

McDuffie-Twin Parks Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Temporary Steering Committee Meeting, February 13, 2008, 6:30pm
Highland Senior Activities Center – 131 Monroe NE, Albuquerque

Temporary Steering Committee (“Board”) Members Present: Bill Hoch, Carla Kugler, Charlene Brown (late), Gary Harrison, John Scariano, Kathleen Kimler Altobelli, Mark Hyland. Absent: Enid Howarth, Laurie Moye

Guests: 3 neighborhood residents.

The meeting began at 6:37 pm with a welcome by Bill.

Gary moved that the January 2nd minutes be approved; seconded by Carla and passed unanimously.

Bill gave a substitute treasurer’s report in the absence of Charlene: Bank of America checking account opened with \$130 and with Bill and Charlene as check-signers.

Bill announced that Albuquerque Police Department will be working on a sector plan to include our neighborhood. Several recent break-ins of houses and unlocked cars were reported to Board members and by meeting guests (Calle del Sol, Hidden Park, Mesa Verde). Bill will look into getting a Crime Prevention Specialist to come from APD Police Command. The Neighborhood Association Patrol Training being offered by the City was discussed – but it was agreed that we are not in need of that intense level of patrol, and that we should work on improving neighborhood watch program participation. There is also the Citizen Police Academy (32 hours of training) for which an individual can sign up or the neighborhood association can apply to send someone.

It was mentioned that flyers did not get delivered to the entire neighborhood (parts of Solano and Mackland were missed). The distribution system is still a work in progress. As is the committee formation – Bill is in process of contacting those who wanted to be on committees. Bill will email the Board a list of committee memberships and appointed chairs.

There was a lengthy discussion of the City of Albuquerque’s proposed Form Based Code. Bill provided the Board with copies of the October 31, 2007 draft. Laurie and Charlene went to the Heart of Heights District meeting last month and Bill attended the District 7 meeting on Feb 6th, where there was a presentation by National Association of Office Parks (strongly against it). The form based code favors an “urban village concept” and would replace our current zoning regulations in designated areas with provisos for approval of new projects having designs that match the code’s descriptions (the draft is 104 pages and is available online). Traffic and the need for greater urban density to facilitate mass transit are some of the motivating factors behind the code proposal. Objections to this code include (among others) 1) The C-1 and C-2 protections would be lost, with any commercial use allowable in design-approved projects; 2) No mention of different treatment for historic districts

The draft of the code was released in December 2007 and thus far has been deferred twice by the Environmental Planning meeting that was to consider it. Districts 6,7,8 and 9 (with the exception of Nob Hill Association) are going to be against it – saying that the city is moving too fast and more education is needed. Gary and Charlene voiced concern that we not just automatically reject it, but examine what effect it will have and then decide on our support/opposition. Also, we need to figure out how we can have an impact on whether/what the City Council passes. Charlene said that she could not get answers when she called the City, nor could the City’s representative at the Heart of Heights meeting answer questions – so perhaps our opposition should be based on lack of ability of city to explain how the ordinance would work. More information is needed on the sector development plan that includes our neighborhood (if such plan exists).

Bill will try to set up a meeting in March of “zoning committees” from our association along with Altura Park and Summit Park associations, with Gary volunteering to attend as one of our representatives, and invite NAIOP and someone from the city to answer questions. Then if necessary, these educated association members could attend city-sponsored meetings where public input is to be solicited.

Carla mentioned suggestions she has received: getting a bulletin board (like the one at McDuffie Park) placed at Twin Parks; having a social event with food; and changing the meeting date back to 1st Wed. John is working on the web site – help is welcome. Carla moved for adjournment, Kathy seconded, motion passed, and the meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli