

EMBUDO CANYON NEIBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MINUTES

01/14/2023

Meeting called to order at 10 AM

**Julie Dreike, President** Welcomes guests.

Points out:

1. Voting for proposed 4 zoning questions. Indicate Opposed, Neutral or For.
2. Visitors are to indicate interest in Major issues ECNA is involved in by placing chits in Solo cups  
Note: Results will be addendum to minutes.

Announces

Board members present:

Julie Dreike – President

Joel Hardgrave – VP

Treasurer – Curtis Vernon

Open – Secretary

Directors:

Dan Troy – Infrastructure

Social Media – Nancy Minks – Absent

Roger Jones – Permanent Signs

Open: Crime and Safety

Open – Membership

**Guests:**

Meredith Dixon – NM State Representative

Rene Grout – Albuquerque City Councilor

Sgt Derek Taylor – APD Foothills Command

Eric Olivas – County Commissioner's Office

**Community Members Present:** See sign in sheet

Julie introduced and welcomed:

**Meredith Dixon - NM State Representative.** Outlined the process for NM State Budget. Mentioned numerous ways to spend the 2023 substantial budget surplus. Reported on success of Early Childhood Fund's growth. Asked attendees to complete Pre-session Survey. Public Safety is a big issue on the state's agenda. She pre-filed a bill to try to change pretrial release. Will also be working on Economic Development to increase diversification of industries.

Question from floor. Question about crime prevention, behavior health, pretrial, reduction of spending on domestic violence.

Meredith: Funding for front end programs including mental health, early intervention is the emphasis.

Question from floor: How addressing Budget surplus.

Meredith: Surplus mainly from Oil and Gas Taxes are predicted to last about 5 years. What is best way to set aside funds for future is being studied? Don't want to increase recurring expenses that can't be maintained after surplus dries up.

Questions about CYFD: CYFD is underfunded, under-staffed and underperforming.

Meredith: There is a lot of interest in improving funding and increasing number of mental health professionals.

Question: Long list of issues from speaker who self-described as a former Mental Health worker. Speaker wants legislature to hold hearings to listen to front line workers and not just buy what upper management in Mental Health community says. Industry prefers a "do not rock the boat" approach.

Meredith: Asked for speaker to follow up since it was a complicated subject.

Julie introduced and welcomed:

**APD Foothills command:** Sargent Derek Taylor in law enforcement for 11 years. In foothills for 2 years. Lived in NE Heights of Albuquerque a lot of his life.

Question: What can be done about excessive illegal fireworks around 4<sup>th</sup> of July and New Year's.

: Report them! New Year's Eve there were 273 calls on just the east side of the city. APD Sargent Taylor does not have the staffing to respond. If they witness illegal fire work use or possession, they will confiscate. But it is Albuquerque Fire Department charged with the enforcement arm. AFR is understaffed for this and lack the budget for officers to go to court to testify.

Question: Is pay for APD adequate.

Sargent Taylor: APD is best trained and highest paid department in the state. This has helped with recruiting. Still short staffed.

Question: Is there any follow up on citizen complaints like speeding complaints.

Sargent Taylor: We do follow up, but not always immediately. Officers must see crime to take enforcement action. Accumulation of reported incidents leads to targeted action and increased patrols.

Questions: What is happening at Tramway and Central

Sargent Taylor: Problem Response Team was deployed in October. It is made up of a team of officers that concentrate on issues in one area. Had over 400 felony arrests in last 4 months. They are continuing the work in the area.

Julie introduced and welcomed:

**Rene Grout – Albuquerque City Councilor:** She reported that she has just finished 1<sup>st</sup> year and has spent time learning how the city works.

Working on:

1. Mentioned Multicultural Arts Festival in March.
2. Tramway Landscape Pilot Program.
3. Crime initiatives. Deployed a 2<sup>nd</sup> PRT Team.
4. Panhandling is being discouraged.
5. Business development initiatives including restaurants, housing,
6. Working with Sandia Technology development park on expansion of new businesses and growth
7. Has introduced an amendment to not do motel conversions for homeless in manner developed by Mayor. Single rooms are too small, cooking methods are unsafe and unhealthy.
8. Concerned about young (18 – 25) homeless adults coming out of foster care. Have \$8.75 million for the program. Many X-foster children need shelter, security, and life skills training.
9. New fire station in the works for Franklin Plaza along with housing and some restaurants and retail.
10. Working on an East Area bus transit station.
11. Capital Spending initiatives submitted to NM Legislature for funding.
  - a. Street repaving in Embudo Canyon area.
  - b. Additional improvements at Mile High Little League.
  - c. Security improvements at Manzano Mesa.
  - d. Changes to discourage homeless encampments in Central / Tramway area.
12. Many stores in Four Hills Shopping center are renewing leases.
13. BCSO is going to open a substation in Foothills Shopping Center in near future.

Question: Speaker was against visitor center or any development in Elena Gallegos area?

Renee: Nothing definite has been decided about Elena Gallegos. Councilor is taking a “wait and see what the proposals” are approach.

Julie introduced and welcomed:

**Eric Olivas New Bernalillo County Commissioner.** Brand new. Very enthusiastic.

- a. Emphasizing cooperation with City on overlapping functions.
- b. Has begun reform effort on Behavioral health system.

- c. Working on increasing number deputies in east area of the city and Tijeras Canyon and along Tramway.
- d. Working on expanding Community Health Services
- e. Working on expanding Animal control
- f. Wants to keep Central Ave clean and economically vibrant along entire length.
- g. Looking at Open Space and need for support of these areas.
- h. Capital outlay emphasis on Youth Shelter, Veterans Integration center, Tramway Landscaping, Tijeras Biozone
- i. Working on adding more speed cameras to county roads like Tramway and Paseo del Norte.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Beginning Balance	\$3,541,72
Revenue	1,098.38
Expenses	<u>503.29</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$4,136.81</u>

**Review of Accomplishments:**

Julie listed the most recent accomplishments of ECNA as: Tramway / Indian School Relandscape, Cross walks on Indian School and Lomas both at Monte Largo, New sidewalk along Camino de la Sierra, Mutt Mitts, Adopt a highway Tramway clean up, Cleanup at Sasebo and along Camino de la Sierra, Got signage and additional patrols in open space parking areas, National Night Outs, Added lighting to permanent signs, Pilot project to enhance landscape Between Rover and Just north of Menaul., Spring Fling in progress, Had a social event at Celtic Quarter, Active in District 9 Coalition, City wide neighborhood coalition Inter Coalition Council, Active in the IDO process, and Community Policing Council,

**Election of Officers.**

Julie listed the slate of officers and asked for additional nominations from the floor. Candidates are:

Joel Hardgrave for VP

Secretary –Cynthia Chavez

Directors:

Infrastructure – Dan Troy

Social media – Nancy Mink

Signs – Rodger Jones

Lynn Thompson - Crime and Safety

Opening – Membership

Slate of officers was nominated, seconded, and elected by show of hands

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM