

# OSO GRANDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (OGNA)

General Membership Meeting

March 19, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Bear Canyon Senior Center

**Present:** Board members: Alicia Q. (AQ), Beth Baker (BB), Bruce Bisulco,(BBisulco) Richard Cooley (RC), Bill Honeywell, Jane Honeywell, Carolyn Kelly (CK); and 15 other attendees

## 1. OGNA Events in 2015:

- **May 9, 2015:** Pollinator Habitat Volunteer Day (9am-11am)
- **October 15, 2015:** Annual General Membership Meeting, Bear Canyon Senior Ctr.
- **October 24, 2015:** Oso Grande Park Clean-up Volunteer Day

## 2. Treasurer's/Finance Report (BBisulco & AQ):

- Balance of \$675 as of March 19, 2015.
- Annual dues for membership are now \$18.00. Dues are voluntary but needed to manage the Association (printing costs, District 8 dues, website costs, snacks at meetings, etc.)

## 3. Crime report (AQ & CK):

- APD crime statistics are now available by typing in "Albuquerque Crime Map" in Google. The Foothills Command provides crime prevention tips on their website.
- A handout from the City's website on how to form a Neighborhood Watch program was provided. Residents may contact Steve Sink at APD for more information.
- Residents are encouraged to call 242-COPS for anything that seems suspicious, as well as for noise problems, illegal parking, etc.

## 4. District 8 Report (RC):

- Out of 29 neighborhood associations in District 8, we have 19 active ones, which reflects an excellent participation rate.
- Recent speakers at District 8 meetings have included Mayor Berry, Councilor Trudy Jones, Commissioner Wayne Johnson, APD (on the Department of Justice report), and a speaker from Kirtland, to discuss groundwater issues. Contact Board member Richard Cooley for more information about any of the speakers.
- In January, there were approximately 600 people who walked the park during a "Take Back the Park" event; this was a great showing in response to recent assaults on a woman at the John B. Robert Dam.

## 5. Volunteering:

- Of note: Some 600 hours was contributed in 2014 by OGNA volunteers for the Pollinator Habitat.

- Other suggestions for volunteering include:

- \*\* working on the Adopt-a-Median Program (picking up trash on the Juan Tabo median between Spain and Montgomery)

- \*\* applying for a City grant to design and construct an Oso Grande Neighborhood sign, to be erected at the corner of Osuna and Morris. *Note: We have a volunteer leader for this now; contact the Board President for more information*

- \*\* coordinating a Summer picnic for residents, to be held in the park

- \*\* collecting data on individual species in the Pollinator Habitat for the Native Plant Society

## **6. Speaker, Joran Viers, Albuquerque City Forester:**

Mr. Viers spoke on a number of issues about Albuquerque's urban canopy, and specifically about planting tips for the Oso Grande area. He also took questions at the end of his presentation. Following are a few highlights:

- Albuquerque has one of the highest canopy losses of a city its size, largely due to heat island effect. A healthy tree canopy holds moisture and cools the environment and provides pollens and fruits for insects and birds.
- Disease and insect problems are not bad here because of our dry climate and natural barriers of the mountains and valley.
- Many trees in our city are not getting enough water; rock mulch is a major problem in this regard, both because water cannot reach a tree's roots, as well as because the rocks retain heat and release it upwards—thereby creating additional need for water by the tree.
- The Water Authority has rebates available for certain tree maintenance operations, such as fertilization, pest control, pruning, and using xeric trees; program does not include adding water, though.
- Good planting and maintenance for trees: for a new tree, dig hole wider, not deeper; add 10% compost; use loose soil, and add 3-4" of wood mulch; water twice a week until established. Once established, provide deep watering every two weeks in summer, and once a month in winter.
- Fertilizing trees: If your tree is stressed, do not fertilize it. (That will only produce more growth and more need for water).
- Preventing roots from growing under foundations, sidewalks, etc.: Since roots grow wherever there is regular moisture and loose soil, provide a barrier next to the structure you do not want invaded, or try to compact soil under the area.
- There is additional information on tree planting and maintenance on the City's website, currently on the Parks & Recreation page.

