****Palo Verde Park Neighborhood

Association

<http://paloverdeparkneighborhood.com/>

**Minutes, June 20, 2018 meeting**

Present:

Norma Coffman, President

Mike Southworth, Vice President

Jack Kulawik, Treasurer

Rhonda Bodfield, Secretary

Andy Weiss, zone delegate, Riviera Estates

* **Roll Call and introductions**

The President called the meeting to order. Council representatives gave a short introduction about their motivation for working on the effort.

* **Code of conduct**

The President shared the general expectation that discourse will be respectful and shared a commitment to honor participants’ time commitment and limit the meeting to one hour.

* **President’s report**

Ms. Coffman indicated the Council continues to look for subdivision delegates. There are six delegate opportunities in all, with four openings still remaining. Riviera Estates is being represented by Andy Weiss and Virginia Stanek will represent Mañana Vista.

We are also seeking sponsorships to help us offset costs, Ms. Coffman said, from sending out newsletters to assisting with signage.

* **Officers’ report, as needed:** None this month
* **Approval of bylaws**

The President opened the discussion of the bylaws. Rhonda moved to approve, Jack Kulawik seconded and it was so passed.

In response to a question from the audience, Rhonda explained the City of Tucson provided a template to work with, which the acting Council refined. The bylaws as submitted have been approved by the City Attorney. It was shared that the seated Council is serving in an interim fashion until elections in January. In response to a question from the audience, there was a discussion of what the responsibilities and time commitment look like for zone delegates.

* **Presentation by City of Tucson neighborhood services**

Rebecca Ruopp, an urban planner by training who now represents the City of Tucson’s neighborhood services division, applauded the turnout for the inaugural meeting and shared outlines of Plan Tucson, the City of Tucson’s general plan ratified by the voters in 2013. Among the city’s identified goals and values was a foundational belief that strong neighborhoods make great cities.

Neighborhood associations initially started primarily to engage in public processes, including zoning decisions and crime reporting, for example, because there is greater opportunity for notification and participation, Ruopp noted.

Ruopp shared that neighborhoods have gone beyond general awareness efforts and have embarked upon larger community-building projects, including traffic calming efforts and cleanup efforts.

Ruopp explained that a recognized neighborhood is different from a homeowner’s association. HOAs have covenants and conditions and restrictions. That is not what neighborhood associations do. Some associations choose to have voluntary dues or fundraisers, including PorchFest, potlucks, Halloween parties.

A discussion ensued about the Next Door app and it was suggested that a representative come to a future meeting to share more about their efforts.

A question was posed about whether sponsors could be on the website or on a private newsletter. As long as city resources are not used to promote individual businesses, that is fine, Ruopp explained.

* **Presentation by council aide Ted Prezelski, Ward 2**

Prezelski shared some findings from a recent meeting between Tucson Police Department, Palo Verde Neighborhood representatives and Ward 2 to discuss homeless encampments at Palo Verde Park. There is awareness about the problem and a commitment to work toward a solution.

Homeless people are allowed to be in the park, just like any other citizens, but harassment or camping in bathrooms elevate concerns.

Prezelski reported that there are efforts underway to start to rectify staffing constraints at the police department, with more recruits as well as more training for community resource officers to handle lower level reports.

Prezelski briefly shared details about Adopt a Park, offered through the city transportation department. It helps provide additional ownership of the park and helps offset growing demands and shrinking revenues in the parks department. Palo Verde Park Neighborhood Association was encouraged to consider joining the program.

Prezelski shared renovations at Jesse Owens Park, noting fudge was identified by tapping grant funding and warranty service line allocation.

He indicated he would check back on progress of design of a future splash pad at Palo Verde Park and whether the splash pad itself can be outside the perimeter of the pool to have extended hours, fewer fees.

Prezelski said he believes resources can be found to repair irrigation at Palo Verde Park as well as to construct the splash pad, especially since they can use the plumbing that is already in place where the baby pool is currently.

The President shared that the goal of the association is to be as transparent as possible and we will share minutes, agendas, newsletters on the website. She also suggested constituents sign up for the Ward Two newsletter to have another avenue of communication.

* **Adjournment: 7:26 p.m.**