

Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Minutes for **May 11, 2024**, at the home of Donna Snyder

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

1. Call to order — roll call

Donna Snyder *President*, Barb Fleming *Member*, Karen Sweeney *Member*, Tony Knight, *Member*
Absent: Gary Bruins *Vice President*, Sue King *Treasurer*, Dori Frankel, *Member*

2. Old Business:

a. Up-zoning: regarding the Yarbrough property at 4375 Ironwood Hill Drive being divided into two lots. The property is ~4.77 acres and is zoned for one house per 3.31 acres (SR). The re-zoning request would allow for one lot for the big house on ~2.49 acres. The second lot would hold the existing guest house on ~2.32 acres (SR-2 each). The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the request with one nay vote by Commissioner Bruce Gungle. Two commissioners were absent. Representatives from TMA along with our GPANA board member Barb Fleming spoke against the request at the hearing on the issue of density. The rezoning request now will go before the Board of Supervisors on May 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM. GPANA's stance is that we, as an organization, do not wish to see any increases of residential density in the Tucson Mountains Special Area. The board has spent a lot of time and research on this issue. A letter of opposition from GPANA has been sent to the board of Supervisors. Flooding the email boxes of the Board of Supervisors would send an important message that GPANA members and the residents who live in our Tucson Mountains area, are serious and care about maintaining our open space for people and wildlife. To reach ALL the supervisors by email, send your opinion to the Clerk of the Board at: COB_mail@pima.gov. You can also speak at the Board of Supervisors Meeting on May 21, 9:00 AM, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Pima County Administration Building, 130 West Congress, 1st Floor. Public access to the hearing room is at 8:40 AM. Please read the following instructions and please note that your address to the supervisors can run no longer than 3 minutes:

To address the Board of Supervisors, please complete a Speaker's Card. Clearly print your name/address, the item number and other requested information. Speaker Card(s) are required for Call to the Public and Public Hearing Items. Once completed submit your Speaker Card(s) to Clerk staff. When the Chair announces your name, step forward to the podium and state your name for the record. The Chair reserves the right to ensure all testimony is pertinent or non-repetitive so matters are handled fairly and expeditiously. All attendees are advised that the Board of Supervisors strongly adhere to the rules of civility and decorum. Outbursts, breaches of peace, boisterous conduct or other unlawful interference will result in that individual being asked to leave the meeting room. Any questions pertaining to the meeting can be directed to Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board.

b. Treasurer's Report: (Sue) no report this meeting. But note that we continue to explore our options for D&O insurance as the cost jumped from \$740 to \$1800. It renews June 1.

c. Membership and new members: (Sue) no report this meeting

d. Spring Membership Meeting Recap:

The meeting was held on April 13, 2024 at the home of Barb Fleming and Bob Peyser. About 20 members, plus board members were present. After a pot luck lunch, President Donna Snyder started the meeting. Business matters were discussed along with updates on the issues on which we've been working: 1) the No Parking signage at the crest of Camino de Oeste has been completed; 2) minimal improvements by Pima County

Department of Transportation have been made at the Speedway, Camino de Oeste/Gates Pass Road/Anklam intersection area; 3) the rezoning request by Mr. Yarbrough is an issue yet to be finalized with the next step that it goes before the Board of Supervisors. 4) the issue of wildcat bulldozing in our area was spoken to and the need for neighbors to report incidents to the Pima County Planning and Zoning Commission. News included that the Cooper Center has started its first phase of renovations. Barbara Jones spoke to our group about the changes at Christopher Columbus Park. She also announced the big news that the Wilderness Society has designated 20 miles along the Santa Cruz River as an Urban Wildlife Refuge, a first for the state of Arizona. More to come on that announcement. Our guest speaker, Supervisor Chair Adelita Grijalva spoke to our group about some of the issues affecting our area such as the casino planned for the area east of 1-10 and Grant Road. Note that this project is in the very early planning stages and there was nothing of substance to report. There was also discussion on *Pima Prospers*, the Pima County 10 year 'guide' for direction and planning. More on that below. Supervisor Chair Grijalva encouraged all to speak up on any issues affecting our area by contacting the Board of Supervisors via email at COB_mail@pima.gov. The door prize was drawn and one of our new members won a \$50 gift certificate to Mosaic Café. Thanks to all who came out.

e. Continuing Issues, Updates:

- International Wildlife Museum, nothing new to report
- Accidents at THE intersection: the last incident that we are aware of was the damaged end cap of the guard rail east of the Anklam/Speedway intersection. Other than that, things have been quiet. Should you witness or learn of any accidents at THE intersection area, please email us so we can keep track.
- Wildcat Bulldozing: Regarding the Rosson properties to the South of Gates Pass Road, a permit was granted to revegetate the illegal bulldozed roadway.

