

McDuffie-Twin Parks Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, June 10, 2009, 6:30pm
Highland Senior Activities Center – 131 Monroe NE, Albuquerque

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

Also present: about 25 other attendees, including presenters Kathy Verhage of the Mid Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team and neighborhood resident Sheila ter Bruggen.

The meeting began at 6:36 pm with a welcome by Bill followed by self-introductions.

Kathy Verhage gave an informative presentation on the stormwater situation in Albuquerque (see fact sheet handout). Roland Pentilla of the Stormwater Quality Team had emailed information to the neighborhood associations and they thanked us for inviting them to come to our meeting. Interesting bits:

There is lots of trash in the stormwater runoff (vegetation, plastic, cigarette butts)

Sources of e.coli in the Rio Grande: 22% from dogs, 33% from birds, 16% human sewage (possibly from homeless population).

Currently, Albuquerque has to follow EPA regulations, which includes weekly monitoring of water quality. In the future, there will be more EPA requirements to comply with – EPA may dictate treatment since often exceed loading limits on a daily basis.

Current piping system is great for flood control but not for water quality.

Rain reaches the Rio Grande in less than 45 minutes in the North Diversion Channel watershed.

There are a few retention ponds that filter out trash.

She encourages us to tell our City Councilor to support the proposed ordinances on stormwater quality enforcement and fees. Other things that we can do:

“Only rain down the drain”

Maintain vehicles so they don't pollute (oil leaks, etc)

Don't overfertilize lawns

Pick up after pets

If car-washing at home: keep soaps out of drains

Don't litter

Be a good citizen

For more information: www.keeptheriogrand.org

They will provide bags and bag stations at our parks for pet waste clean up.

Neighborhood resident Sheila ter Bruggen gave a slide show presentation (see handout) on traffic issues in our neighborhood. There are problems with speeding and cut-through traffic, difficulties crossing streets, and safety issues for children playing. Transportation planners are trying to push people to walk more and have developed traffic calming strategies, such as traffic circles, which reduce noise and pollution.

The slide show consisted of “current” photographs of various intersections in the neighborhood and “photo-shopped” possibilities to help us imagine what could be.

Montclair and McDuffie – extension of curbs to narrow corners (slow traffic and safer for crossing)

Solano and Mesa Verde – traffic circle (to slow traffic)

Morningside and Avenida del Sol (Y intersection south of Constitution)

Twin Parks – with street thru the middle of the park filled in with a playground structure

The audience was very receptive to all the possibilities presented, with the playground idea generating much enthusiasm. It was decided that a working group should be formed to work on these ideas, beginning with doing more research and making a plan for how to proceed. Those interested in working on the subcommittee included Sheila, Bill Hoch, Gary Harrison, Laurie Moye, Adrian Archibeque, Barry Simon and Kathleen Kimler Altobelli. Gary pointed out that traffic circles near entrances to our neighborhood (such as at Mesa Verde and Solano) could be the sites of the neighborhood signs that are being developed by the City. Kathy Verhagen said that a few projects get funded every year and that we should contact her if a working group comes up with a proposal and she will help us with whom to contact. Plantings help with stormwater runoff.

Carla will chair the committee for the August 4th National Night Out event.

Kathleen moved to adjourn the meeting, Gary seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli