****Palo Verde Park

Neighborhood Association

<http://paloverdeparkneighborhood.com/>

**Minutes, August 15, 2018 meeting**

Present:

Norma Coffman, President

Rhonda Bodfield, Secretary

Andy Weiss, zone delegate, Riviera Estates

Absent:

Mike Southworth, Vice President

Jack Kulawik, Treasurer

Virginia Stanek, zone delegate, Manana Vista

* **Roll Call**

The President called the meeting to order.

* **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 shared information with the group about the upcoming meetings, to include:

* Sept. 19, 2018 meeting, which will focus on learning hands-only CPR. Invest an hour and be prepared to save a life.
* Oct. 6: Park clean up
* Nov. 3: Wellness Festival in the Park
* **Officers’ report, as needed:** None this month
* **Approval of minutes**

Unanimous approval.

* **Presentation by Ted Prezelski, Ward 2 Council office, city parks bond question**

Mr. Prezelski shared that while he cannot advocate a position one way or another on the bonds, he was here to provide information so voters can make informed choices about the $225 million bond, which proposes to make improvements to 100 of the city’s 128 parks.

The bond improvements, if approved, would be split over three phases, with phase 1 projects tending to be less complex and less expensive. More complex projects, such as the irrigation upgrades proposed for Palo Verde Park, would be in phase 3.

To reassure citizens that the city will keep its promises, the city operates under a truth in bonding ordinance that mandates certain safeguards are in place, including a citizens committee that will provide oversight as well as a public process if any of the outlined projects change over time.

Among the changes proposed for Palo Verde Park are upgrades to LED lighting, playground improvements and conversion of the tennis courts to pickleball, which has a slower pace that makes it a game that’s more accessible.

Mr. Prezelski said park staff determined utilization was low for the tennis courts, but said he would reach out to Tucson Unified School District to see if the tennis courts at Palo Verde High School might be more accessible to the general public.

Mr. Prezelski also said the tax implications are flat. As older, existing bonds are paid off, the new bonds would come on, keeping taxes steady.

* **Presentation by Brent Dunn, Nextdoor**

Mr. Dunn shared that Nextdoor is a good way to connect neighbors and share updates about what is happening in your area, estimating 50 percent of all neighborhoods in the U.S. are on the platform. All of Tucson’s 140 registered neighborhood associations have a presence on Nextdoor - with roughly one quarter of the households within Palo Verde Park’s boundaries registered on the site.

Mr. Dunn noted the public agencies are also on Nextdoor, which is helpful to obtain additional information, but cautioned that they cannot see what you write in response to their posts, so it is not a two-way conversation.

Mr Dunn will consider tabling at the wellness festival to provide additional information to those not yet on the site.

He also shared the community guidelines, the most critical of which is to be civil and to understand that while differences of opinion will exist, we must be nice to one another even so.

Finally he noted that it is important to share details correctly about suspicious activity reported on the site and to not just focus on age and race. Instead, explain what was suspicious about the behavior, what was the subject’s height and weight and any details to share about the individual’s clothing or choice of transportation, including license plates if warranted. A more comprehensive picture is most helpful to other neighbors.

Mr. Dunn said those with questions about the platform can email him at

brentmdunn@gmail.com

* **Presentation by Cristina Polsgrove, public information for the City of Tucson’s Environmental Services Department and General Services Department**

Ms. Polsgrove shared changes about the city’s Brush&Bulky and recycling programs.

**Brush and bulky**. Door hangers will no longer be delivered to share upcoming dates. Not only is it too costly, she said, but the reliability of the vendor has been an issue. Instead, given increasing access to technology, the city has launched a recycle coach app, which will remind residents of upcoming dates, and is also working toward a presence on NextDoor. For those who are less technologically savvy, a mailer will go out since a year with both dates.

The City will be coordinating efforts and other services around Brush&Bulky to provide additional attention to neighborhoods at least twice a year. Code enforcement will be surveying areas about a month prior to Brush&Bulky and minimum-security Department of Correction crews will be assisting with clearing illegal dumping sites or easements so overgrown they are impacting access.

Transportation will also come out to address potholes at the same time.

**Recycling**: The city is currently considering some changes that will help it navigate the loss of marketshare for its recyclables. Even with a .45 cent surcharge per household, the City lost $20,000 on the program and is looking at losing $500,000 next year.

One third of the recyclables in the world go to China, which is turning back loads that are more than half-a-percent contaminated. Tucson’s recycling waste stream is 22 percent contaminated, despite the fact the recycling facility has slowed down the lines and hired more people for better quality control.

The biggest culprits for contamination, she said, include plastic bags and styrofoam, although food waste and even diapers, used needles and animal waste are found with too much frequency.

The city will launch new messaging focusing on some of the most critical items that continue to have a market and recycling value, such as the plastic bottles for water, milk jugs and detergent, as well as cardboard and mixed paper.

Ms. Polsgrove said the city could save on operations if it does go to every other week pickups.

She encouraged people to put their cans out only when full and also advised that the city does provide a roll-out and roll-in service for people who are disabled.

The free app is available in the app store under “recyclecoach” or visit

[tucsonaz.gov/RecycleCoach](http://tucsonaz.gov/RecycleCoach)

For questions about your trash or recycling services, please call 520-791-3171.

* **Adjournment**

Ms. Coffman asked the audience members to share any areas of interest we might explore for topics for next year’s meetings as we build out the schedule, The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.