

Minutes of West University Neighborhood Association June 2, 2016, Trinity Presbyterian Church

Board Members Attending: Chris Gans, Richard Mayer, Jane McCollum, Carolyn Niethammer, Noah Sensibar, John Patterson, Jim Glock, Jan Labate, Barb Tanzillo, Lisa Agababian, Michael Morse, CJ Jones, Sally Rusk, Mike Barker, Josh Proctor

Guests: Constance Negley, Sara Chavarria, Wim Van Leeuwen, Tim Warfield, Sarah Fox Hammelman, Alison Miller, Tom Brightman, Randi Dorman, Lisette DeMars

Chris Gans called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Since the minutes had been sent to everyone electronically, and with no corrections, Jim Glock moved that they be approved, Barb Tanzillo seconded it. Approval passed.

The treasurer's report had been sent electronically. Jim reported that the check from tips from the spring street fair had been sent to the Community Food Bank. He had also filed the WUNA tax return and the required filing with the Arizona Corporation Commission. Jan LaBate moved that the treasurer's report be approved, Michael Morse seconded it. The approval passed on general vote.

Chris noted that there is still money in the treasury set aside for historic signage. He suggested that money be returned to the general fund and if need arises, signage bills can be paid from the general fund. Jan LaBate moved and Michael Morse seconded the motion. Passed on general vote.

Announcements

Jane McCollum reminded everyone of the Main Gate concert series every other Friday night at 7 in the Geronimo Plaza.

Sarah Fox Hammelman announced that she and her husband are the owners of Sand-Reckoner Vineyard and they are opening a tasting room in the King Building on Sixth St. and Seventh Ave., #170. They are applying for a parking exemption. They will hold a neighborhood meeting on June 6 in the facility.

Dr. Ron Spark discussed the Tucson Pima Home Byers Solution Program to identify empty houses in the neighborhoods surrounding the University. On June 10, the mayor will roll out a plan to help people who need financial assistance to buy their first home. This is an attempt to stabilize the neighborhoods that have been affected by flight of students from smaller rentals to the big dorms. Dr. Spark asked for help in identifying homes that might qualify. Anyone who knows of an empty house should pass the information on to Chris Gans.

Extension of National Historic District

A section of the neighborhood is not in the National Historic District. This runs between Fifth St. and Sixth St. from Fourth Avenue to Seventh Ave. A survey of the homes in the area to see if they want to be included will cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Chris asked if we wanted to use treasury money to cover the cost. Jim Glock moved that we allot the money, Lisa Agababian seconded it. During discussion, Noah Sensibar said that sometimes a homeowner might find it advantageous to not be in the historic district. Motion passed on general vote.

Update on Trinity Presbyterian Church Redesign

The current plans have passed the WUZAB board and the Pima County Historic Board. There is a meeting scheduled on June 9 at 6:30 in Trinity Church for anyone who wishes to view the plans.

Sixth Avenue Road Diet

In an attempt to make Sixth Avenue a neighborhood street and provide an alternate route downtown for bicyclists, Chris Gans applied for funds for two different traffic mitigation possibilities and received \$5,000 to \$8,000. The area in question is along Sixth Ave. between Speedway and Sixth St. Since the money cannot be spent immediately awaiting road resurfacing, it will be set aside. The speed limit is currently 30 mph; proposal is to lower it to 25 mph. There is also a proposal to eliminate the center turn lane along this street except at Speedway and Sixth Ave. Additionally, the car and bike lanes would be separated with the bike lanes near the curb.

Glock moved that Richard Mayers be authorized to move ahead with the city to contact residents along the route and to reimburse him for any money he had to spend. Jan Labate seconded the motion. Passed.

Sister Jose Home

The organizers of the Sister Jose Home have withdrawn their offer on the Seventh Ave. house. Noah Sensibar felt that Sister Jose was given an indication they could go ahead with their plans to locate in the neighborhood when 90 percent of the adjoining neighbors opposed the move. Chris reminded him that Jean Fedigan was not given a vote of approval by the council as there was no concensus. A spirited discussion ensued with people on both sides of the issue agreeing that it was unfortunate the level of anger and distrust that the issue had generated among the neighbors. It was agreed that in the future we need to work to have a more civil discourse when facing such issues.

Campus Community Relations Committee

John Patters said that there will be an update of the campus master plan for 2017. However there are no plans to change the existing campus boundaries. Everyone involved is pleased with the expansion into some downtown properties.