

NENA General Meeting – May 2, 2009  
Minutes

Attendance—approximately 20 people  
Location – Phoenix College Willow Room

President and Treasurer Report

Ellen Perkins started the meeting with a review of prior accomplishments. She thanked all who helped contribute to the success of events and efforts during the past year. Ellen also reported financials, including:

\$566.44 in account; we have \$1400 available in funds, mostly from block watch grant. This helps pay for the neighborhood newsletter. The silent auction from the ice cream social raised good revenues. We have until the end of June to use the Block Watch Grant.

Comments & Concerns from Neighbors

Tax Reduction Program

Tom Denny reminded everyone about the historic tax break that provides approximately 37-40% reduction in property taxes. Of the 456 properties in NENA, there are 419 (92%) who are considered contributors to the historic nature of NENA. Tom had forms available at the meeting and encouraged neighbors who haven't applied, to go to the state historic web site to download the application. If you are not sure if your house is a contributor or not, you can email Tom at [tdenny2@cox.net](mailto:tdenny2@cox.net) and he will look your home up in the directory.

Tom also mentioned that historic plaques can be ordered to place on the outside of your home by contacting [healysigns@aol.com](mailto:healysigns@aol.com). They will send you a brochure.

Recycled Aluminum Can Program

As of June 1<sup>st</sup> June Kane will take over the collection of aluminum cans. June will place a recycle bin out in front of her home on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for neighbors to drop off their cans. June's address is 1630 Flower Circle North. Money goes to NENA's General Fund. Many thanks to Barb Simpson who has handled the collection since the inception of the program. An email reminder will go out a few days before the 1<sup>st</sup> to remind neighbors of the collection.

Food Drive

The food drive was a huge success with neighbors donating over a ¼ of a ton of food. There are plans to conduct another Fall drive and dates will be determined at our next meeting.

Point of Pride

An attendee suggested that homes that receive the Point of Pride award should have to be contributors to NENA's historic status. The question was also asked as to how the winner is chosen. Nicki explained that the newsletter lists her email address for neighbors to send their nomination for this quarterly event. It was suggested that during the next Executive Board meeting this be further discussed to set some parameters and work on engaging more neighbors in the process.

Election Ballot

A secret vote was taken and the results were:

## The Executive Board

President – Nicki Kirkeby

Vice President – Ellen Perkins

Secretary – Gini Sater

Treasurer – Sara Hersch

## Section Leaders

Section A Mason Hite

Section B Barb Simpson

Section C Mary Endreson

Section D Jim Jeffries

NENA's New Community Action Officer

Homeless Transients

Officer Knecht introduced himself at our meeting and spoke about the problem with homeless transients in our neighborhood. The City will be conducting an ongoing program that will first reach out to the homeless through city programs when they are trespassing on vacant properties. If reaching out does not work, the owner of the vacant property can request an authority to arrest. Trespassing signs are then posted that will allow the City to arrest and remove transients on vacant properties.

We also discussed the presence of homeless transients in many of the alleys through out NENA, especially the alley behind the businesses on Thomas Rd. Officer Knecht directed neighbors to call the non emergency Crime Stop number when there are homeless that appear to be living in the alley. The City can enforce the "no camping" ordinance and remove them from the alleys. Having any type of bed roll would constitute camping.

Officer Knecht also asked that neighbors email him at [al.knecht@phoenix.gov](mailto:al.knecht@phoenix.gov) with locations of the worst alleys and the time of day when there are homeless frequenting them.

The question was raised as to whether or not No Trespassing signs could be posted in the alleys. He directed neighbors to check with the City Zoning Department.

Free VIN Etching May 14<sup>th</sup>

The Phoenix Police Department invites you to stop by and your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etched onto your windows. This is a free service and the first 25 participants to sign up for "Watch Your Car" will receive a free Steering Wheel Club. The event will take place on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon at the Home Depot located at 3609 E. Thomas Road.

