

Midtown: The Garden District

Regular Business Meeting

March 16, 2004

John B. Wright Elementary School Cafeteria

Vice President Howard Ward called the meeting to order at 7 PM in Brad's absence.

Prior to that, students of Wright School, led by their music teacher, presented a concert playing Orff instruments. It was a delightful presentation and we continue to encourage students to participate in the community. So thank you, Wright School.

Treasurer David Kha presented the monthly treasurer's report.

Cash on hand	Deposit	Expenses	Balance
2414.02	2184.78	2071.15	2527.65

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wright School

Cinco de Mayo day will be on Friday May 7. Principal Lisa Langford put up a sign sheet for volunteers and for donations of food. Testing is taking place at the end of March and at the end of April. The school's challenge is to meet the attendance requirements and they are just shy of the 95% needed, which is wonderful considering the 60% mobility rate.

Library Learning Center

Anna Marie Patti spoke with great frustration regarding the lack of input our community had and how the plans changed from the original vision. It appears that now this will be more of a library than a learning center with greatly reduced spaces for meeting rooms and community use. The process of bidding will begin and the library is due to open end of 2005 or beginning of 2006.

Bike, Lego and Origami Club

David Kha's clubs are growing and growing. Check with David or at our web site www.thegardendistrict.org to find out what is going on and where and when meetings are held.

Trees for Tucson

Applications for trees will be ready at the September meeting. Trees are \$5 and help is available for digging holes if the tree is planted on right of way.

Botanical Gardens

Nancy Laney, executive director of the gardens, spoke passionately about the role of the garden in our community, her pride in the gardens and her disappointment that some neighbors are not amenable to the gardens. Nancy is reaching out to the community to heal old wounds.

Other News

Sal Guerrero of the Shady Home Mobile Association, at Columbus and Lee, gave us an update on his efforts to clean up the trailer park ridding it of crime. At a hearing to the State on April 21, he will ask that the landlord give power to the Association to pursue the goal of zero tolerance for crime.

Our neighbor Ray Orme asked for volunteers to assist in refurbishing the home of Dan Wilkie, on Seneca, who was shot and paralyzed and is now wheelchair bound. The first weekend in May volunteers are needed for house painting and landscaping. If you want to help, call Ray at 321-0149 or cell 982-254.

Concerns were expressed about burglaries, abandoned homes and gunshots in our neighborhood. If necessary do not hesitate to call 911.

Elaine Dean, a teacher at Holiday Magnet School, gave us an overview of this TUSD charter school with an excelling label.

GUEST SPEAKER

John Henning, from Yes-2-Kids, spoke about using handball to make a difference to kids.

This has proven to be a successful program that builds character and imparts to participants, mainly low risk kids, a sense of achievement. This group's vision is to build handball courts in neighborhoods and he would like us to look at the possibility of using school land or public park land to create handball courts in our neighborhood. He will be speaking more on this at a later meeting.

REMINDERS

Bring something to give away at the sharing free cycle table and take back what is not taken.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 20, 2004, 7 pm, pot luck 6:30

Ida Plotkin, secretary