

**Oracle Foothills Neighborhood Association**

**and**

**Neighborhood Watch #1300**

Annual Meeting  
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church  
665 W. Roller Coaster Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85704  
September 16, 2017

Minutes

**Registration and Coffee Hour** Neighbors met for registration, coffee, refreshments, conversation and informational material from 8 - 9am.

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by president Robert Bolton. Robert introduced our first guest speaker, Sheriff Mark Napier.

**Sheriff Napier** talked about the changes he has made in the department since taking office in January of this year. He has made each of the three districts – Foothills, Rincon & San Javier – into full-service units with their own DUI unit, investigators, motor pool, etc. A number of administrative jobs have been eliminated without negatively impacting the deputies on the street. The budget deficit has been reduced from a projected \$6 million to \$2.5 million. The Sheriff spoke about the many challenges of a department that covers 9000 square miles, including border and drug issues. Another challenge is recruiting and retaining quality deputies, and the sheriff is working with the County Administrator on a compensation package.

**Officers Reports**

**Minutes** Carole DeAngeli, the Recording Secretary, read the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting. There were no additions or corrections.

**President's Report** Robert announced that this year's picnic will be held on October 29th at our new location, on Bente & Johnny Jensen's property. Everyone is cordially invited! The street trimming was a big accomplishment, with over 35 trailer loads of vegetation collected. It was then chipped and hauled away by Pima County. We have a beautiful new entry sign at the corner of Canyon View and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, created by neighbor Ed Muren, and installed by Jay DeAngeli and Robert. Jay and Robert also repaired a pothole on Canyon View that had become very troublesome. He thanked Angelo Dellacona for his continuing maintenance of the street islands.

**Membership Report** - Jay DeAngeli, Membership Chairman, reported that we concluded the 2016 fiscal year with 120 members.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jay reported income of \$5,528, expenditures of \$6,335 and cash on hand as of 8/31/17 is \$13,457. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Unanimously approved.

### **Committee Reports**

**Website, Hospitality** Carole will be happy to consider any additions to the website, so please let her know what you'd like to see. As Hospitality Chair, she reports a lot of turnover this year, resulting in about 15 new residents. Leaving the neighborhood was OFNA board member Susan Berger and her husband, Robert Lanier. Carole introduced new neighbors Doug and Stephanie Morrison on Genematas, and David Rau and Brian Hilligoss on Yvon Dr. Passing away this year were neighbors Al Fishback, Helene Rawlins, Adelaide Reeves and Helen Kelly.

**Neighborhood Watch** –Carole DeAngeli, Area Leader, gave the crime report. There was only 1 burglary, but several incidents of mail theft, and scams. Carole urged everyone to get to know their neighbors and to report all suspicious activity to 911. Locking mailboxes are recommended, as well as prompt collection of mail and taking outgoing mail to the post office.

**Streets** Jay said that he works with the PC Dept. of Transportation to get them to fill roadside edges, sweep dirt and gravel from the roads, and that this is a continuing effort. He has been in discussion with PCDOT to have our street cracks filled and the streets sealed when the weather cools in the fall.

### **Old Business**

**Development** Robert reported that there has been no action on the plan to develop the Lodge property to our west since the Comprehensive Plan was amended. Circa 79 Salon moved into the former Chantilly Tea Room building and has been a good neighbor.

**Household Hazardous Waste** Carole read the report prepared by Barb Peck. She and Clark Arnold have been holding the collections four times a year. The city has not charged for the last two collections. We are considered a business, since we collect for the neighborhood, and thus must take our collection on Wednesdays. Neighbors are encouraged to participate. November 1<sup>st</sup> will be the next collection.

### **New Business**

**Picnic** Lisa Meder talked about the upcoming picnic, which will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup>. She invited everyone to attend and emphasized what a great event it is, with excellent food. For those willing to help setup, we begin at 7am on the morning of the picnic.

**Election of the Board** - Joan introduced the current board members, all of whom are on the slate for reelection. The slate consists of 13 current members. There was one nomination from the floor – Cathy Monro of Maria Dr. Cathy introduced herself to the group. It was moved and seconded that the slate be accepted as amended. The membership unanimously approved the new slate. The directors for the 2017-2018 fiscal year are: John Battaile, Robert Bolton, Jay DeAngeli, Delann DeBenedetti, Bente

Jensen, Roxie Lopez, Lisa Meder, Cathy Monro, Diana Ossana, Leo Roop, Scott Ruth, Tom Scarborough, Mary Jo Schwartz and Joan Scott.

**Call for Items from the Floor** – Marge Pellegrino said she and her committee are working on a poetry mailbox but that they are not ready to present their plan.

**Guest Speaker, Kim Franklin, ASDM** – Carole introduced Kim Franklin, research scientist with the Desert Museum. Kim’s topic was the invasive grass **buffelgrass** and the threat that it poses to the Sonoran Desert. Buffelgrass is an African species that was originally brought to the US as erosion control at mines, and as cattle forage. It has taken hold and spread rapidly in the Sonoran Desert, both in the US and Mexico. Buffelgrass, which is well-adapted to fire, spreads into the desert, fills all the voids between plants, chokes out native plants and makes the normally fire-resistant desert susceptible to fires that burn at extremely high temperatures. Native desert plants such as saguaro, cannot survive fire. The slopes of the Catalinas and Tucson mountains, as well as neighborhoods in the city and foothills, have been invaded with buffelgrass. It is now considered a ‘noxious weed’ and many groups are involved in fighting its spread, including Pima County, the Forest Service, and Weedwackers groups. This effort is now being coordinated by the Desert Museum. Buffelgrass can be controlled by a combination of spraying with glyphosate (Roundup) and manual removal. Education – understanding the threat and learning to recognize buffelgrass – is an important component in the fight. Kim urged everyone to contact responsible parties when they see buffelgrass, for example, the State of Arizona Highway Department for stands along I-10. There is hope for stopping this threat!

**Raffle** – Jay and Cathy conducted the raffle. Gift certificates to local restaurants were awarded to Mary Jo Schwartz, Delann DeBenedetti, Carole DeAngeli, Janet McLarran, Lisa Meder, Tom Scarborough, Angelo Dellacona, Paul Wilson, Cathy Monro and Ann Montgomery.

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.