

RHNA Quarterly Meeting Notes
Sept 16, 2014 - 6pm
Ha:san School

1. Police Reports

TPD (Matthew Keena):

- Break-ins are starting to go back up as the UA students return. More homes are broken in from side windows or back windows. Most happen during daytime and very few at night.
- The peeping tom has not been caught, but is not longer showing up in the neighborhood.
- Noise/parties: The noise limit is 75 decibels and there is no time limit set on that. If your peace is disturbed, call the police. We use discretion and try to work with people. Call 911 and they will direct your call. You can call anonymously.
- Michelle has been finding a lot of broken glass at Feld Davis Park. TPD officer suggested calling in and reporting it as vandalism.

UAPD (Fernie Ugalde):

- Lots of bike thefts are happening – heroine/crack addicts are trying to steal bikes on campus. Use U-locks.
- Crime has gone down and there are fewer vehicle break-ins.
- There are lots of drunk kids, mostly on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.
- He patrols around the neighborhood and talks to people, especially if “they don’t look like they belong here.”

2. Steve Kozachik – Ward 6 Council Member Updates

- This is Molly’s last meeting with RHNA. She is moving to Australia. Steve’s new aide Kate introduced herself.
- TUSD Update: 9 school sites have had some zoning issues as schools closed down and the properties were being repurposed or sold. The City and the TUSD needs to work together with the neighborhoods regarding solar panel placement. There will be a community presentation about the schools getting solar panels on **October 15 at 6pm** at the Lee Instructional Resource Center (L.I.R.C.)
- Charter Change Committee: Last night there was a Charter Change Committee meeting. They discuss issues such as: strong mayor type of government, ward-only elections, taxation authority, but also non-charter issues such as: non-discrimination, funding for the arts, recognition of neighborhood participation in forming policy, etc. It is important to be represented in these meetings and it would be good for RHNA to designate someone to attend. Ward 6 has the most heavily engaged neighborhoods in the city. The discussion about neighborhood involvement in creation of public policy matters to you. It is important whether or not this neighborhood engagement issue ends up in the charter. The charter change

committee is studying these issues to forward to the election. There are two meetings: **October 6 at 4 PM and October 22 at 4pm**, both at Council Chambers.

- Stacey inquired about sending emails to the committee and Steve suggested sending them directly to the City Clerk. They are a new committee and would be open to reading emails.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the June 3 meeting were approved.
- Jacob suggested that we discuss issues regarding Sigma Alpha Mu at the spring or fall meeting instead of the summer meeting so that they can be present.

4. G.A.I.N (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods)

- Evren announced the Take Back the Nigh event taking place on October 8th and invited neighbors to organize a walk through the neighborhood or a gathering at Feld Davis Park if anyone was interested in taking the lead.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Chris Wilke informed us that \$100 came in from the community garden, which puts us at \$2401.13.

6. RHNA 501(c)3 Status

- There has been a conversation about the possibility of applying for 501(c)3 status among some of the neighbors. The benefit would be tax write-off for donations, but it brings some limits on lobbying. We can establish a research sub-committee and bring it back to vote in December. Michelle said she would like to contribute by researching if other neighborhoods have this status.

7. Trimming of Vegetation in Sidewalk Areas

- Deb talked to TPD and found out that trimming vegetation in someone else's private property is a misdemeanor and comes with a \$250 fine. It is considered "criminal damage."
- Deb emphasized that a bad pruning job can kill a plant and leaving the trimmed branches on the sidewalk can cause injuries.
- Evren asked how neighbors felt about the idea of having "neighborhood pruning gatherings" to maintain vegetation in the public right-of-way (without making this official neighborhood policy). Chris thought a lot could be accomplished by doing this once a month. We would focus on light trimming to keep the sidewalk areas clear. Chris can't run a committee but she is willing to participate and show people how to trim properly. Evren is interested in volunteering if someone can teach how to do it. She suggested having these gatherings quarterly.

8. Neighborhood Updates

Community Garden (Chris):

- Melody printed a tear-off flyer for the community garden and neighbors are invited to take copies if they have places to hang them.
- There will be a compost session on **September 20th at 7:30 am.**
- **October 4th** is the plant sale and the proceeds go to the garden.
- Kara is hosting a “Creatures of the Night” event on **October 1st at 6:30 pm.**

Little Free Library (Michelle):

- All of the little free libraries around town need children’s books.
- There is a Google map where you can see the little free libraries around the world.
<https://maps.google.com/maps/u/0/ms?msid=201860500793147213935.0004ac6e854ff1e35e434&msa=0&dg=feature>

Broadway Project (Laura):

- Laura announced that the last Broadway Task Force meeting in September had good turnout from RHNA and thanked everyone who came. The proposed alignment would demolish 15-17 buildings in Rincon Heights. Sam Hughes representative blocked consensus. She and Colby had the only two dissenting votes. Laura read the document that was drafted to give to Colby as the RHNA position on Broadway widening. The document was approved unanimously with some minor corrections.
- Mayor & Council will vote on the road width at the October 9th meeting at 5:30. Neighbors are invited to show up and emphasize that our neighborhood should not lose these buildings. RSVP to Laura by Mon, October 5th if you would like to hold a sign.

UA Projects/ CCRC

- Stacey has no updates. The meetings don’t seem very relevant. She has not been to the last two meetings and would like someone else to become the RHNA representative. The garage project has been delayed and UA informed her that they were not planning to improve the bike access at the moment.

Other

- Deb saw a surveyor in the neighborhood which may have to do with Ha:San School applying for a zoning change. The school got an F in charter school ratings (AZ Daily Star) and she is not sure how long it will remain as a school.