

**Willo Neighborhood Association  
Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2018**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Cannon at 6:33 p.m.

**Absentee(s):** Those members absent were Gene Nance and Paul Benjamin.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the May minutes was requested by Charlene Gum. Opal Wagner so moved with a second by Ann Bommersbach. The motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Linda Doescher explained that our income source is mainly the Home Tour. Since this occurs in February, all income post Home Tour is from vendor advertising in the Newsletter. The income received in May from this source was \$1,740.00. Our expenses for publishing the newsletter were \$3,592.01. There were minor expenses of \$404.45 which included storage rental, website expenses and water for the Walton Park. This resulted in a loss of \$2,256.46 for May. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Brad Brauer and seconded by Patrice Wappel. The motion passed.

**Mayoral Candidate:** Guest Councilman, Daniel Valenzuela was present to speak to the Board and neighborhood about his candidacy for Mayor of Phoenix. Mr. Valenzuela was born in Phoenix. While growing up in Phoenix he experienced many challenges which have influenced his choice of a career path as a first response fire fighter and public servant. Mr. Valenzuela believes in the problem-solving approach and coalition building to solve such problems as discrimination, affordable housing, an understaffed DPS and a strong, diverse Arizona economy. A question and answer session followed. The discussion centered around complete streets, controlled development, affordable housing, safe neighborhoods and traffic issues.

**3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Presentation:** Mr. Mark Malenchecko, City of Phoenix and team were present to update us on the study of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue designs. The team wished to speak about the study process, the alternatives that they feel are preferred from their study for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue as well as speaking to the next steps in the City process. After the presentation was made discussion was opened to the audience. The consensus of those present was that the alternatives presented did not include a one-lane design which was the most preferred design designated during the March 2018 meeting.

A motion was made by Opal Wagner that we reject the 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Avenue alternatives presented by the City of Phoenix and that we reaffirm our original position for a one lane, one - way preference. We ask that the City's preferred alternative not be included moving forward. The motion was seconded by Linda Doescher. The motion carried unanimously.

**Home Tour Chairs Announced:** President Cannon announced the appointment of Samantha Keating and Anna Lori as committee chairs for the 2019 Home Tour.

**Justice of the Peace Candidate:** Andrea Katsenes announced Rebecca Winger as candidate for Justice of the Peace. Rebecca spoke to the need to examine affordable housing needs as it relates to the duties of the Justice of the Peace. She will base her campaign on civil treatment of all plaintiffs and defendants.

**Office Harris CAO:** Officer Harris reported that in the last 45 days bike thefts have increased. This is occurring through the alleys because of unlocked gates and unlocked bicycles. The volunteer patrols have reported an increase in suspicious person activity.

**Zoning:** Opal Wagner conveyed that Willo along with the FQ Story, Roosevelt, Encanto-Palmcroft and Woodland Historic Districts, was awarded the Governor's Heritage Preservation award in recognition of our extraordinary joint effort to preserve and protect the historic integrity of our neighborhoods by opposing the flight path changes of September 18, 2014 and seeking enforcement of the federal laws protecting historic neighborhoods.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> the Zoning Adjustment Hearing Officer announced his ruling in the Switch sign application case and granted variances which included dimmer lighting on the lighted front sign, an increase in height of the "S" in Switch to 36", a proposed mural on the east side of the building was disallowed, a sign on the north side of the building is allowed as the letters meet the 12" requirement.

The appeal on the 7100K white signs that were granted to 2828 N. Central is August 2, 2018

before the Board of Adjustment.

There have been calls regarding the alterations to 25 W. Wilshire. This property is not part of Willo and does not fall under the State Historical Preservation office. Owner does not have to submit plans to SHPO only to the planning department.

**City of Phoenix Update:** - David Longoria, Chief of Staff representing Councilman Laura Pastor. Mr. Longoria emphasized that Councilman Pastor supports what the neighborhood wants for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues. He introduced his guest Lt. Nick Depozio who spoke to options such as the placement of speeding vans and speed limit adjustment.

Lt. Depozio indicated that speeding vans are limited and are funded by state grants and are assigned to school zones. A problem with adjusting speed limits is the traffic flow and density issue. The city may not be convinced that reducing the speed limit is going to garner the desired result. The Traffic Bureau was reinstated by City Council. This will increase the presence of motor officers on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> which will help in preventing excess speeding.

**Inside Willo Update:** Inside Willo will not be published in July and August. The deadline for submitting copy for the September issue is July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget Vote:** Linda Doescher presented the proposed 2018/2019 Budget. The budget year I is from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> of each year. Brad Brauer motioned to approve the 2018/2019 Budget. Opal Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ByLaws:** Brad Brauer and Anne Bommersbach presented recommended changes to the ByLaws. The Board met prior to the meeting to review the changes and agreed with the revisions. The changes have been posted for two weeks on the website. Opal Wagner motioned to accept the revised ByLaws, with a second by Linda Doescher. The motion carried.

**Mural Project:** Bob continues to receive feedback about the mural project. The Phoenix Historic Coalition has considered writing a letter to the Historic Preservation Office asking for strategic guidelines on murals. The Willo Neighborhood Association cannot regulate such projects. There are no city ordinances currently prohibiting the painting of murals on private walls. However, many other cities such as Los Angeles and Portland have guidelines regulating such projects.

A motion was made by Opal Wagner as follows: "We move to authorize the Willo Board President, Dr. Robert Cannon, to send a letter to the City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office requesting the formulation of a guideline with respect to street facing wall murals in Willo. This guideline should address concerns about the compatibility of murals with historic preservation mandates and goals. We respectfully request a reply within 90 days."

The motion was seconded by Anna Bommersbach. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention.

**New Business:** John Glenn, candidate for state representative District 24, was present to discuss his candidacy. He supports better education, building better quality schools and improvements in the foster care system. He currently serves on the Planning Commission. The election is August 28, 2018. Mary Paralta will be hosting a Meet and Greet for John Glenn June 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

**Old Business:** Lisa Helm, 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Committee, informed us that there is an Open House on 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.m. at the A. E. England Building regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue proposals. She encouraged attendance as it would be a good opportunity to see what is being done and to provide input on what we want. If you would like to get involved please contact Lisa Helm or Laura Sands.

**Adjournment:** Opal Wagner motioned to adjourn with a second by everyone! The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

