

South Los Altos Neighborhood Association
Albuquerque, NM
<http://www.slananm.org>

Annual Meeting
Saturday February 21, 2015
Los Altos Golf Course

Minutes

Board Members Present: Eileen Jessen, Philip Yeats, Bill Reiniche, Allen Osborne, Fred Rodriguez, Arthur Bazan, Jim Ahrend

Also Present: City Councilor Rey Garduno, APD Sergeant J.B. Yara, Judith Wong (Albuquerque Parks Department), Nancy Bearce (Coalition 6 President), Penelope Buschardt (Hawthorne Elementary School Principal), Chris Moya (Director of Golf, Los Altos Golf Course), (members of local business community including Jenny Hillson (Hillsons), Sandi Luce (owner Jay Walton), and other residents for a total of **20 attendees**.

Treasurer's Report

Alan Osborne reported that the balance in the account is currently 351.38. Dues are currently due. Report was approved.

Presentation by APD Sergeant J.B. Yara

Sergeant Yara told us that basically our neighborhood is a quiet one with few major issues. We were warned about stolen vehicles happening in Albuquerque due to leaving a car to "warm-up" unattended. Yara said that prostitution had pretty much moved further West on Central and was seldom seen in our area. Panhandling by Waldgreens still an issue, and there was discussion about the bus stop at Central and Wyoming being unsafe; city is considering doing away with that stop on Rapid-ride.

There was discussion about homeless persons setting up tents in areas North of I-40; city is aware of problem in context of larger issue of the re-location of "tent city" downtown. Point was made that there is no law against homeless persons walking on public thoroughfares. Also, ABQ has no law about intoxication in public, unlike many other major cities. Yara noted that calls about intoxicated persons is a large workload on officers.

Topics also discussed: safety on transit system, and speeding problem along Copper. Yara said they would try locating a "speed blinking" trailer along Copper to warn drivers of their current speed. Yara then concluded by encouraging community residents to "take possession of your neighborhood" and "do not let it get taken over."

Presentation about Park by Judith Wong

We were encourage to learn from Judith that the original plans for the park along Copper are now moving forward as planned. There was much detailed presentation about the planned layout and features for the new park. It will represent a map of Albuquerque and will be especially designed to be inclusive, inter-generational, and special-needs friendly. One small concession is that there will be a small area in the back for DOD parking, which will also provide back-access for the park, but that means

it may be 4.5 acres or so instead of the original 5 acres.

Judith mentioned that "tagging" parks with graffiti has been a problem at some city parks, but that they have been providing neighborhoods with "graffiti kits" to rapidly clean up graffiti as it happens, which has proven to discourage future incidents. Also discussed was the possible "locking" of the park gate each night, but would need volunteers to do that effectively, so details would need to be worked out. Lighting and line-of-sight visibility are apparent in the plan of this park so as to make it as safe as possible.

About 65% of the planning is done for the park, and according to Judith the city will probably be breaking ground by late fall 2015, which will include trees and irrigation and the core elements of the park. While there is funding enough to start the project, more funding will be needed in the future to incorporate all planned features. A new updated "map" of the park is scheduled to be available in another week or two; this will be sent to Eileen and posted on website for the neighbors to see.

Minutes of Nov 8, 2014 meeting were approved.

Councilor Rey Garduno was present for questions about the park and other miscellaneous issues. We were reminded that all government branches and jurisdictions should and can provide a unified and coordinated effort on neighborhood issues, saying, "we are all public servants."

Penelope Buschardt (Hawthorne Elementary School Principal) asked about receiving better support from the city for the portion of the school grounds that were city park, not APS property.

Nomination of Board Members and Election of Officers

The new SLANA Board (2-year terms) were nominated and approved by majority vote, and officers were elected as follows:

Eileen Jessen - President
Bill Reiniche - Vice President
Allen Osborne - Treasurer
Jim Ahrend - Secretary
Philip Yeats
Arthur Bazan
Fred Rodriguez
Penelope Buschardt

Since current board has 8 members, there is room for one more to be at (9-member) capacity.

No new date for a meeting was set, but it was discussed that Saturday mornings work well, and the general feeling was to try and meet earlier, such as 9am instead of 10.

Submitted:
Jim Ahrend
Secretary