

TRRG Board Meeting, February 7, 2019

Call to order: Bonnie Poulos

1. Roll call: Bonnie Poulos, Ruth Beeker, Oscar Gandy, JD Garcia, Joan Hall, Barbara Lehmann, and Kris Yarter (Tina Pacheco was absent). Guests attending Crystal Dillahunty, Ward6 Council Aide, and Ian Wan, Planning and Project Management, NextGen Engineering).

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of Nov. 1, 2018 were approved without objection.

3. Treasurer's Report: Barbara Lehmann's report noted that TRRG's current balance was \$1,645.41. She also noted that over time, we have received some \$1,400 in donations, \$2,770 in membership fees, and limited interest payments on the account. She also noted several categories expenses, including a present fee for the Website of \$99. Her membership report noted that we have 40 friends and 140 members, and recently increased our membership, adding 29 new members in 2018.

4. Call to Audience: Ian Wan, a planner and civil engineer, now doing environmental planning, reported on the upcoming Arizona Planning Association's upcoming conference (September 11-15th). He suggested that there would be considerable value to be gained by TRRG's engaging more often with members of the APA. He invited TRRG to develop some form of presentation that they could present at the conference. Discussion ensued and it was suggested that perhaps we might connect across the border with Hermosillo, our Mexican sister city in Mexico. Bonnie suggested that our recent work with neighborhood plans could be part of the basis of our proposal to the APA. Ruth and Bonnie will explore the possibilities and invited members of the Board to contribute to the development of such a proposal.

5. Committee reports:

a. **CE:** Kris Yarter presented an update on developments with regard to Code Enforcement in city neighborhoods, suggesting that last year was a good year for code enforcement. One such marker was the way people the people running for office and their supporters did a good job taking down the signs (90%) after the election. She also reported on progress with regard to tracking "divergence emergency calls," for example where there is a fire or some other high risk status in some neighborhood. She noted that this is a Code Enforcement Inspector volunteer effort, since it is available 24/7. While Code Enforcement is presently down to 11 code inspectors, they are interviewing to raise that number to 12. She also reported on Brush & Bulky and BB+ developments. With BB+, Neighborhood Associations can provide information about corridor areas in need of attention. For the first time, this will include proactive Code Enforcement efforts to address major property maintenance issues affecting the various neighborhoods. Graffiti and weeds will get cleaned up, potholes patched, street signs fixed or replaced, and a streets sweeper will clean the streets. A Neighborhood can request a ride along drive thru visit that will include a person from CE, ES and TPD to identify problem areas.

Kris noted that she and Carlos De La Torre are planning a TRRG CE update forum for March 25th, from 6-7:30PM at Ward Six. Judge Semon, who hears all the CE cases, has agreed to speak about what his day is like on the Bench. Ruth suggested that TRRG really was the source of the changes in the way this process

has been improved through public engagement. We therefore should have a TRRG membership table for the event to get some credit and support for our organization.

b. **PDS:** Ruth reported on the Planning and Development Services Committee which had two meetings since the November Board meeting. The Sustainable Neighborhoods Through Planning initiative's report was used in the PSD committee to set priorities for this process. An important challenge in this effort remains "how do we identify when there is a "new edition" of a neighborhood plan," that indicates the nature and status of the process of review.

Ruth and Bonnie reported on the progress made in helping neighborhoods to update their plans at a December meeting with PDS staff. They noted that there were some differences regarding the extent to which this process was seen as a central or peripheral concern. However, it seemed clear that there was no mandate or a commitment of resources in the Department for moving forward with this initiative. Ruth indicated that TRRG will not give up on this initiative. Hopefully, the City Manager may be willing to provide for a workshop to move forward with this effort. It was suggested that perhaps this delay could be explained in part by the fact that PDS is currently seeking a director.

Ruth reported that the committee continues to monitor the performance of the new zoning examiner, noting that the new examiner seems to be trying to get the community and the staff to work together on the zoning process. A third area of concern was related to TRRG's request for PDS to provide the community with guidance with regard to planned area development projects. Two recent projects, 22nd and Houghton, and the Benedictine project were identified as especially troublesome processes. Numerous questions exist regarding policy guidelines about about which group is supposed to guide the process, and what is the specified order of their staging. Ruth indicated that she has made a draft proposal for the direction in which this process should go and the PSD committee is currently revising that draft.

c. **Policy and Procedures Manual:** Bonnie reported that she, Joan Hall and Bonnie have developed an initial draft of the Manual, a copy of which was discussed in the meeting and would soon be delivered by e-mail to the Board. During her review of the draft document, Bonnie identified several areas in which additional work needed to be done. Members of the Board were invited to provide comments and suggestions for improvement of the draft once it has been distributed. Bonnie noted that this Manual is being produced for the benefit of the Board in carrying out its mission more efficiently, and as such, it does not require approval of the membership.

6. **Planning for the Annual Meeting** which is scheduled for April 27, 2019, with space reserved from 11AM-4PM. Bonnie distributed a draft of the Annual Meeting agenda. We will have the Business meeting early and will not have a full lunch. This segment of the event will include the Treasurer's Report, including membership.

a. **Nominating committee for additional Board Members:** It was determined that no current members of the Board are due for re-election, however we could add one or more members. Bonnie will inform the membership of the possibility of adding new members in time for nominations to meet the notification requirements. It was also suggested that perhaps some of the participants in the PDS

planning activities should be contacted to solicit their willingness to serve. Ruth volunteered to serve with Bonnie as a nominating committee.

b. Agenda for Annual Meeting: Reports of committee activities including the Sustainable Neighborhoods Initiative, and the Code Enforcement, BCCs, and the PDS committees.

c. Topics for invited guests to focus on. Brent Dennis, the new COT Parks & Recreation Director, and Diana Alarcon, the new Transportation Director.

Adjournment: The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:10PM

Respectfully submitted by Oscar Gandy, February 11, 2019.