

McDuffie-Twin Parks Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Temporary Steering Committee Meeting, May 14, 2008, 6:30pm
Highland Senior Activities Center – 131 Monroe NE, Albuquerque

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

Guests: 6 neighborhood residents.

The meeting began at 6:35 pm with a welcome by Bill followed by self-introductions.

Minutes of the April 9th meeting were accepted.

Bill attended the City’s annual block captains meeting, which included updates on the latest in crime prevention. Bill brought copies of that meeting’s handouts and brochures for all to have. To become a block captain, the proper steps to follow are

- 1) call Sandy Pino or Steve Sink at 924-3600,
- 2) hold an organizational meeting, and
- 3) send in application.

It was agreed again that we should be trying to get the neighborhood covered with neighborhood watch groups. On our next meeting-announcement flyer, we will list blocks without neighborhood watch organizations to encourage formation of more groups. There was discussion of recent criminal activity (break-ins on 4100 block of Marble, on Avenida Manana, and on Calle de Monte, thefts from porches and garages, and vandalism: egging of RV on Solano and the theft of trash cans from Avenida del Sol and their subsequent dumping on corner of La Resolana and Morningside. But it is still a very safe neighborhood, and crime should be kept in perspective. One good point – Carla found her car that had been stolen. Again, it is important for victims to report crimes to police so that they are informed and can provide appropriate coverage.

The speed bump issue was discussed. A resident has reported that Mesa Verde just west of Washington has many speeders and wondered about getting speed bumps. There is a procedure to follow to request a speed bump – and it was noted that fire and EMS services do not like them, and that they are hard on cars and noisy for the nearby residents. Bill volunteered to find out how to get “Albuquerque slow down” signs and will also check with traffic engineering about rumble strips and speed limit signs – the idea is that perhaps we could get every entrance into the neighborhood (from the 4 major boundary streets) to have a reminder to slow down – which would increase safety and avoid speed bumps. The problem of speeding caused by non-neighborhood folks driving thru the neighborhood due to traffic detours on major streets was discussed: there is no communication between water department and police, so no traffic control measures are taken when there is a detour necessitated by water main problems.

Bill reported on the “switcheroo” that the developers of the former Rowlands location (on Menaul near Pennsylvania) tried to get away with. Meetings were held with neighborhood associations, but the development plan was changed before presentation to the City for approval. However, the alert neighborhood folks noticed the changes and protested. The developer’s plan reflects form based code. Also, the Silver Hill neighborhood is protesting a project that is currently under appeal that would meet form based code requirements, but which they feel is too dense and too tall for the surrounding neighborhood. The City Council is pushing the form-based code, so there will be more issues coming along related to infill development.

It was proposed that we encourage block events for August 5 (National Night Out) – starting with putting the date and suggestions on the next flyer that goes out. The idea of a neighborhood rummage sale was received positively – we will make more plans at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 on a motion by Kathleen, seconded by Carla.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli