

NENA Neighborhood Meeting
June 3, 2009

In Attendance: Mike Sanders, Tom and Ceci Andrews, Steve Jenkins, Achim Hermann, Valarie Rossman, June Cain, Charles Shreiber, Gini Sater and Nicki Kirkeby

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. The first agenda item was reviewing the minutes of the previous meeting. Tom moved to accept the meeting notes and Steve seconded. Ayes have it.

Finances: Nicki reviewed the budget and mentioned that we have \$900 to spend by end of June from the Block Watch Grant. More discussion about the use of Block Watch funds to be later in the meeting.

Point of Pride (POP) - Jim Jeffries is taking this up and will work to involve as many neighbors as possible for input on the POP winner each quarter. Jim's number will be available on the NENA website.

Strategy for Blight in Neighborhood: It is likely that there will always be homes in NENA that are out of compliance with "blight" ordinances, but we hope to reduce the number of homes that look in disrepair by following the two practices: 1) Get to know your neighbors. If there is a situation that they are handling (i.e. aging parent(s), health issue with a loved one or themselves etc.) try and help them out or contact ???????? to request assistance with their property. If there is no desire to take care of their property and they continue to keep their home in disrepair, please contact Neighborhood Services at 602.262.7844 or blight@phoenix.gov

Good Neighbor Award

We would also like to encourage neighbors helping neighbors and decided to create the "Good Neighbor" award. There are many neighbors that go the extra distance to help out a fellow neighbor and do it just because it is the right thing to do. This award will be recognized in the newsletter and may have some kind of award presented at the ice cream social.

Alley issues—There are concerns about safety in the alleys and homeless people in the alleys. Nicki reported that she rode through the alleys and talked with some neighbors. The problem seems to be the greatest along the alley north of Thomas behind Mu Shu Grill. Nick has provided this information to Officer Knecht and asked him to follow through with monitoring this alleyway during dusk and dawn hours when there appears to be a good number of homeless present.

Two new strategies for safety suggested by the City of Phoenix District 4 Specialist is to: Plant cactus or bougainvillea in the alleyways; or secure dusk to dawn lighting which would cost approximately \$12 per light. We can apply for a grant for next year and there is a 4-year contract to upkeep the lights. We can apply for the funds to cover the full 4 years, but after the funds expire, we may not continue to receive funds to pay for each light. We may want to reach out to the businesses in the "troubled" areas and ask for their financial help. Nicki will find out what

neighborhoods have this type of lighting, so we can see how bright it is and research how effective it has been with making the alleyways less inviting to the homeless.

Block Watch Signage: We can't make signs saying no trespassing since the alley is a public thorough way area. Signs cost about \$16/piece. Tom cautioned that we will have signs that will get tagged and that they should be placed as high as possible. We determined that we would place signs in the periphery of the neighborhood and also place them in the entrances to the alleys. A question was posed as to whether or not we had to put all our signs up or could we hold on to some to replace signs that may be tagged. Nicki will look into this. We do need to spend the money by June 30th.

We discussed that we have \$900 available for the Block Watch signs and their installation and whether or not we should re-allocate some of these funds to redesigning our NENA website. A motion was made by Mike that half of the funds should be spent on updating the website and the other half should be spent on Block Watch signs and installation.

Communication: Ceci suggested that phone trees be utilized to notify neighbors of upcoming events in addition to using the newsletter and the website. There are some who don't wish to communicate via email or don't have computers. It was suggested that when the next newsletter is delivered, ask the coordinators of each section to knock on the doors and ask how they wish to be communicated with (via email, phone or newsletter or all three)

Halfway House: It was reported that we may have two halfway houses in the neighborhood located around 18th Avenue and Mulberry Drive. The State Licensing Department has said that anyone who has 5 or more persons living in a home must secure a license from the State. If there are less than 4 residents there is no need to secure a license. The State also said is virtually impossible to prove there are more than 4 persons living in a home. If we believe there are more than 4 persons living in this type of care home, we can report it to the City and they will follow through with an investigation.

Upcoming Events:

Ice Cream Social October 10, 2009 (Suggest neighbors bring a canned goods for our food drive at this event)

Super Block Sale 10/17/09 (look into a private party pick up the leftovers for a nominal fee or donate the leftovers to a charity)

Food Drive 11/14/09

Future Fundraisers:

Arts and Crafts Show? Willo charges \$50 to have a table out. Could probably fall under the block party category. May need a County health card to sell food.

NENA Phoenix Little Theater Night: Can we try it again?

Restaurants have fundraisers where 10% of food sales go to NENA.

Notary for help with paperwork for historic status. Charge \$10 a person.

Social Chair Trish will work on creating a “welcome letter” to new neighbors moving into the neighborhood. Nicki will ask Susie Thompson if she can provide the names and addresses of new homeowners in NENA.

Request for US Mailbox in Neighborhood: Nicki received an email from a neighbor who wanted to find out if we could get a US mailbox placed in the neighborhood. Nick had spoke with Megan at Vice Mayor Simplot’s office who directed her to contact U.S. Representative Ed Pastor, as this is a Federal issue. Ginger offered to contact his office with this inquiry.

Nicki announced the **Light Up The Sky**, July 3, at Maryvale where we can have a table provide for neighborhood information if we want.

Mike moved we adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and Tom seconded.