction of platform will allow it to be integrated into future parking lot improvement projects.
- Some slight alterations will be made to the existing parking lot and landscaping during the first phase of the project, which will include construction of the viewing platform.
- The picnic area originally planned for the southwest end of the parking lot will be removed.
- The silhouette of the platform will be lower than original design in order to be less intrusive.
- It was explained that the construction had to take into consideration the safety of children visiting the park – i.e. there must be no blind spots or areas where children might be at risk from strangers.
- Access to the viewing platform must be compliant with ADA, including a nearby parking space.
- Construction to start in the fall before the cranes return so that their migration patterns are not disturbed.
- There has been one meeting with the adjacent neighbors who may be impacted by this construction.
- Concern is that viewing platform will allow bird watchers to look directly into back yards of homes on Candelaria.
- John Hart, one of the home owners brought up the concerns of privacy and safety.
- Discussion ensued between the NM State Parks personnel, Mark Chavez, Assist. Superintendent, City of Albuquerque Open Space; Beth Dillingham, RGNC State Park and the members of the AGNA.
- The design will be adjusted to address the privacy concerns raised at the meeting and submitted for another review by concerned neighbors.

❖ FIRE ISSUES IN THE BOSQUE AND AROUND YOUR PROPERTY –

Lt. Brian Fox, Albuquerque Fire Department

- Lt. Fox explained the existing fire danger and the AFD work with the neighbors to reduce the threat by creating fire breaks, removing/thinning some of the vegetation.
- Presented a step by step plan showing how to plan for a fire emergency and how to protect your home. This information is also on the city website.
- He offered to consult with any household to help them create an emergency fire plan.

❖ SENATOR BILL O'NEILL FROM STATE SENATE DISTRICT 13 gave a short report on the matters of the NM state legislature.

❖ Liz Hamm from office of CONGRESSWOMAN MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM also gave a short report on the congresswoman's work on our behalf.

- ❖ MELISSA LOZOYA, Dept. of Municipal Devel. ( DMD ) Re: Neighborhood Traffic
  - Explained the process to gain speeding restrictions on an Albuquerque street.
  - Stated that there were 15 different options to accomplish this.
    - The neighborhood can apply for an evaluation for example on the speeding situation on Candelaria or Campbell. The evaluation will be submitted to the city Engineering Department. Interested neighbors can then observe the process via the city website.
  - Currently the city plans to conduct a test evaluation on Rio Grande Blvd between Candelaria and Griegos in the fall. The street will be re-stripped to reduce to three lanes: one lane each direction with center turn lane....plus a bike lane each direction.
    - Neighbors were encouraged to look at this project on the city of Albuquerque website.
    - Or contact Ms. Lozoya.
  
- ❖ Brief Discussion about interest in holding annual Yard Sales and Block Party. (inconclusive)
- ❖ NEW BUSINESS – Kathy Chilton
  - Announced that one of our neighbors made an independent contribution to allow the landscaping along Veranda Road to be completed.
  - Invited the neighbors to stop and pull just one weed while taking a walk.
  - Announced that Melissa Hart and the quilting class of the Alvarado Academy had created a quilt and were donating to the neighborhood.
  - Announced that photos by Mimi Hall were available. Announced that mini buttons with Mimi Hall photos would be given out at the end of this meeting.
  - Announced that BJ, our former neighbor from Nepal was safe in Katmandu. Kathy provided contact information to help the aid effort to Nepal.
  - Announced that this year there was no funding for the Alvarado Academy but that plans could go ahead if the instructors would forgo their fees this year.
  
- ❖ NOMINATIONS FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS and volunteers
  - The floor was open to accept nominations for new Board members and specialty volunteers.
  - Rick Parra volunteered to help Don Michalis with the AGNA website.
  - Melinda Moffitt volunteered to be a board member. She was nominated and accepted.
  - Crystal McAlerney volunteered to be a board member. She was nominated and accepted.
- ❖ There was a brief discussion concerning the entrance of DEA agents into Crystal's yard and her neighbor's yard while she was absent.
  
- ❖ The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 and the Alvarado Garden Neighbors tidied up the meeting room, put away the chairs and left.

Respectfully Submitted by Jill Schneider-Taylor, Sec'y, AGNA. Approved as amended by the AGNA Board on May 12, 2015.