Palo Verde Park

Neighborhood Association

<http://paloverdeparkneighborhood.com/>

**Minutes, July 17, 2019**

**regular meeting**

Present:

*Norma Coffman, President*

*Mike Southworth, Vice President*

*Andy Weiss, Treasurer*

*Rhonda Bodfield, Secretary*

*Cathy Cromwell and Matt Russell, zone delegates for Glen Heather*

**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.

**President’s/officer’s report:** Norma shared the mural dedication for Thursday, July 25, asking to ensure that the students get the credit and appreciation they deserve.

Parks has approved us painting the tables in the park with a checkerboard/backgammon template to reduce tagging and vandalism. We will add this concept to the park cleanup event the first weekend in October.

Norma shared the zombie walk Oct. 12.

Norma shared information about the fitness court prospect, which will be a competitive process, but we believe it will be valuable to build healthy lifestyles but also increases attendance in the park. Attendees gathered to take a photo in various fitness poses to share our enthusiasm with Ward 2.

Norma shared that Fred Araiza sponsored Angela Pittenger to paint the little free library. Angela provided her services at a discounted rate so the Council is appreciative to both of them.

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

**Guest presentation**: Jesse Soto, with the City of Tucson Department of Transportation shared information about road infrastructure opportunities and policies.

Soto has experience with Palo Verde because he is in charge of the sign installation around the perimeter of the neighborhood. He also served on the public arts panel that resulted in the mural being assigned to the park.

*Traffic mitigation improvements:* City will assess flooding, drainage, other implications of any mitigation efforts and if the result is satisfactory, will then ask the neighbors to obtain approval from 60 percent of neighbors in the immediate vicinity to put in traffic circles, speed humps, chicanes, etc. Soto’s team will identify the number of residents (both owners and renters) that would be included in the petition area. Once the signatures are validated, Environmental Services, Tucson Fire and Tucson Police are among the departments that will then review the proposal and provide input.

If approved, the neighbors will be assessed a fee to fund the mitigation. Speed humps $4k - $5k. Traffic circles are $12k. Speed tables tend to run $6k.

Right now, City Manager has a pilot program that allows 5 speed humps/tables per ward area at $500 a piece. There are two speed humps in Ward 2 area, but that leaves 3 opportunities. Pilot program ends in February 2020.

Soto’s department can work with the neighborhood on an overall traffic calming plan.

*Audience comment:* Scarlett has fast traffic and people tend to run the stop sign.

*Question about effectiveness*: Soto said traffic circles tend to be most effective in slowing down traffic. Speed humps are effective too, but it often pushes the traffic to adjacent streets. Signs become invisible over time so aren’t as effective over time - even the signs that have flashing lights.

*Audience comment:* Dissatisfaction expressed about having to reduce speed in a big truck to 15 miles per hour to get over the speed bumps, when the legal posted limit is 25. Soto said it is not mandated - the neighborhood can determine what mitigation it wants.

*Overall maintenance:* Soto said 791-3154 is the phone number for TDOT concerns and can report weeds, potholes and other issues. Or can email [tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov)

*Audience comment:* Lehigh gets very busy on school mornings and there is a lot of speeding. Soto encouraged the neighbor to go through the process, because it is a Mayor and Council mandate.

*Audience comment:* Need to get police in here. Soto said that is one tool, but neighbors do complain when they start getting ticketed.

*Improvement districts:* Every neighborhood has been analyzed and assigned a number for where they are in the queue for city-funded improvements. Soto has not seen anything on Palo Verde Park’s roads that concern him - no alligatoring, no significant potholes, just regular wear and tear. A new program is available to residents to invest in their streets. If the neighborhood decides to mill and pave all of the streets - take out all of the asphalt and put new asphalt in, which can last for 30 years. If that’s $2 million, that is split across the neighborhood pool. You can pay it off in 10 years so it isn’t a huge lift - maybe $150 extra a year for 10 years. We have to do the math, but that’s how it works in principle. It can cause some infighting in the neighborhood but it is an option for streets, sidewalks, lighting.

*Audience comment*: That sounds like shifting responsibility to the residents. Soto said that’s just an option that the neighborhood can decide on.

*Audience comment*: They used to do a better job conditioning the roads. Soto said the city has grown in the past 30 years. There are limited tax revenues. Someone at a higher level determines budget decisions.

Audience comment: The city has been responsive when calls are made for a particular pothole. Soto thanked her.

*Audience comment:* How can we get permission to paint the bridge over the wash across from the park? Soto shared washes are under jurisdiction of Pima County.

*Adjournment:* Norma announced next month we will have a discussion around historic preservation. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.