

CGNE Neighborhood Association Meeting

2/26/2024, 6:00–7:19 p.m., WARD III Office

Attendance: *In person:* TC Tolbert (president), Allison Rutter Barrett (vice-president), Kirsteen Anderson (secretary), Elana Rose, Linda Briggs, Marlene Field, Denni Hawks; Jim Croxen, Georgia O’Neill; Kris Teran, Humberto Teran. *By Zoom:* Kathy Casavant (treasurer), Ben Elias, Beverly Rutter, Evelyn Haaheim, Jenny Bell, Lauri McCanless, Andy Laurenzi, Mark Rein’l-Bautista, Valerie Hink, Abigail Jogan, Vicki Mills, Nick, Matthew, Jennifer Slothower,

1. **Introductions:** TC introduced himself as president, Cathy on Zoom, Alison and Kirsteen in person. He announced CJ could not attend due to conflict with a homelessness summit. Thanks to Alanna Gonzales for running tech.
2. **Vote on bylaws:** TC thanked they bylaws committee for their hard work and explained adoption of bylaws requires a simple majority of those present in person or on Zoom. In the revised bylaws, yellow highlights are those made prior to the October annual meeting. Green highlights are changes made after the meeting in response to neighbor feedback; no highlight means no change. Crossed- out info at the end of the document was removed because it is duplicated in the main text. The bylaws as amended passed unanimously with 22 votes.
3. **Vacancy for recording secretary:** The bylaws specify two secretary positions. Kirsteen is willing to act as corresponding secretary, but it’s not feasible to fill two roles during meetings. Role descriptions from the bylaws follow:

Section 3 – RECORDING SECRETARY: The Recording Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings of all meetings, including the Executive Committee meeting, the Annual Meeting, and any Special Meetings. Following the Annual meeting, copies of the business transacted therein shall be made available to the Membership using methods A and B in Article II, Section 3 above.

Section 4 – CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for the correspondence of the Association, and shall send notices to the Membership as directed by the Executive Committee, using methods A and B in Article II, Sections 3. The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the list of the Association Membership; posting official business on the Association website; arranging meeting venues within or near the neighborhood where the internet can be used to facilitate communication with the Membership; coordinating such virtual communications during all neighborhood meetings, including Special and Annual meetings; and shall be responsible for bringing the concerns of virtual attendees to the floor at meetings.

A call for nominations for recording secretary yielded no response. Executive committee will follow up to publicize the vacancy on the listserv. **Neighbors: please consider taking on this small role.**

4. **Treasurer report:** Kathy Casavant delivered by Zoom. So far in 2024:

Contributions: \$124

Expenditures: \$150 donation to Lend-a-Hand

Ending balance: \$3,676

A button to pay dues via PayPal is now on the neighborhood website (cgne-tucson.org). PayPal takes 5% of the amount, but the convenience is worth the cost.

5. **Listserv membership criteria:** Kris Teran asked about who is on the CGNE listserv. She argued it should be a private forum for residents, property owners, and business owners (i.e., those eligible to be association members) and that address verification should be required of anyone asking to join.

Kirsteen responded that this is the process being used now, but Vicki Mills pointed out some people outside the neighborhood are on the list. Kirsteen will weed out listserv by sending individual messages to each person on the list to verify their current status. The proposal of sending one mass email to everyone is problematic because (1) mass emails tend to go to junk folders, and (2) some folks may “reply all.” inadvertently revealing their physical address and possibly other information.

6. **Guidance on use of dues:** We ask people to give annual dues, but we don’t have clear parameters about how we do/do not use the money. The executive committee can authorize spending up to \$500 without neighborhood approval, but we don’t want to make unilateral decisions. TC asked attendees’ input on how CGNE funds should be spent. For example, a speed bump could be a legitimate expenditure, but that one item might benefit only a few neighbors. He invited residents to submit suggestions (or dissensions) via the listserv if they prefer to comment privately or at a later time.

Humberto Teran commented money should be used on social events and neighborhood functions, and should not include donations to nonprofits. Before spending money on speed bumps, we should determine how many people on that street are actually contributing dues.

Alison pointed out that ongoing expenses are maintaining the listserv and domain hosting for website. In addition, there has been a request for permanent doggie bag holders in Conner Park, which would include cost for installation and stocking with bags.

Kirsteen pointed out that there is damage to the cover on the bulletin board in Conner Park, causing the corkboard to warp and ink on flyers to run. As per the new bylaws, CGNE meetings and information is being posted on the bulletin board as well as on the listserv.

