

Tucson Residents for Responsive Government (TRRG)

Establishment (Annual) Meeting

May 1, 2014

Ruth Beeker, Neighborhood Infill Coalition, began the meeting with announcements and introductions.

1.) **History:**

a.) Summer 2013 Workshops: Ruth Beeker quickly reviewed the workshops conducted by the Neighborhood Infill Coalition, which culminated in the creation of TRRG. Ms. Beeker reviewed a list of activities that affect Tucson's residents, and one which TRRG will probably be interested in monitoring. That list included,

Ongoing Issues:

- Broadway Corridor RTA Project and attempts by city staff to circumvent the Citizen's Task Force to preclude consideration of fewer travel lanes.
- Grant Road RTA Project, which currently has no meetings scheduled, but tentatively is scheduled for repaving on some portions in the Spring of 2015.
- Infill Incentive District and the work by neighborhood representatives to get this overlay zone modified to include the protections which Mayor/Council had instructed PDS staff to include in the original overlay requirements.
- Council Member Uhlich continues to push the city attorney for written confirmation of the City's policy to give priority to the Most Restrictive Zoning when making a zoning decision. So far, the city attorney has not followed through with her request.
- The Design Review Committee Process, which Mayor and Council held out as a protection for area residents when they created the Main Gate Overlay zone, was ignored, when certain PDS staff violated a binding agreement that had been entered into regarding the exterior face of the latest student housing tower.
- The proposed Entertainment District on University Boulevard has alarmed West University residents, since state legislation requires it to extend 1/8 mile into the neighborhood on both sides of the street.
- Plans to redevelop the Ronstadt Center continue with Rebecca Ruopp working with the interested parties to try to come up with an equitable solution.
- The El Rio Coalition continues with its legal action against the city. The city continues to drag its heels releasing the information per the court's instructions. Despite this, the Coalition learned that the city had been planning the sale of the El Rio golf course as far back as January 2013. Despite the fact that the golf course is a public asset, this process had been conducted without public input. El Rio's legal process has been going on for nearly a year now, with May 13th
- The Impact fee deadline has been missed by the City and there is a potential loss of anywhere from \$2 - \$20 million dollars in revenue which the city will be unable to collect until all of the state-mandated steps are completed. Concerns were also expressed with current city budget proposals that would eliminate many of the management positions for our city parks, leaving us with few people to support the continued care of this valuable community resource.

- Absence of any assurances that neighborhoods will continue to have support through some type of neighborhood-dedicated department, now that those functions have been folded under the Office of Integrated Planning.
- Upcoming meetings to address proposed code changes for urban agriculture and the concern over the vicious attacks that some proponents have engaged in against anyone who raises concerns or questions.
- Ongoing meetings to address cell towers and the limitations the federal government has placed on communities and their ability to set reasonable regulations that respond to changing technologies.
- Rio Nuevo and development of the Mission Gardens site. Concerns that there may be a push for inappropriate development that does not honor the original objective of the legislation passed by the voters.

Upcoming Issues:

- City staff will be writing protocols for city policies and procedures, which currently don't exist. This is partly a response to citizen concerns raised about the absence of any written documents that provide clarity and certainty when staff is making decisions regarding city policy. Citizens will need to monitor this process to ensure that the interests of the community are not ignored.
- Proposed redevelopment of the Palm Shadows site at Campbell/Speedway. Developer wants a 20-story mixed use project, utilizing a PAD, with special, as yet undefined, provisions inserted into the PAD requirements.
- City Charter and a call from Mayor/Council to establish a committee to make recommendations for changes to the city charter.
- The need for resident participation in any search committee that is formed to replace high-level staff, such as the city manager.

b.) "This WE Believe": This document came out of the Summer 2013 workshops and serves as the foundational document for TRRG and the TRRG Bylaws.

c.) COGS Mentoring: There was a brief explanation about the Coalition of Greater Scottsdale and the role some of its officers have had in assisting us in the creation of TRRG.

d.) February 2014 Workshop: There was a brief overview of this final organizing meeting, which resulted in the selection of Tucson Residents for Responsive Government (TRRG) as the name for this organization.

e.) Resident Introductions: Attendees stated their names and the organizations or neighborhoods they were affiliated with. There were approximately 40 attendees present. Guests included Sonnie Kirkley and Copper Phillips from the Coalition of Greater Scottsdale (COGS).

2. Election of Board of Directors

a.) Introduction of Slate of Candidates: Attendees were given a slate containing the names and brief bio's of those individuals who expressed a willingness to serve on TRRG's Board. Those individuals are: Ruth Beeker, Joanne Downey, William Ford, JD Garcia, J. Lisa Jones, Barbara Lehmann and Bonnie Poulos. Ruth opened the floor for nominations. Seeing none, the nomination process was closed. Three volunteers were

recruited from the audience to count the ballots. Ballots were distributed to all those present. Since the proposed Bylaws permit up to 11 Board Members, and there were only 7 names on the ballot, a motion was made and seconded, (Cecelia Cruz/_____) to affirm all of the candidates as Board Members by acclamation. Without discussion, the motion passed.

3.) Discussion of “Ideas Too Good to Lose”: The group discussed a number of ideas/suggestions/questions that had been submitted after the February meeting. Included in that discussion were the following:

- Should TRRG pursue non-profit status? The representatives from COGS discussed their structure. They are split into two parts. One is a non-profit 501C(3), which is allowed to engage in educational activities, such as providing residents with detailed information on a redevelopment proposal or budget item. They are not permitted to take a position on any ballot initiative or candidate. Their second part is a Political Action Committee, which must follow strict state requirements and is permitted to endorse a candidate. There was discussion about a 501C(4), which is permitted to take positions, express concerns and provide information. TRRG’s membership chose to let TRRG get itself firmly established before pursuing any of these designations.
- How to verify residency? There are concerns, based on past experiences, that attempts may be made by individuals to undermine TRRG by posing as residents in order to obtain TRRG status. Language was proposed for the Bylaws to allow for verification of residency, but it needs further refinement.
- Decision made by the group through a motion made/seconded (Colette Altaffer/Bill Dupont) that language be inserted into the Bylaws to require Robert’s Rules of Order as the guiding document for procedures which the Board will follow.
- Motion made/seconded (----/ Lisa Jones) that amendments made to the Bylaws are to be distributed to the membership 60 days prior to the meeting at which they will be voted upon. Diana Lett volunteered to write the new language for the verification of residency and this amendment process.

4.) Distribution of “Application for Membership” forms. Any attendees who wished to be among the first official members of TRRG had the opportunity to complete the application form and pay the \$10 dues.

5.) The Board of Directors will be meeting within the next 30 days to elect officers; decide how to stagger their terms; begin to get an organizational structure in place, etc. The date was not available at this time.