

Vineyard Estates Neighborhood Association

Annual General Membership Meeting Minute

Thursday, October 26th, 2023 7:00pm-8:15 pm

Domingo-Baca Multi-Generational Center

Albuquerque, NM 87122

The Vineyard Estates Neighborhood meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. The agenda was available to all neighbors in attendance. Elizabeth Meek, VENA President, welcomed the attendees and the guests: District 4 City Councilor Brook Bassan, Willie Orr of the Community Policing Council and APD Sergeant Symes.

Councilor Bassan provided a District 4 update. Phase 0 of the NDB Aquatic Center has begun. Construction started last Monday on the retaining wall that will be required to have the ground area prepped for the project. The next phase, Phase 1, will be RFP. Phase 2 will come later, and due to inflation, approximately 10 million left for the Aquatic Center to be fully funded. Councilor Bassan is seeking 2 applicants for Land Use Point of Contact as well as 2 applicants for the Impact Fee Commission. The United Soccer Stadium proposal for placement at Balloon Fiesta Park was presented to the City Council in October and had the vote deferred for 30 days to allow for questions posed to the United Soccer Club and City could be answered related to the land use and lease terms as well as more specific issues surrounding the build and money. The next City Council meeting is set for November 20, 2023. Councilor Bassan discussed the re-introduction by Councilor Fiebelkorn of the Safe Outdoor Spaces and the state injunction regarding Coronado Park and the lawsuit filed by the ACLU. As of November 1st, no person may be removed or moved from any public property. If person is breaking the law then can be arrested. Councilor Bassan discussed Resolution 23-178 and that she will not vote for this resolution at this time. Councilor Fiebelkorn proposes the Safe Outdoor Spaces until the City Council decides and 2 locations will be picked by the HHH in each District within 45 days to keep as safe spaces for homeless. The funding will be decided later. Neighbor Question: Will the funding for District 4 possibly affect or come from the Pool funding? Answer: No, the funding will have to come from somewhere else. Councilor Bassan clarified that homeless may not “camp” on private property. The City Attorney is working on ambiguities in the resolution and safe spaces. Councilor Bassan clarified that if not passed there will be no safe outdoor spaces or no change. If the resolution does pass then any public property will be ok for the homeless to live/camp. Councilor Bassan encouraged voting for the GO Bond continuing the current 200 million funding noting that 5 million of that is earmarked for the Aquatic Center. Councilor Bassan encouraged use of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico website to look up your ballot and find description of the items/persons up for vote.

Willie Orr of the Community Policing Council defined the organization and that it was created as part of the CASA agreement due to the APD federal settlement. The CPC was created to bridge the gap between the community and APD, creating a forum for concerns to be voiced and then pushed to APD. The current Commander of the NE Command, Commander Otzenberger, is leaving in 3 weeks. The CPC meets quarterly/monthly with their next meeting on December 12th. They will be talking about the ERPO law that is currently in the local news allowing APD to remove weapons from someone who is threatening their use. The CPC is looking for more members. They currently have 7 members and would like 11. The executive board meets monthly and has a variety of members and backgrounds. Mr. Orr provided his contact information if any neighbors are interested.

