

# Alameda Depot Neighborhood Association

## Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2022 11:00 am-12:30 pm

J Paul Taylor Academy Cafeteria

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Facilitator: Robert Cruise & George Pearson

Time Keeper: Amy Simpson

**Welcome:** ADNA President Robert Cruise

**11:12 am**

**Approval of Agenda and Time Allotments:** ADNA Secretary Amy Simpson.

### Old Business:

#### 1. **Nomination and Election of new ADNA Officers** -Robert Cruise

Robert has been president for 6 years. He and Wayne Huber have termed out as of January, 2022.

Nominations on the table:

George Pearson, President

Eric Ahrer, Vice President

Lesa Wilson, Treasurer

(Already elected. Amy Simpson, Secretary)

#### **Member Voting–voice vote:**

George Pearson, President: Unanimously elected.

Eric Ahner, Vice President: Unanimously elected

Lesa Wilson, Treasurer: Unanimously elected

(No vote. Amy Simpson, Secretary: Already elected)

#### 2. **Update on \$ for Pioneer Women's Park Master Plan & Gazebo-** Robert Cruise

Received \$200,000 for design and restoration already. Robert also solicited relevant state reps for funds for the gazebo. However, the state funding did not make it on to the master list from which funding is selected. We had verbal support from local representatives Hamblin and Rubio, but unfortunately the Gazebo was not on the final list from funding. We missed the deadline for making sure our project was on the list.

Question: So we will not be able to resubmit until 2023?

Answer: Yes. January 2023 session.

Q: Have we lost the \$200,000?

A: No. It's still there. Architects have done initial design and will do another public meeting.

Comment: Mayor Pro-Tem recommends we communicate directly with the city staff and cc. council members about this project. She also recommends we cc council members when we are requesting state monies so council members are aware. Currently, there is a gap in what gets communicated to council. The junior monies don't have a clear process for decisions and distribution.

Q: Are there other funding sources under ARP and federal infrastructure funding?

A: Possibly

*Action Items: Meet with elected representatives from state and city to determine upcoming deadlines, next steps, and additional monies we may be able to tap into. (George and ADNA executive committee)*

### 3. **Update on Alameda Blvd Road Diet-** Amy Simpson

We have a road diet on Alameda Blvd from Picacho to Amador! We first met with Mayor ProTem about pedestrian safety and speeding on Alameda Blvd on 7/26/20. We advocated for a road diet to address rampant speeding, improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, reduce road noise, and to increase connectivity to the downtown mall and with our sister historic neighborhood Mesquite. We would especially like to thank Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara for her continued leadership on this issue, George Pearson for his expertise and tenacity, and Heather Pollard for her efforts with the city. Anecdotally, the new road diet appears to have reduced rampant speeding and improved pedestrian safety issues.

This is a big improvement, but there is still work to do. The current bike lanes are much narrower than the recommended 4-5 feet and they simply disappear at some intersections. The left turn lanes at Las Cruces and Griggs intersections are much wider than the ongoing center turn lane—which is already quite wide and these are the same intersections where the bike lanes disappear.

Comment: There was talk of using green asphalt paint to help delineate bike lanes. What has happened with that?

George: The city actually has green asphalt paint that will expire in July. But they haven't used it.

Comment: We should be advocating that the city use this paint on the bike lanes on Alameda (and other key areas) to condition drivers to look out for cyclists. This might also be an opportunity to widen the bike lanes to get them closer to the recommended width.

Question: How will the road diet affect other traffic patterns?

Answer: The city said it needed to do a traffic study before striping the lanes. We should request the results for the traffic study.

*Action Item: Follow up with city re. using green asphalt paint before it expires. (George & Amy)*

*Action Item: Request traffic studies regarding road diet. (George & Amy)*

### 4. **Update on 501-c3 status-** Eric Ahner & Lesa Wilson-

The expense to set up a 501-c3 is \$~350. Eric has not done this before, but Lesa our new treasurer, has set up several. Lesa will be training George to do this.

*Action item: need to identify/designate a registered agent. (Lesa & George)*

5. **Financial Update-** Eric Ahner. Current Balance is \$549.10. Need to collect dues for this year.

### **Standing Agenda Items:**

1. **JPTA Activities-** Eric Ahner -students on spring break. After school program has been more popular than ever, students really missed being together. J Paul Taylor Academy was named **Charter School of the Year for New Mexico**.

