



# Palo Verde Park Neighborhood Association

<http://paloverdeparkneighborhood.com/>

## Minutes, regular meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

### **Roll Call and introductions, present:**

Norma Coffman, president  
Mike Southworth, vice president  
Rhonda Bodfield, secretary  
Cathy Cromwell, Glen Heather Estates delegate

### **Greetings and Code of conduct**

The President read the code of conduct and expectations for civility.

### **President's report**

- **Home tour:** Seeking two more houses to participate for the April 5 tour.
- **Fitness Court:** Resident Vonnie Baldwin is interested in heading up a committee to advance our request.
- **Park Fest 2020:** Scheduled for March 29 with 12 bands and four food trucks; please help us promote and share on social channels.
- **Movie night:** Courtesy of the Loft Cinema, showing Princess Bride
- **Pickleball courts:** Interested in adding some additional court space to qualify for tournament quality play
- **Community garden:** Resident Taralyn Smith is willing to lead the committee to explore where to site.

**Treasurer's report:** The Association has roughly 1,100 left in funding that will be utilized for costs associated with our events and our ongoing perimeter sign drive. Although Broadway is completed and Kolb nearly so, there are in all 17 signs left to purchase, with the bulk on Wilmot and 22nd Street. Funds still being sought for completion.

**Approval of July minutes:** Unanimous approval, no discussion

**Elections:** The slate included Norma Coffman, President; Mike Southworth, Vice President; Andy Weiss, Treasurer; Rhonda Bodfield, Secretary; Cathy Cromwell, zone delegate; Torey Crandell, zone delegate.

There were no nominations from the floor.

A voice vote by participants reflected unanimous support.

**Bylaws:** With a unanimous vote, the bylaws were changed to allow more flexibility in recruiting candidates for the Council. The original bylaws restricted zone delegates to

one representative per subdivision. That restriction was lifted to allow greater participation.

### **Featured Speaker: Jon Choi, Tucson Clean & Beautiful**

The environmental nonprofit has been around for more than 30 years; its sister nonprofit is Trees for Tucson. The program provides recycling education, Adopt a Street, Adopt a Park and stormwater harvesting projects. Also offered: Neighborhood tree pruning workshops and free or discounted trees for low tree canopy neighborhoods.

The project in the park is part of a grant-funded large scale stormwater project and includes passive stormwater harvesting on the north and south sides of the park. The project is designed to capture stormwater runoff from the park and the parking lot into depressions that have been scooped out along the shoulders. Trees will be planted in the depressions, which will be lined with rocks.

New trees will be added on the east side. Those trees will be larger, shade-producing versions such as pistache, velvet mesquite and Chinese elm. The north and south sides of the park will feature smaller, more native trees such as desert ironwood, velvet mesquite, desert willow, hackberry and palo verde. Desert Willow is the fastest growing. The slowest growing, but sturdy keystone habitat species, includes the ironwood and palo verde.

Neighborhood feedback will help determine the tree mix. Natives are recommended both for their drought tolerance and their ability to attract birds, butterflies and pollinators.

Tree planting is recommended between late fall and early spring.

The triangular parcel east of Langley is the final part of the project, anticipating the creation of a series of berms and basins that will serve as a passive water harvesting landscape. A pathway would cut diagonally across to the footbridge over the wash; the west side of the pathway would include a series of depressions to capture some of the water across the parcel.

There is a potential to plant 10-20 trees and discussions continue on ways to provide water, since there is no irrigation on the site and the trees would require watering for the 18 months it takes for them to become established. Among the possibilities:

- Securing a contract to get water trucked to the site
- Obtaining a 250-gallon tote that would be locked and kept on site, and would be filled by the city each week for neighbors to provide water for the saplings.
- Obtaining a 250-gallon tote that neighbors would fill themselves and transport over in personal vehicles
- Merely planting native soil seed mix and forgoing the trees.

Neighborhood volunteers would be asked to participate in the plantings. Tucson Clean & Beautiful would bring the tools and digging bars and possibly a jackhammer.

Supplemental water could include 2-3 times a week in the summer, with each tree getting two to three five gallon buckets of water to saturate the soil and encourage root expansion.

Pests are not expected to be a problem, and the basins are designed to drain within 12-24 hours.

The project is the largest one they've undertaken, with an investment of about \$100,000.

Adopting a site would include essentially picking up trash, pulling weeds and keeping an eye on tree growth and performance. No pruning is recommended for two years. Monthly gatherings of 3-5 participants would be required.

Tucson Clean & Beautiful has certified arborists on staff and will explore completing a tree assessment of Palo Verde Park's mature trees to gauge their strength and health.

**Formal Votes:**

A motion was made to formally adopt the park, including the new north and south plantings. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made to send a letter from the Neighborhood Council to the City of Tucson seeking a formal water contracting agreement. The vote was unanimous.

**Final Announcements:**

Thanks to Fountain of Life for hosting us! A huge thanks to Ariel Gilbert-Knight and Steve Barancik for their work in supporting this water harvesting project and serving as the neighborhood liaisons.

The next meeting will feature Tucson Police Department sharing crime trends and prevention tips.

Following the February meeting, there will be a hiatus until the June meeting, when we expect an update from the City of Tucson Parks Department.

Meeting was gavelled to a close at 7:32 p.m.

