

Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
January 8, 2018

Present: Deb Dedon, Jay Vosk, Melody Peters, Colby Henley, Barbara Homan, Mark Homan, Steve Kozachik, Tom Veneklasen, Rose Veneklasen, Bernadette Croteau, Stacey Plassman, Karen Henley, Amanda Smith, Joe Plassman, Declan Murphy, Jim Rossi, Gina Cox-Dorman, Damon Ballesteros, WOMAN WITH SHORT PALE HAIR WEARING BLACK SWEATER

1. Rio Nuevo is negotiating with the RTA for properties on Broadway, including the bungalows, Solot Plaza, 2221 E. Broadway, and the New Deco Plaza. Steve Kozachik said that this allows Rio Nuevo to take the title for the properties and may help preserve some of them.
2. There will be a meeting on January 11 at the Ward 6 office regarding the former Volvo dealership's property on Broadway and Euclid. The City wants to set up a PAD for a property buyer. Colby reports that he has more information.
3. Declan Murphy, a consultant to Verizon, presented plans for a proposed cell tower at 9th and Cherry which will appear to be a 60-foot tall palm tree. The tower is potentially multi-carrier. The next step is neighborhood outreach and, if all goes well, the tower's plan will be presented to Mayor and Council.
4. Jim Rossi and Gina Cox-Dorman of the City of Tucson's Real Estate Division presented TUSD's request that the City vacate Mountain between 6th and 7th Streets to create a safer drop-off zone for Mansfeld Middle School students. The University of Arizona would sell parcels on the west side of Mountain, presently occupied by historic houses that contribute to Rincon Heights' historic designation. RHNA would favor a design that spares those houses. Damon Ballesteros from City of Tucson Planning reviewed options for placing bollards (posts) to restrict vehicular access. The first option presented demolishes those houses to create space for Mansfeld's drop-off/pick-up traffic queue. Mountain would become one-way between 6th and 7th with a raised 'pork-chop' median to direct traffic back to Highland, which would exit on 6th. The existing drop-off/pick-up location on Highland would be closed. The second option cuts off Mountain north of the alley using bollards, but this option reduces the space for a pick-up/drop-off traffic queue. It will route traffic up Santa Rita, across Mansfeld's parking lot and out on Mountain. Option two would preserve the drop-off/pick-up location on Highland. If the University intends to demolish the historic housing anyway, the first option seems the simplest. It was noted that objects like large rocks or planters could be substituted for post-type bollards.

A third option, replacing Mansfeld's parking lot with a multi-level parking garage with the ground level reserved for buses and drop-off/pick-up queues, is out of financial reach.

Amanda pointed out that if Mountain closes, traffic on 6th and Highland will worsen. This potential closure of Mountain north of 7th presents a problem for Rincon Heights as we have already lost two other avenues of access to 6th, Vine and Cherry, closed by the University. These closures could be disastrous in an emergency evacuation such as the 1978 crash of a fighter jet on Highland. Mark wants to re-open discussion with the University regarding the houses.

5. Due to our outdoor circumstances, the meeting skipped Police reports, the Minutes of September 17, 2017 and the Treasurer's report.
6. Nominations for RHNA officers will be made by a nominating committee. Those interested should

6. (continued) e-mail Colby.

7. Updates:

A. A meeting to address neighborhood definition (Area Plans Forum) will be held on Thursday, January 18, at the Ward 6 Office.

B. Volvo PAD meeting. The proposed PAD would keep current zoning in new PAD. Neighborhoods see this as too vague. The City of Tucson wants flexibility for a new project which will be opposite The Mark on Broadway. Surrounding neighborhoods need joint meetings for plan recommendations.

C. Community Garden. The passing of a gardener was noted. Presentations on arid lands gardening by a member of the Hopi tribe (Michael. _____) and on gardening under a solar installation (Moses Thompson?) were mentioned.

D. Tile. The assembly of tiles is proceeding; glazing in progress. It may be possible to have the tiles for two benches done in February. Four or five people will be needed for the installation, the schedule to be determined.

E. Broadway Corridor Art Committee. Dirk Arnold, noted for neon cactus designs, has been selected as the artist for the two-mile Broadway Corridor. The budget is thought to be \$200,000, but this figure may be inaccurate.

F. CCRC and Fraternities. Do we have an written agreements with the UA regarding fraternities? We now have a frat house with a sign on Highland. CCRC's new community relations person, Julie Ann _____, may be interested in attending RHNA meetings. Mark suggested a welcome meeting which would include a walk-through of the MOU. CCRC meetings do not reflect neighborhood input or attendance. Mark also suggested we talk to other neighborhoods first before bringing our concerns to CCRC meetings.

G. Neighborhood Potlucks. Mark suggested that perhaps the neighborhoods should have joint potluck meetings using the block-party format.

H. UA Building Projects. Colby reported that anticipated UA building projects would be north of 6th, including the aquatic area, east side of the stadium and east of Championship drive. An indoor practice field is planned.

I. Garage Lighting. Lighting on the new parking garage has been intrusive. The lights need capping to direct the light downward.