2. **City of Las Cruces-** Mayor Pro-Tem Kasandra A. Gandara (5 min)

The City has started GO Bond discussions. Dates and times are on the City Website. It is up to residents to determine what the projects will be. They have hired a consultant to facilitate meetings. Meetings will be on 3/31 at 12:00pm and 6:00pm at city hall. This is an additional funding source from current funds. Mayor Pro-Tem is advocating for affordable housing, park improvements, and public safety improvements including pedestrian safety measures. Public safety remains a priority. Pedestrian deaths are very high. She is advocating for pedestrian activated lights like on University and in front of Cruces High School. Those are expensive, but also worth it because they save lives.

She also supports "[Strong Towns](#)" organization. She is doing public safety meetings related to crime. Goal is to educate the public and include LCPD etc. "Live Las Cruces" is an organization recently created. We have a new interim Community Engagement staff person now that Jamie Rickman has retired.

10-4 project partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to recruit and retain police. We have a large number of vacancies. There are 34 new cadets in the city. She remains a strong supporter of Community Policing.

[Local trauma group](#) supported by Mayor Pro-tem continues to meet. Encourages people to be mentors in this group. Reach out to Mayor Pro-Tem if you are interested.

3. **Neighborhood Safety-**Recent Dog attacks.

Neighbors raised concerns about the recent dog attack on neighbor Penny Duncklee on 2nd Street.

Penny's friend Kathleen Deasy reported that there is a [go fund me account for Penny](#) called "One Tough Cookie". Her birthday is on Monday and she will be 84. Please consider donating. Kathleen also mentioned that she was attacked two weeks earlier.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wants to do a town hall on the topic and learn more about what we can do to encourage safe pet ownership.

Martha Rodriguez with [Las Esperanzas Mesquite Neighborhood](#) mentioned that their organization had Animal Control attend their meeting. They talked about several things they are doing, but also said they are woefully understaffed. There are only 4 officers for the entire city. Mayor Pro-Tem added there are 8 positions with only 4 filled.

Andrea Camunez added that she has been chased by loose dogs and that there is a difference between petting an unfamiliar dog and getting bitten and these recent maulings by loose dogs. In England, they have rules that if a dog is viscous and mauls someone, they will immediately be put down.

Amy Simpson noted that 2nd Street, where Penny was attacked, is listed by the city as the preferred bike route once the bike path ends. This street in particular has many loose dogs and dogs that escape their properties, as anyone who rides or walks down that street can tell you. The city should be aware of this.

She saw a recent press release from the city after the mauling referred to the incident as a "dog bite" and made recommendations to readers about not petting unfamiliar dogs or interfering with them as they were eating or sleeping. The press release seemed to underplay the seriousness of this attack while blaming the victim of the attack. Two recent maulings (one in February when a 56 year old man was killed, and Penny's which happened in March) happened in the yards of victims where loose dogs ventured in. They were not a result of people approaching unfamiliar dogs.

She continued that there are many municipal dangerous dog laws that Las Cruces could use as models. It needs to act immediately to address this long term problem. It will likely require new laws, ample enforcement, and education about this issue.

ADNA will email the [GoFundMe](#) address for Penny to its members.

#### **New Business:**

1. Upcoming Events-
  - a. June 6-Downtown Las Cruces Partnership Arts And Cultural District is doing a Literary Walk. Do we want ADNA to participate in the Literary Walk? Robert will forward a flyer to be sent to ADNA membership. There is an opening on the Arts and Cultural Board-let Robert know if you are interested in applying.
  - b. National women's day is being celebrated today in Downtown Plaza.
  - c. Concerts in the Park-Amy will reach out to Gordon Butler to see if he is still interested in leading on these. We have a question on the survey about this as well.
  - d. Lesa will reach out to Maria to check in about the Mothers' Day brunch picnic in the park. Mothers' Day is May 8th.
2. Bylaws updates & ADNA Dues Amounts for upcoming year. Proposed increase for dues from \$5 to \$10 a year. \$15 for a family.
3. Ad hoc committee suggestions?
4. Next meeting date: May 7, 11-12:30 JPTA

**ADNA Survey:**

<https://forms.gle/Jzw2tuAs4QsrwmYT8>



**Community Input and Additional Discussion**

Additional Public Comments:

At least one neighbor received a letter regarding a request to put an adult day care building near Lyons Park. Appears to be requesting a change to current zoning. Discussion on this item will continue after the meeting is adjourned.

**Adjourned:** 12:42 PM