Sergeant Symes of the Albuquerque Police Department's Proactive Response Team (PRT) discussed current crime issues affecting our neighborhood and Albuquerque. A current focus of APD is the shoplifting and enforcing outstanding warrants. Albuquerque is engaging SMART 911 a website for inputting 911 data. Angie Casias is the NE Command Crime Prevention Specialist and is available for site safety surveys to evaluate resident's homes for weak points where there may be a vulnerability for criminal entry. She can recommend environmental changes to improve property safety. Ms. Casias can also assist with the Camera Registry Program. The CRP allows for APD to know what neighbors have cameras (security cameras, ring doorbell, etc.) that could help in the event of a crime that occurs near the camera owner's property. Neighbor Question? What update can be provided for the Mendocino truck bombing? Answer: The arson investigators declined the case and the incident is currently with the impact detectives. There is no current evidence of risk to the neighborhood. Sargent Symes discussed that Albuquerque is a hot spot for shoplifting and businesses are closing. Albuquerque is 3rd in the nation for shoplifting crime. Targets and Walgreens are just a few of the stores with the highest shoplifting business risk. On July 16, Albuquerque changed the aggregate theft amounts to be added across 90 days allowing for the crime charged to be increased. Store employees are told to not respond to shoplifters due to the risk for injury or worse. Neighbor Question? How do they [the shoplifters] get out? Answer: They are not held in jail anymore. However, if >\$2500 then there is more success with jail time. The city bus moves people around. Neighbor Question? Do we need busses? The bus service is needed for legitimate reasons: commuters, school access. Officers rode the bus undercover and found the need for security. Neighbor Question? Why is the bus free? Charging could help and be a solution, but many citizens use the bus and increasing ridership can help increase safety. Neighbor Question? Can the ERPO help in a situation like the Maine mass shooting that occurred recently? Answer: There needs to be proof for removal and the burden of proof comes from where? Neighbor Question? Do the parking lot cameras work as a deterrent for shoplifting? They are connected to a real time crime center some are tapped in, but difficult to monitor fully. Private cameras can be a deterrent to crime.

Elizabeth Meek announced that the VENA revised bylaws were accepted by the Office of Neighborhood Coordination allowing for VENA to continue to be recognized as a neighborhood association. Elizabeth Meek made a motion to accept the current board members for another year of service on the VENA board. A second was made by Pat Verrelle. The motion passed unanimously. Elizabeth advised the neighbors in attendance how to contact the board if anyone is interested in volunteering for the board.

Neighbor Question? Betty requested that they have slides and swings installed for the younger children in the neighborhood at the Vineyard Park. Councilor Bassan advised how to contact her and that she could ask Parks and Recreation to look into placement of slides and swings at the Vineyard Park.

Neighbor Question? Diane Boomershine asked about Air BnB and the short term rental that will be now next to her home and if she could have it stopped or if it was illegal. Answer: They are legal but there may be an ordinance created or to have some parameters.

Elizabeth Meek announced that the next VENA meeting will be the Annual General Membership meeting in April of 2024, planned for the 4th Thursday, the 25th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

Helpful Information

The VENA Board usually meets the 4th Thursday of each month at the North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center (usually not July or December).

- Annual General Membership Meeting is held in April.
- Volunteers to the board and guests are always welcome.

Elizabeth Meek, President of VENA, djesmeek@comcast.net
Vineyard Estates Gmail- vineyardestates.na@gmail.com

Albuquerque Police Department Resources:

ABQ APD, NE Command Acting Commander Deanne Otzenberger,
drush@cabq.gov

ABQ APD Website: <https://www.cabq.gov/police/area-commands/northeast-area-command>

Angie Casias, APD Crime Prevention Specialist, acasias@cabq.gov

Neighborhood Leaders:

District 4 City Councilor is Brook Bassan: bbassan@cabq.gov
Dawnmarie@cabq.gov (policy analyst)

Karen Baehr, neighbor leading the effort to oppose the building of 93-unit apartment building at the corner of Barstow & Alameda KLBaehr@msn.com

Kelly Harrell, a VENA board member and neighbor supporting the effort to create a plan for addressing the traffic concerns in front of DRMS Kelly@thrivenetwork.com

What can you do with ABQ311?

You can report an issue or request a service, including those listed below, to the City of Albuquerque through the tools above:

Report

- Abandoned vehicles
- Broken street lights
- Graffiti
- Lost animals
- Missed trash pick-up
- Pothole
- Weed complaints

Request

- Information about City events, programs, and services
- Large-item garbage pick-up
- Residential trash or recycle bins
- Traffic pavement markings
- Traffic signs

Please contact 242-COPS if you see anything suspicious in the neighborhood.

*******WHERE TO FIND VENA*******

www.venaabq.org

www.nextdoor.com