

GPANA General Membership Meeting on October 8, 2022

COTA Auditorium • The meeting started at approximately 10:10 AM after coffee and pastries outside the auditorium.

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

Guest Speaker: Vianey Avila

Approximately 12 people were present for the meeting

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

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

2. 2022 Accomplishments/Issues to date were reviewed...

- **The GPANA Website (www.gpana.info)** has been updated. A 'Desert Living' page has been added. This page includes things like Leash Laws, the importance of Dark Sky, Area Hospitals and Emergency Centers, Emergency information, Native and Toxic plants, Rattlesnake info and more. It is very easy to join or renew and pay dues while on the site. Member photos can be sent to our email address: gpanasec@gmail.com for possible inclusion on the site.
- **Met with Pima County Supervisor about increasing public lands and parks.** Pima County has announced that 3 properties that sit alongside a peak across from Mountain Gardens on Gates Pass Road will be added to their target list to try and purchase and fold into Tucson Mountain Park. The county is preparing a proposal to acquire forty acres on the northwest portion of the Las Lomas property to add to Feliz Paseos Park. Though the stone houses will not be included, the owner of the property has plans to update and restore these historic buildings. Also mentioned was the fact that there are no park rangers for Tucson Mountain Park.
- **A GPANA brochure** has been created for the purpose of reaching out to folks at events, to new neighbors and to Realtors who can pass the brochure on to prospective home buyers.
- **Keeping members informed:** Through emails and postings on the website, members have been informed about the following 1) the importance of Dark Sky 2) How to form a Neighborhood Watch Group 3) Spelling out Leash Laws 4) Locations of Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers 5) the locations of nearby Law Enforcement and Fire Stations. More information on Recycling to come.

- **Reduced illegal shooting in the Gates Pass Area.** On May 9, 2022, two area residents called in reports of gunfire in a wash area. Law enforcement responded with patrol officers along with their airplane. They arrested five people for reckless discharge of firearms. Residents are reminded to immediately call 911 if shots are heard. Your call will be routed to the proper agency and it makes a huge difference in cutting down on crime. Unfortunately, there have been quite a few reports of wildlife being shot; bobcats (including 2 collared cats that were part of a research program), javelina, and deer.

- **Reestablished our opposition against the proposed I-11 freeway route through Avra Valley.** GPANA has sent letters to ADOT, the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the Tucson City Council reaffirming our opposition to the route of the new I-11 freeway through Avra Valley. This route is still on the table for ADOT. Note that our state senator Kyrsten Sinema has come out in support of the Avra Valley route.

- **Received support from our supervisor to pursue TEP undergrounding utilities on scenic routes.** Tucson Mountains Association is taking the lead on this issue, but it is a big ship to turn. The first step is letting residents know how valuable our scenic routes are and how they should have undergrounded utilities.

- **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 people who would like to walk/hike desert washes through private property.

3. Treasurer's Report

See last page.

4. Upcoming Events

- 10/15/22: Camino de Oeste Roadside Cleanup at 8:00 AM
- 11/12/22: GPANA Board Meeting at 1:00 PM via Zoom
- 11/7/22: Board Election email to be sent to members regarding voting and paying dues
- 11/31/22: Deadline for voting and for annual dues to be renewed
- 12/10/22: Feliz Paseos Park Cleanup at 8:00 AM
- 12/5/22: Secretary to count votes and advise board and members of election results and dues. Election Buddy will again be used for this process.

5. Issues We Are Tracking

- TEP undergrounding utilities on scenic routes

- County Sign Lighting Ordinance has been completed
- I-11 Freeway proposed route through Avra Valley
- Kinney Wildcat Trail Issue
- AZ House Bill 2674, committee to investigate the need for affordable housing
- “Your Speed Is...” sign on Camino de Oeste

6. Future Efforts

- Setting up a tour of a member’s home that has incorporated a full water collection system for household use along with solar panels in an effort to move off the grid.

7. TMA Vice President and GPANA member Denise Baldwin. Denise represented Tucson Mountains Association at our meeting and spoke on ongoing efforts to convince numerous entities, particularly the county, of the importance of undergrounding electrical lines on scenic routes. She asked that interested folks consider joining a Membership Action Committee, spearheaded by TMA, to push this effort. If interested in getting involved, please contact either Denise Baldwin at denise2b@cox.net or Denise Garland at denisegarland31@gmail.com.

8. Guest Speaker Vianey Avila from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum

Vianey Avila gave an excellent presentation on buffelgrass, how to identify it, how to eradicate it, ongoing efforts and more. Some of the interesting takeaways included federal and state monies coming in to help removal efforts within Saguaro National Park West. Those efforts would most likely include spraying herbicide in areas that are very difficult if not impossible to reach. Also for Tumamoc Hill and “A” Mountain, a combined grant of \$100,000 has been granted to the Desert Museum for buffelgrass removal. Congressman Raul Grijalva has been instrumental in making this grant happen and he is actively pushing for increased federal support from congress. There’s a possibility you’ll see weed-chomping goats on the sides of Tumamoc Hill in the near future. See the links below for more information.

Tucson Sentinel article: [Tumamoc Hill Restoration](#)

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

Before closing the lucky winner of the raffle was Bob Snyder who won a \$50 gift certificate to Coyote Pause Café on Kinney Road.

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
September 8, 2022
Prepared by Suzanne King

	Current Period 7/8/22-9/8/22	Year to Date 1/10/22-9/8/22
Beginning Balance	\$3,593.33	\$4,882.94
Income		
Membership Renewal-Checks		\$480.00
Membership Renewal-PayPal		\$200.00
WIX	\$100.00	\$180.00
Total Income	\$100.00	\$860.00
Expenses		
WIX Fees	\$4.40	\$19.82
Post Office Box		\$166.00
Website		\$611.13
Insurance		\$615.38
State Tax		\$50.00
Office Expense		\$26.68
Donation to Camp Cooper		\$500.00
Donation to Tucson Mtn. Assn		\$30.00
Donation to IDA		\$35.00
Total Expenses	\$4.40	\$2,054.01
Ending Balance 9/8/2022	\$3,688.93	\$3,688.93

Member Totals

Member households	141
Individual members	259
Email addresses	207

For 2022 we have 141 member households and 259 individual members. At the end of 2021 we had 129 members. 124 member renewed, 3 moved, 1 is deceased, 2 did not renew. We have 16 new members. 79 paid through PayPal or WIX