Palo Verde Park

Neighborhood Association

<http://paloverdeparkneighborhood.com/>

**Minutes, April 17, 2019 regular meeting**

Present:

*Norma Coffman, President*

*Andy Weiss, Treasurer*

*Rhonda Bodfield, Secretary*

*Ariel Gilbert-Knight, zone delegate, Old Pueblo and Thomas Bengford, alternate*

*Cathy Cromwell, zone delegate, Glen Heather, and Matt Russell, alternate*

*Gina Gant, zone delegate, Miramonte*

**Regular order of business:** Meeting was gaveled to order at 6:31 p.m. and roll call was taken.

The code of conduct was shared and gratitude expressed to our hosts, Fountain of Life Church. Neighbors were asked to spend a moment greeting one another.

**President’s report:** Norma shared that she met with a representative of the city’s environmental services division to explore Alamo Wash because it is very overgrown. The representative is hoping to work with city transportation to alleviate the overgrowth. Norma will also join the Tucson Association of Realtors with Paul Cunningham to see if Palo Verde Park can be recognized as a community.

Gina Gant, who also serves as PTO president at Kellond Elementary, shared that the YMCA is going to start doing summer camps at Kellond. Kellond did not qualify for low-income status and is not a KIDCO site but this provides a good option for parents seeking summer camp for children as well as for teachers, who were seeking summer employment.

Fred Araiza shared his experience as the Ward Two representative for the public art review committee to explore an art installation at the pedestrian bridge by Palo Verde High. One artist with a successful track record in working with students is still in the running, The site itself doesn’t seem ideal for the bridge because there won’t be great visibility. Fred suggested that they consider moving the public art project to Palo Verde Park to supplement the renovations under way. Explorations continue.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Andy Weiss thanked Vonnie Baldwin again for her financial assistance with ParkFest. We were able to close the Chase account and now have an account at BBVA Compass, with no monthly fees. After we paid expenses for ParkFest, we have $316 left over and the Council will explore rolling it into the next ParkFest event to cover liability and generator rental.

The GoFundMe page already has $435 for signage.

**Minute approval:** February minutes were unanimously approved.

**Guest presentation:** Gina Hansen, the outreach coordinator from Pima Animal Care Center, attended to share information about the county’s only open-admission animal shelter.

Hansen shared that PACC differs from other shelters in that PACC takes every animal, no matter if they are sick, injured or have behavioral issues, without charging any fees. Humane Society took in 7,000 animals and PACC last year took in 17,000. That number is getting better, because it has dropped from 26,000 but it’s still an astronomical number.

Right now, the shelter has 400 dogs and kitten season.

The Friends of PACC is the fundraising arm of the shelter, which allows for additional revenues to support education, outreach and medical needs. PACC leverages its impact by working with 1,000 rescue organizations and getting assistance from 1,200 volunteers.

The shelter has a 91 percent live release rate, which is a huge accomplishment for a municipal open-admission shelter.

Of the 17,000 pets cared for last year, 10,000 of them were strays. Special focus is on zips 85705, 85706, 85713 and 85714 neighborhoods because highest rates of strays and intakes.

Among programs PACC offers:

* **PACC Tales**: Kids read to pets. Good for kids, but great socialization for pets
* **Community Service hours**: Teens can assist with enrichment projects.
* **Pups in Boots**: Assists the pets of the homeless by providing booties to protect paw pads in the summer, as well as vaccinations, leashes and spay/neuter.
* **School outreach:** Provide information to students about safety, animal welfare
* Foster program: Great way to save lives to provide respite for animals who are healing
* **Day pass and sleepover program**: Come to PACC and check out a dog for a day and take him out for ice cream or a hike; good for socialization and a great way to get to know an animal if you are interested in adopting

Enforcement philosophy has changed from “the dogcatcher” to “animal protective services” to work with families so they can keep their pets responsibly. Now they provide assistance in fixing a fence or getting medical care for people who otherwise would have to surrender their pet.

While their officers are understaffed at the moment, there are five more in the pipeline which should help with patrols over the immensity of the County, at 9,200 square miles.

PACC is partnering with Palo Verde Park to hold a microchip event on June 1 from 8-10 a.m. at the Arizona Beer House, with the hopes of providing free or $5 microchips for up to 200 pets.

**Adjournment: Next meeting in May will feature the new city parks director.** Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.