3. New Business:

a. Website and Social Media: E-mail blasts have been sent on Heat Awareness, Stinknet and the new organization, Friends of Columbus Park. Our website has been updated with the latest events and the KGUN9 clip on roadside pickups has been added to our Facebook page and our website.

b. Feliz Paseos Park Cleanup (Tony): June 1 at 7:00 AM. Note the early start time. If you can participate, please email us.

c. Roadside Pickup (Barb): the next roadside cleanup will be along Painted Hills Road and a section of Speedway on October 19. The next roadside cleanup for Camino de Oeste and a section of Speedway is November 2. We meet at 8:00 AM for both events. Reminders will be sent to members.

d. Fall Membership Meeting and Pot Luck: The board is working on a plan to finalize the date, location and speaker. It was suggested that we invite the Sheriff's Department to make a Fraud and Scam presentation. If this is of interest to you, please email us.

e. Friends of Christopher Columbus Park: This is a new group that has been formed by GPANA member Barbara Jones and the Tucson Mountains Association. The group is advocating for more sensitive upgrades to the park that would preserve, protect and improve the wildlife habitat, walking trails, birdwatching activities. The Parks and Recreation Phase II improvements include more sports-oriented opportunities such as pickleball close to Silverbell Lake.

f. Pima Prospers: *Pima Prospers* is a comprehensive plan, updated every 10 years. Its purpose is to guide the County regarding decisions concerning zoning, economic development, transportation, affordable housing and more. It breaks Pima County into designated areas. We are in the Tucson Mountains North Area. Tucson Mountains North area is a 'Special Area' with consideration given to our rugged terrain, diverse vegetation, significant wildlife habitat and riparian areas. GPANA's and TMA's goal, in face of the up-zoning regarding the Yarbrough property, is to tighten the language in Pima Prospers to make it more difficult for property owners to rezone an existing property to allow for higher density in housing. This subject probably deserves its own 'report' but for the sake of brevity here, you should know that Board Member Barb Fleming, GPANA member Roger Carpenter, and President Donna Snyder spent hours reviewing the existing document dated in 2015. Board member Dori Frankel also contributed. Donna and Barb attended a meeting with Supervisor Chair Adelita Grijalva, Supervisor Sylvia Lee, Keith Bagwell Senior Policy Advisor for District 5, along with representatives from TMA, and representatives from PC Planning and Zoning. We asked a lot of questions, got a lot of answers and some clarifications. We also had a virtual meeting with Chris Poirier who explained language and clarified some issues. Barb and Donna (mostly Barb!) then worked on submitting a list of requests that will be sent to Chris Poirier regarding tightening up zoning and policy issues for our 'special' Tucson Mountains area.

No further business being presented, the meeting was adjourned at about 12:00 noon.

GPANA is still in need of a Secretary. We are always on the lookout for folks who love our Gate Pass Area and are willing to do a bit of work for our organization. **We can't do it without volunteers!** Please reach out to us and support our work. Email us at gpanasec@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events: *Dates are subject to change*

May 31, 2024 – Deadline to file annual report and pay fee to AZ corporations commission

June 1, 2024 – **Feliz Paseos Park** cleanup at 7:00 AM

June 8, 2024 – *Board Meeting* at 10 AM

July 13, 2024 — *Board Meeting* at 10 AM

August 1, 2024 – Deadline for board/committee members to notify board if planning to leave

August 10, 2024 — *Board Meeting* at 10 AM

September 1, 2024 – Prepare slate of officers for next year's board

September 1, 2024 – Renew County Permit for Roadside Cleanups (Barb)

September 7, 2024 – **Feliz Paseos Park** cleanup (Tony)

September 14, 2024 – *Board Meeting* at 10 AM

October 12, 2024 — *Board meeting* at 10 AM

October 19, 2024 – **Painted Hills /Speedway Cleanup** (Barb) and **Fall Membership Meeting**

November 1, 2024 – Election and Membership Month.

November 9, 2024 – *Board Meeting* at 10 AM

November 16, 2024 – **Roadside cleanup on Camino de Oeste/Speedway** (Barb)