

McDuffie-Twin Parks Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, March 11, 2009, 6:30pm
Highland Senior Activities Center – 131 Monroe NE, Albuquerque

Board Members Present: Carla Kugler, Charlene Brown, Gary Harrison, John Scariano, Kathleen Kimler Altobelli, Laurie Moye, Maya Gallegos. Absent: Bill Hoch, Mark Hyland

About 8 visitors were also present – including Jill Holbert from the City of Albuquerque Solid Waste Management Department.

The meeting began at 6:31 pm with a welcome by Laurie followed by self-introductions.

Carla moved to approve the minutes of the Jan 14, 2009 meeting; the motion was seconded by Gary and carried.

As follow-up from the previous meeting:

1. new trash cans have been placed at McDuffie Park, due to the efforts of Councilor Sally Mayer. A neighborhood resident sent a thank-you to her for her attending to this matter.
2. The March 19th Heart of the Heights Neighborhood Coalition meeting will be discussing the 1/8th cent transportation tax that is being proposed.

Charlene reported that our current balance is \$516.03 following the re-deposit of the *Crash* check. Membership count is 68 and she is working on a better method to handle dues renewals.

Neighborhood resident Buckner Creel presented information on the problem that he is having with a replacement shed that he is building on his property at 3707 Mesa Verde NE. He had consulted with the Zoning Office prior to knocking down the existing shed on his lot and proceeded in good faith to do the knock down and begin building the replacement. He did not get anything in writing from the office. As the shed was nearing completion, he received a stop order, based on the shed being in the 5' setback area. Upon visiting the Zoning Office, he was told he would have to go the Zoning Hearing Examiner. Various suggestions were made as to how to proceed. Laurie and Gary both suggested that he get supportive letters from all his neighbors and take them to the Zoning Hearing Officer. It was also suggested that he write a letter to the Zoning Hearing Officer, giving all details of the previous shed, the knockdown, the new shed, and his visit to the Zoning Office, and that he concludes that the shed should be approved and ask them to advise by a specified date so that he can proceed to complete the shed. John did suggest that he could sue the City over unfair, discriminatory treatment (considering the large number of illegal sheds in the city), but this was considered by most to not be the optimal way to proceed. The Board did not vote on anything, but indicated a willingness to re-consider the matter if a letter from the Neighborhood Association would be helpful in the future. At this time there is no hearing scheduled. Mr. Creel provided copies of site and shed drawings (3 pages) at the beginning of the discussion. Laurie stated that enforcement of setback rules and other codes (as in the stop order) is usually the result of a complaint rather than a random inspection by the City.

Recent criminal activity was discussed, including a robbery during daylight hours (about 7 pm on March 10th) at Whole Foods, which is a frequent destination for neighborhood residents but is not within the boundaries of the neighborhood association (store is located at Carlisle and Indian School).

Gary asked about the status of National Night Out. He suggested that we could invite the amateur astronomers group to attend and offer viewings of the night sky with their telescopes and provide information on their efforts to save the night sky. Since the National Night Out is on August 4th, it will not be very dark during the event. So Gary will follow up with the astronomers group and see about having them come in the Fall when it will be darker. And we will work on the details of National Night Out later.

On the dog park issue, it was agreed that the Board needed to take no action until a specific request comes before us.

To the question from a resident concerning objectionable loud barking by dog(s), it was suggested that she call 311 and file an official complaint – getting the reference number for her complaint so that she can follow up and find out what actions were taken by the City.

Jill R. Holbert, Deputy Director, Administration, City of Albuquerque Solid Waste Management Department spoke on various issues related to her department. She presented an informative slide show on recycling and the current pilot project involving blue and green curbside recycling carts. The department is proposing rate increases for single family households and the provision of new services. Their goal is no landfilling by 2030. Last year, Albuquerque had only a 5% diversion rate while the national average is 33%. There are various PAYT (pay as you throw) options and associated fees being considered, involving different size trash cans (48 gallon or 96 gallon), blue recycling carts (64 gallons) and green yard waste carts. The department is conducting a 10,000-households pilot project now and will then go city-wide with a new recycling effort. In the pilot areas, the city is picking up the blue and green carts every week on all regular trash days. The city has provided the rolling carts (similar to the current garbage carts but different sizes and coming in both blue (for newspaper, magazines, paper, tin, aluminum, and plastic) and green (for yard waste). In the current Pilot Project, the carts contain an RF chip and there is an incentive program to encourage households to recycle more, with rewards based on amount recycled. Since some households (such as some with xeriscaped yards) have very little yard waste, the green cart may be offered on a request basis, rather than being provided automatically to every household when the project goes city-wide. The recycling cart may be picked up only twice a month. Glass will still have to be taken to drop-off locations. The city will have to increase the capacity of the processing plant as the program goes forward, as it is now at capacity with the current recycling effort. Members of the audience asked about the recycling of various kinds of materials: glass (must be taken to drop-off sites), chipboard (as in cereal-boxes, etc.: it is not able to be handled by our current processing plant so not supposed to be placed in recycling bags), Styrofoam (possibly accepted by UNM's program), envelope windows and glossy magazine paper (may be put into current recycling bags). Our neighborhood is not in the pilot project area and most of us were unaware of the program – but several residents suggested that our neighborhood would be a good candidate for inclusion in the program. Tips of interest: the New Mexico Recycling Coalition website (www.nmrecycle.org) has links to information such as how to stop junk mail and construction and demolition waste recycling; LaFarge offers recycling of concrete. Gary mentioned that a garbage truck seems to have stained his street; Ms. Holbert suggested that he call 311 and report it and they can come out and steam clean the street. We thanked Ms. Holbert for her presentation.

Carla moved to adjourn the meeting, Gary seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli