

TRRG Board Meeting : February 1, 2018

1. *Call to Order*: 5:29PM

2. *Roll Call*: Bonnie Poulos, Ruth Beeker, Oscar Gandy, JD Garcia, Lisa Jones, Barbara Lehmann, Tina Pacheco, Kristine Yarter [Joan Hall, Absent]

3. *Approval of Minutes* of Nov 12, 2017 Board Meeting: moved, seconded, and approved without exception.

4. *Treasurer's Report*: Barbara made an oral report noting the following: current account level \$1519.41; two new members have been added, putting our total at 113 members. We need to pay for the TRRG domain name registration [IBNS]. After discussion of the options, it was recommended that we purchase the 5-year option. Such a motion was made, seconded, and approved without exception. Bonnie noted that she has arranged to have a banner store produce a TRRG banner for the amazing price of \$47.98. The Treasurer's written report will be delivered to the Secretary via email.

5. *Call to the Audience*: JD Garcia offered praise for the January 18th TRRG/Ward 6 public meeting about PSD concerns, providing special praise for Ruth's and Bonnie's timely interventions and guidance.

6. *Committee Reports*

a. CE: Kris provided several handouts with her report on Code Enforcement activities. She described some of the problems with CE staff and how some of them understand the nature of the problems with CE. She described some of the insights about the process that involved court hearings that stand as a key example of how the process is, or is not working. On the plus side, one case <<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/QDPS/Report/ReportInfo/M1041LC17057004>> involved an appearance before a community friendly judge who actually expressed sorrow about how neighborhoods are being treated by the process. In this particular case, the judge suggested that the city would clean up the property, and then place a lien on the property.

Kris described the nature of the CE budget, noting the assistance she received from Carlos De La Torre with budget documents and graphics representing budgets and expenditures for past and current budgets. She also noted that CE is getting to use additional equipment, including transportation to do their work. It was noted that money in the CE budget comes from the general fund.

A special part of Kris' report was on Illegal dumping, which was also described in a handout. Among the plans was a determination by CE to clear the trash within 48 hours. Planning involved the implementation of different procedures for different types of property [private, city, or right of way]. She suggested that the city needs to evaluate the impact of these initiatives, especially since the allocated expenditures don't seem to be out of range, despite being fairly low.

Finally, Kris reported that she hasn't had any CE meetings in a while. It was suggested that if there are no pressing issues, we don't need have a meeting to waste people's time. Again, it was noted that it helps that Carlos De La Torre is the point of contact. It was suggested that TRRG and the CE committee need to

take credit at the Annual Meeting about what TRRG has done in the area of CE, including getting members as active participants on city commissions.

b. PDS : Ruth reported on the meetings of the PDS committee, including the co-sponsored January 18th public meeting focused on community plans. The very large participation at our events helped the city to recognize that there was substantial community interest and concern. Ruth commented on the results of the hand-outs to the participants noting that the most popular option was a follow-up session or forum on the nature of plans and how they are, or are not being followed. It was noted that we want to schedule such an event quickly.

Ruth reported that she sent the proposal that had been approved by the committee to Michael Ortega indicated that he agreed with the importance of this activity. Scott Clark was identified as the person in Ortega's office who will work with TRRG planning a public meeting. It was suggested that an alternate site, perhaps a city facility with more space, parking, etc. might be an important improvement on the event's impact on the process. It was noted that PDSD knows which are the active neighborhoods. Ruth will consider getting the city to provide another location for our next public event.

Ruth discussed possible points of engagement with the planning process, perhaps focusing our attention on "active neighborhood groups" with neighborhood plans. It would be important for such an event to explore a series of questions about who has the power to alter neighborhood plans.

Ruth noted Ortega's interest in having TRRG consider the benefit of planning options of the sort being explored in Phoenix related to "villages," rather than neighborhoods or even Wards. Collette Altaffer distributed information about the strategy to the PDS committee at its last meeting.

Ruth also noted that City Manager Ortega has asked to have a meeting with TRRG, and this led to the suggestion that he could be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting. Ortega is reportedly exploring alternatives for city problems, including planning activities, such as Plan Tucson, which Board members noted involved considerable staff and community engagement, much of which, like preservation, is being ignored.

c. Membership: Bonnie discussed how the handouts returned at the January meeting provided a good sense of the level of community interest, generating hope that events such as that would attract new members to the organization.

She reported that the Brochure had been updated to reflect changes made at the Annual Meeting. She requested Board members to indicate their acceptance, or alternative suggestions regarding the adjustments that had been made in the document. After reviewing most of the changes marked in red, the Board was asked us to respond by Monday, and if the changes were accepted, she would print 1000 for \$186.00. A motion to have these brochures produced was made, seconded, and approved without exception.

7. Planning for Annual Meeting (April 28, 2018)

a. Nomination Committee for Board Members

Bonnie noted that we need a nominating committee [two persons]—members of TRRG. She will ask whether the people are eligible to serve are willing to accept that responsibility.

b. Agenda for Annual Meeting

The Vice Chair is responsible for organizing the Annual Meeting: Ruth noted that Michael Ortega has expressed an interest in being the keynote. Perhaps his comments might be tied to neighborhoods in general, and building strong neighborhoods with support from the city as a primary focus.

It was noted that there usually is not much audience interest in the business meeting part of the event. However, it was noted that we need the audience to propose focus topics, as well as those suggested by the Board.

The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 28th 11:30-3:30PM; The follow-up Board meeting is scheduled for May 3rd, 5:25-6:55PM

It was suggested that we might encourage members to contribute homemade items to share at lunch; people might inform Bonnie about what they would like to contribute.

c. 2018-2019 Focus Topics

Ruth noted that Don Ijams had added PDS resources to the TRRG website.

Lisa suggested that we also need to include a special event on Code Enforcement, with a focus on how people can become more effective in their neighborhoods. Such a session might update the members about the changes that have been made following the visit from neighbors from Mesa. Kris stated that the Code Enforcement Committee will continue to monitor code enforcement situations for the time being. Kris's position on the Environmental Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) and the Waste Division, Collections and Education Subcommittee allows her to work closely with Carlos De La Torre and Rick Saldate regarding CE issues. She will continue to bring back updates to TRRG and the CE Committee members. No decision was made on holding another CE event.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:48PM.

Respectfully submitted, September 7, 2018

Oscar Gandy