

GPANA General Membership Meeting on March 26, 2022

COTA Auditorium • The meeting started at approximately 10:00 AM

Board members present: Denise Garland (president), Gary Bruins (vice president), Donna Snyder (secretary), Suzanne King (treasurer), member Ethan Henderson. Members Tony Knight and Karen Sweeney were absent.

Guest Speaker: Marie Light

Approximately 30 people were present for the meeting

1. President's Welcome and Board Member Introductions, Denise Garland

The meeting was opened by Denise Garland, president. Current board members were introduced.

2. 2022 First Quarter Accomplishments were reviewed...

- **The GPANA Website** has been re-built using WIX. The online dues paying process has been streamlined. Additions and improvements are still being made.
- **Illegal Shooting in the Gates Pass Area** has been reduced. The locking of the gates at the summit overlook has helped, though instances of random shots, mostly at night still occur.
- **Re-established opposition to the I-11 Freeway Route through Avra Valley.**
- **GPANA supports Tucson Mountains Association** in advocating for ungrounding utilities on scenic routes. GPANA also asked for and received support from our Supervisor, Adelita Grijalva on this issue.
- **Educated our members about the rights of property owners** when it comes to allowing hikers access to washes that run through private property. Public use of washes only exists inside of State and National Parks. Property owners have the right to deny access to hikers who would like to walk/hike desert washes through their property.
- We've asked and have received an additional **GPANA Adopt-A-Road sign** for Painted Hills Road.

3. Treasurer's Report -- Sue King

See last page.

4. Upcoming Events

- 4/2/22: Camino de Oeste Roadside Cleanup at 8:00 AM
- 5/21/22: GPANA Board Meeting at 9:00 AM via Zoom
- 6/11/22: Feliz Paseos Park Cleanup at 8:00 AM

- 7/9/22: GPANA Board Meeting at 9:00 AM via Zoom
- 10/15/22: Painted Hills Roadside Cleanup at 8:00 AM; and Fall General Membership Meeting at 10 AM
- 10/22/22: Camino de Oeste Roadside Cleanup at 8:00 AM

5. Issues We are Tracking

- TEP damage to native plants along Speedway. TMA has taken action on this issue with mixed results. TEP avoids undergrounding utility lines along scenic corridors in Pima County.
- TEP and emission of Nitrogen Oxide from its Irvington Power Plant.
- Pima County's revisions to the Outdoor Sign and Lighting Ordinance
- Graffiti at the Gates Pass Overlook. The stone buildings and some boulders have been tagged. This is an ongoing issue. The Parks Department contracts with a local vendor to clean up graffiti. Individuals should not clean or paint over graffiti themselves.
- Buffelgrass, an ever-present fire hazard. We encourage our members to recognize and remove it from their property. To do more go here: Buffelgrass Pulling: <http://www.desertmuseum.org/buffelgrass/>
- Neighborhood issues regarding Dark Skies, an ongoing issue: <https://www.darksky.org/>
- Illegal shooting in the Gates Pass Area.
- I-11 Freeway proposed route through Avra Valley
- AZ House Bill 2674 that created a study committee to look at the need for affordable housing.
- Unreliable internet service in our Gates Pass area.

6. Future Efforts

- 2022 GPANA Goals — improving website and social media, investigating additional outreach resources, increasing membership, increasing parks and public lands
- 24/7 phone line to call when illegal grading or building is taking place.
- Reestablishing the County Magistrate to hear Department of Environmental Quality cases.

7. Update from Colin Waite, Director of the Cooper Center for Environmental Learning

Colin gave a brief report on the status of the center's projects and goals. Cooper Center now has 6 full time educators and they are growing their programs. Construction for the facility improvements will start in May with a projected completion 4 months after the start. Fundraising is an on-going process though they did receive a \$400,000 gift from a donor.

8. Honoring Longtime GPANA Advocate Oliva Cajero Bedford

Sadly, we lost a strong voice for the westside and GPANA when Olivia died in early February. Her son Travis and daughter Tara Bedford Chipman, along with a family friend, joined our Painted Hills cleanup and then came to the meeting. GPANA presented a \$500 check, in Olivia's honor, to the Cooper Center. President Denise Garland shared some memories sent in by members. Member Jim Wilson, a neighbor and long-time friend, shared stories and laughs. Olivia will be sorely missed, especially at our roadside pickups, always chic in her purple jumpsuit, with her purple truck and go get 'em attitude.

8. Guest Speaker – Marie Light on Water Conservation

Marie Light, a hydrologist at Tucson Water, gave a very informative talk on water harvesting, conservation and an overview of how Tucson Water works to ensure water for our future. Click here for the link to the Watershed Management Group for information directed to homeowners and HOAs wanting to improve water retention on their properties:

<https://watershedmg.org/services/home/>

Another helpful site is here: <https://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>

Additional links of interest:

Buffelgrass Pulling: <http://www.desertmuseum.org/buffelgrass/>

TEP: Trees for You program (\$5 trees!) <https://www.tep.com/trees-for-you/>

Neighborhood Watch: to learn more and to start a neighborhood group, go here:

<https://pimasheriff.org/services/neighborhood-watch>

With no further issues or comments President Denise Garland thanked everyone. The meeting ended at about 12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Snyder, Secretary

Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association

Contact us at: gpanasec@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report
March 15, 2022
Prepared by Suzanne King

01/01/22-03/15/22

Beginning Balance \$4,882.94

Income

Membership Renewal-Checks	\$380.00
Membership Renewal-PayPal	\$200.00
WIX	\$20.00
Total Income	<u>\$600.00</u>

Expenses

PayPal Fees	\$12.78
Post Office Box	
Website	611.13
Insurance	
State Tax	
Office Expense	26.68
Donation to Camp Cooper	
Donation to IDA	
Total Expenses	<u>\$650.59</u>

Ending Balance 03/15/2022 \$4,832.35

Member Totals

Member households	130
Individual members	240
Email addresses	191

For 2022 we have 130 member households and 240 individual members. At the end of 2021 we had 129 members. 121 member renewed, 3 moved, 5 did not renew. We have 9 new members. 73 paid through PayPal.