

**RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
January 18, 2021
via ZOOM**

Present:

Stephen Brigham, President
Lisa Fabrizio, Vice President
Kay Matthews, Secretary
Terry DeCarolis, Treasurer

Board Members Present:

Estelle Stern-Eilers, Catlow Shipek, Wallace Kinkade, Mary Bird, John Kovacik, Nancy Fung Martin, Cassandra Peel

RBNA Advisors Present:

Murray DeArmond, Sue DeArmond

Others:

Lindy Brigham

Meeting was called to order by President Brigham at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda/Notes:

1. Rio Vista Park planning document review and approval - Lindy Brigham and Mary Bird: The DRAFT planning document had been distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Review comments were incorporated in the current draft (RioVistaNatResPark.A Plan for Its Future_1.18.21). The plan was developed to present to the City of Tucson Ward 3 and Parks & Recreation Department to help the City prepare for the retention of a project manager and planning consultant for a master plan for the Park. The plan goals and objectives were reviewed, and next steps were discussed to engage representatives from adjacent neighborhoods within the 1.5-mile impact radius of the park.
 - 1.1. Stephen Brigham noted several items to consider:
 - 1.1.1. The planning document is an outgrowth of the termination of the Rio Vista Conservation Plan memorandum of understanding between Jennifer Shopland and RBNA at the 9/25/2020 Board meeting. Since that termination, a group led by Mary Bird and Lindy Brigham as co-leads for the "RillitoBend Neighborhood Advocacy Group (RNAG)" put together the planning document that will be an invaluable reference document for the City's maintenance considerations and planning.
 - 1.1.2. Since the document is so comprehensive and includes references to prior park plans, Steve suggested that the RNAG consider discussing with the City to make the current document the official master plan and then have the City retain a project manager and consultant to do the conservation plan that.
 - 1.1.3. Steve also suggested including more photos of the incompatible park improvements (benches, sawhorse barricades, signs/kiosks, etc.) with examples of successful improvements such as those in the County's Agua Caliente Park and the neighborhood installed benches at the Labyrinth.
 - 1.1.4. It was suggested that the RBNA Board be added to the RNAG group.
 - 1.1.5. John Kovocik made a motion to approve the current document draft with the understanding that there will continue to be edits as the plan proceeds with the City. Terry DeCarolis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's report – Terry DeCarolis: The RBNA funds are held at OneAZ Credit Union. The credit union charges \$2/month. The current balance is \$2,463.83. This includes \$200.00 in donor reserved funds for future landscape improvements at Cactus and Prince following the City's installation of a bike/ped crossing. Recent expenditures include the RBNA website "JustHost" upgrade in October for \$117, which will be an annual expense that provides greater flexibility for the website and additional pages. Terry also noted that the RBNA Mural note cards cost \$844, but the "donations" were \$2650 for a net yield of around \$1800 for the whole project. Terry offered a big thanks to Sue Ann Breems, the mural artist, Vicky Strome the photographer, and Mary Bird for putting the notecard project together.
 - 2.1. Lisa Fabrizio made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. John Kovacik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Secretary's report – Kay Matthews: Kay will be resigning as Board secretary after many years of service to accept the position of Board President of the Winterhaven Village Townhouses HOA. Everyone offered their thanks and appreciation for Kay's service. *[Although not mentioned during the meeting, it was assumed that Kay would continue as a RBNA Board member.]* Kay had previously distributed the meeting minutes for the 9/25/2020 Board meeting minutes.
 - 3.1. John Kovacik made a motion to approve the 9/25/2020 Board meeting minutes. Kay(?) seconded the motion. The motion. Carried unanimously.
4. Vice President report – Lisa Fabrizio: Lisa is resigning as Board Vice President to focus on work and family priorities. Lisa was thanked for her volunteer efforts. Lisa indicated that she would continue as a Board member.
5. General discussion for any neighborhood updates or questions:
 - 5.1. Estelle Stern-Eilers noted that Brook Reed who lives at the NE corner of Allen and Cactus has provided irrigation water for the traffic circle landscape. Brook recently had a water leak in her house so plumbing repairs and clean-up has resulted in the water being temporarily shut-off.
 - 5.2. Sue DeArmond noted that there is considerable litter build-up in Christmas Wash between Roger and the Rillito River. Sue suggested a community clean-up. Estelle will get permission from Tucson Clean & Beautiful and then put out a community call for volunteers.
 - 5.3. Catlow Shipek noted that Watershed Management Group is sponsoring a "Steward Your Streets – Take Action" event this coming Saturday, 1/23/2021. You can register online: <https://watershedmg.org/event/steward-your-streets-take-action-0>
 - 5.4. Catlow and Steve noted that Matthew Vasquez, a former Board member and resident on Allen Road has scheduled an online meeting with City of Tucson Transportation officials (45 min w/Gabriela Barillas, Jesse Soto & Jennifer Toothaker.) for next week, 1/28/2021 at 1:30 PM. The agenda will be discussion of the next phase for the Allen Road and Cactus traffic circle and Integrated Traffic Calming for Allen Road. If anyone wants to attend, contact Matthew at mvasquez333@yahoo.com
 - 5.5. John Kovacik expressed a safety concern for the safety of those interested in cleaning up of Christmas Wash given the homeless population encamped there.
 - 5.6. Kay Matthews asked about pruning and maintenance for the Prince Road trees planted by Tucson Clean & Beautiful between Country Club and Cactus. Steve noted that the maintenance responsibility is with Winterhaven Village Townhouses. Kay noted that the HOA is having some water issues, but hopefully the irrigation water will be restored to the trees

before it gets hot. Catlow also noted that it is not recommended to prune young trees before they become established in the first 3-4 years if possible.

5.7. Estelle wanted to follow-up with the new subdivision on Prince Road, Las Cabanas. Steve was not sure if the developer would have all the new property owners' email addresses, but he suggested that a note to the developers welcoming the new residents to the neighborhood with general information would be helpful. Steve will make the initial contact. For future reference, the developer contact is: Randy Agron, Executive Vice President - Chief of Operations, A.F. Sterling Homes, randy@afsterling.com, (520) 577-3600 x108

6. Board positions and recruitment – All

6.1. It was noted that we need a Secretary and Vice President – ideally from the Board. Catlow volunteered to serve as Secretary with the understanding that the Communications lead (currently Mary Bird) would handle the website.

6.2. Mike Peel was suggested a possible VP candidate, but he may have started a PhD program.

6.3. Steve asked if the Board thought it would be a good idea to have regular neighborhood meetings via ZOOM as other neighborhoods are doing. It was a consensus that this would be a good way to recruit new volunteers and keep in touch with the residents. It was suggested to schedule a neighborhood-wide virtual meeting along with quarterly Board meetings.

6.3.1. The neighborhood-wide meeting could include updates on the Rio Vista Park Conservation Plan, the RBNA website, and sharing of history/stories from archives.

7. ProRioVista updates

It was noted that Melanie Campbell-Carter is no longer volunteering with ProRioVista and has offered support to RNAG on development of a Rio Vista Park Conservation Plan. Several of her illustrations are included in the current Rio Vista Park planning document.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen Brigham, Interim Secretary

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