

Meeting Minutes El Gheko Neighborhood Association March 6, 2024

The meeting started at 6pm with the board introductions by Rachel.

Board members in attendance:

Rachel Affield, Lucien Fuertes, Jerry Tulino, Rita Tulino

Following introduction, the board presented the ByLaws vote to change the frequency of required meetings from a minimum of 3 meetings a year to a minimum 2 meetings a year. The meeting attendees voted 31 in favor and 4 against. The modification of the ByLaws passed.

Update from Paul Cunningham:

Provided an update on the improvements to Palo Verde Park. The construction of a basketball center with ground breaking happening in July 2024.

Work on the Jesse Owens splash pad is ongoing. Parks and Recreation has had delays on several projects.

Paul provided information on some initiatives he's looking to work on to include working with the City of Tucson on improving the procurement process and bringing more opportunity to small start up businesses in town to bid on contracts. Additionally, he's proposing the use of Artificial Intelligence to improve road maintenance. The City of Tucson is not looking to charge for public transportation for the next year but it's not certain that it will remain free. He's looking to make the service better for the approximately 22,000 people that use the service on a regular basis. RTA vote is coming up. This is not a good deal for the city. Pools this summer will be open because there's no expected lifeguard shortage.

There were questions and suggestions about the neighborhood association accepting donations to cover costs related to meetings and paying for the website. Donations to the neighborhood association are accepted. Please reach out to the board through email elghekona@gmail.com if you would like to donate.

Jerry (webmaster) provided an update and information regarding the website. Neighbors had a positive opinion about it. Business sponsorship is available as a way to fund the neighborhood's financial needs. Businesses can advertise on the website and can pay for 6 or 12 months of advertisements. They just need to provide a business card and that will be posted on the website with a link to the business' web link.

Lucien (secretary) provided updates about the Little Library that is ready for use, sponsored by Dyann Miller vice president and neighbor with Long Realty, encouraged people to use it and to download the Free Little Library App to check in and find other free libraries nationwide. Also provided an update about the neighborhood yard sale that is scheduled for April 6th from 8am - 12pm. We need helpers to assist with placing signs on the major thoroughfares around the neighborhood and pick them up afterwards. Also provided an update on the Roll-offs that will be

places along the Hudlow Elementary's Fence on Green hills. We need volunteers to man the roll offs from 10am to 4pm on Saturday April 20th and Sunday April 21st. Volunteer shifts are 2 hrs long.

Terry Hayward, TPD Community Liaison Officer update:

There were 145 service calls logged for El Gheko but many of those were converted to 311 calls for non-emergency general information and help. There has been a task force created to address the street racing issues in the city. There was a question regarding how to now what is happening nearby when many sirens are heard on the main avenues around the neighborhood. Officer Hayward said that she didn't know of a way to get that real time information but she was going to look into it. There were some suggestions by neighbors to use Crime Stats or Spot Crime websites to look up the information but it's not real time.

The meeting ended with the raffle of several Culver's dessert gift cards and a goodie bag.