City going to Mini Precincts

The city is realigning police precincts. We may be in Squaw Peak or Maryvale. There were concerns raised about being classified as being in Maryvale and should discuss what we can do about this at our next Executive Board meeting.

Motion to Accept Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last meeting that are on Gini Sater's computer. Motion was seconded and approved.

Megan Ormitz from Vice-Mayor Tom Simplot's Office  
Alley Abandonment Process

There is an alley abandonment process that can be used to close an alley to all services, if neighbors felt the alley problems were too significant. The process requires signatures from 70% of the homes and businesses that use a specific alley. If an alley is closed all services would be done from the front of the homes (i.e. trash pickup, recyclables and quarterly alley pickup).

Blight Busters Program

The City is introducing a new program called Blight Busters that is similar to the Graffiti Busters. The program taps into the community to remove graffiti, illegal signs and shopping carts. The program provides training to ensure safe removal of graffiti and illegal signs, as volunteers may be asked to monitor juveniles and others completing community service hours. The hope is to remove the blight within 48 hours of the complaint. The program will provide training to ensure safe removal of graffiti and illegal signs and include security screening, since willing volunteers may be asked to monitor juveniles and others completing community service hours. For more information call 602-495-0323 or go to [www.phoenix.gov/nsd](http://www.phoenix.gov/nsd)

Frustration with Parking, Repeat Offenders of Blight

We discussed the frustration of repeat offenders in NENA who know the loop holes of how to get around cleaning up their blight (overgrown weeds, outdoor storage, RV parking etc.). We also talked about the main gateways leading into NENA being real "eye sores" It was mentioned that a letter had been used in the past to nicely approach neighbors in a non-threatening way, to encourage the clean up of their homes and to offer assistance from neighbors if they are not in a position to do the clean up on their own. It was noted by an attendee that we should be careful in making any stringent rules that lock us in. Another attendee suggested that we maybe nominate a House for clean up each quarter.

Neighborhood Stabilization

Potential home buyers can apply for \$15,000 to use towards a down payment on a home that is in foreclosure. There are requirements on the level of income you earn to receive this assistance. The City is also partnering with Real Estate companies that operate as non profits and is working to purchase homes of City use.

Crime Summit

The top three issues addressed at the recent Crime Summit were 1) drug activity, 2) vacant homes and 3) property crimes. Often times legislation will result from issues raised in the crime summits. Last year legislation was passed that dealt with the purchase of certain cold medicines that are used for meth amphetamines.

Regularly Scheduled Quarterly Meetings

As a group everyone thought we should chose a consistent day of the week, time and location to try and get more neighbors involved in the process. We chose to have the meetings the month before the newsletters come out. Meetings for the rest of this year will take place at 7pm on June 3<sup>rd</sup> , September 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> please mark your calendars now. Location to be announced.

Ideas for Future Events

Ice Cream Social-Gini Sater offered to submit an entry for the Dreyer's Ice Cream Social. We discussed that even if we don't win the contest, we should have another one and pay for the ice cream out of our

general fund. This event brought approximately 75 neighbors together and raised over \$500 from the raffle.

Art Festival -There was interest expressed to hold an Art Festival during the Fall. We have many talented artists through out NENA and this would be a great way to showcase their work and bring neighbors together for a social event.

Section Meetings – To build a stronger neighborhood it was suggested that Section Leaders hold a meeting to find out the needs and desires of their neighbors, as well as provide a way for neighbors to meet neighbors. This is also a good time to get neighbors current email addresses.

Theatre Evening – A few years ago a neighbor who works for the Phoenix Theatre was able to arrange a NENA night where neighbors could purchase tickets for a specific show for about \$30 and NENA received half of this amount for each ticket. It was a great way to enjoy a night out and raise

White Elephant Exchange at December Meeting – Mike Sanders suggested that add some fun to our meetings by having a white elephant exchange at our December meeting....great idea!

The meeting adjourned at 12:05.

Submitted by Gini Sater