Ben Elias volunteered to contribute some time and energy to making small upgrades to Connor Park as described above.

Repairing vandalism of/repairs of little free libraries is another legitimate expense.

The idea of community giving is a nice concept, but it is a tough call to agree on what organizations should benefit. Alanna suggested setting aside a pot of money for community donations, but the general feeling was CGNE funds should be used for neighborhood benefit and folks can make direct donations to charity if they wish. Georgia O'Neill suggested that an exception be made for Lend-a-Hand, because we have several residents who currently use their services and many elderly residents who may need services in the future.

Valerie listed her priorities as (1) neighborhood events such as annual picnic, caroling, etc., (2) traffic mitigation and similar things; and (3) neighborhood-related nonprofits like Lend a Hand.

Jennifer Slothower proposed money be spent on general neighborhood improvements (speed humps, new neighborhood signs, little free libraries, tree planning, chicanes). Even though she does not live on a street that would benefit from a speed bump, they add to neighborhood quality of life. In general, she would like to see neighborhood upkeep or beautification projects to propel our neighborhood into one of the nicest places to live in central Tucson. She is in support of occasional neighborhood events, but donations to nonprofits are her lowest priority.

Matthew Brown would be interested in inquiring about the process for getting sidewalks installed on Silver. He would expect money to be spent on neighborhood improvement and hyperlocal charities that directly benefit our neighbors. Neighborhood events are also fine.

Valerie reported that the sidewalks on Water St. were funded by an assessment paid by the homeowners over a 10-year period, starting about 1995. Presumably, new sidewalks would be paid for in the same manner.

Lauri McCanless's priorities would be neighborhood upkeep/beautification, website maintenance, and social events.

Evelyn and other neighbors think the dumpster between brush and bulky pickup is great (not sure if the city charges for that or not, and Lauri also suggested the option of Bagsters (600-gallon curbside bags) as an alternative to the dumpster.

7. **Traffic mitigation mini-grant.** Denni Hawks led a fearless group of neighbors to apply for a \$75,000 City of Tucson mini-grant for traffic mitigation; preference will be given to low-income neighborhoods. Two speed bumps and a traffic circle were approved for Spring St., but speed bumps on Wilson were rejected due to water flow in the street. They are looking into chicanes, but the street may be too narrow.

Cut-through traffic remains a high concern. The city posted plans for our section of

Grant a long time ago, but plans keep changing. A diverter at Olsen and Grant was proposed to permit turning out of but not into the neighborhood there. Would require neighborhood agreement and city approval.

Posting “Do not enter” signs was suggested, but there is no way to enforce. Also, one can send a notification to Google indicating that a street is not a through street and Google Maps will modify directions accordingly.

This is a rolling grant that will be dispersed over time. Spring St. items were approved by city, but the neighborhood may have other wants. How far will \$75,000 go? Ben advised that estimated costs are low-ball because the city will not do the work itself but will outsource to contractors. Estimates are \$4,000–8,000 per speed bump. \$14,000–18,000 per chicane, and \$18,000–25,000 per traffic circle – the cost depends on whether planting/water harvesting is included. In flood areas, the traffic circle has to be at ground level and without plantings to permit water flow.

8. **Spring social event.** We’re too late for Valentine’s Day breakfast, which Amy Utzinger used to host. But she has moved out of the neighborhood. Ben suggested a spring equinox pancake breakfast at Conner Park. Consensus is:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for brunch on Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m.–noon at Conner Park.

The executive committee will organize and pay for expenses, **but we need volunteers to help with shopping, preparing batter, bringing propane-fueled stoves/griddles.**

9. **Next meeting time and agenda items.** Andy requested to hear from RTA engineers about current plans for Grant Rd. widening, since when construction Grant begins, we can presume there will be more cut-through traffic. Also, the proposed overlay is nebulous and offers much flexibility for rezoning. Andy would like to see the current O1 zoning (single-story offices) preserved. Spring St. residents commented that in the last two years, a property on the north side of Grant was briefly an Air BnB then was split into apartments. This could be due to the property having been multifamily prior to current zoning ordinances or could have been an unapproved change.

Ben will give TC info for people to contact. However, he noted that the city has not acquired any property because phases 5 and 6 may be contingent on whether voters extend the RTA.

10. **Issues for remote attendees.** Several Zoom attendees had difficulty hearing the proceedings. For the next meeting, executive committee will ensure everyone is muted on joining the meeting and will secure a wireless microphone to mitigate these issues.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the next CGNE Association meeting, Monday, April 29, 6:00–7:30 p.m. It will again be in person with a Zoom option.