

OSO GRANDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (OGNA)

General Membership Meeting
March 7, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
James Joseph Dwyer Substation

Present: Board members: Alicia Q., Becky Tays, Carolyn Kelly, Bruce Bisulco, Richard Cooley; and 18 other attendees

Upcoming OGNA Meetings/Events:

- **Great American Clean-up:** 4/27/13, in the natural space, just east of the park
- **Summer Picnic:** 6/22/13, 6-8 pm, in the park
- **General Membership meeting:** 10/17/13, 7:00 pm; location TBD

Neighborhood Watch Program:

- **Academy Estates East Neighborhood Ass'n. (Janet Butts, speaker):**

Neighborhood Watch is a national crime prevention program that connects local police to a city's neighborhood associations. Ms. Butts gave an overview of how their neighborhood has developed an effective crime watch system, utilizing guidelines from APD's *Neighborhood Watch* program. Ms. Butts' neighborhood has 26 block captains who serve as the main contacts for residents of the neighborhood's blocks, and Ms. Butts serves as the coordinator of those captains. She regularly reviews three crime statistics sites and relays information to all residents via e-mail about crimes or reported suspicious activities. Through extensive, repeated communication among captains and neighbors, as well as expanded social activities, they have succeeded in increasing participation among residents and in reducing crime significantly.

- **Oso Grande crime prevention and groups (Alicia Q.):**

- Alicia reported that Oso Grande currently has three block captains. Residents who are interested in starting their own Neighborhood Watch on their blocks should contact **Steve Sink, APD Crime Prevention Unit, at 924-3600**, to get information about how to set up a program. Blocks are eligible to get a Neighborhood Watch sign for \$45 once their program has been in place for a year.
- Crime statistics for Oso Grande will periodically be posted on OGNA's website.
- APD website for crime stats. is <http://crimeview.cabq.gov/>
- Alicia and Janet also handed out "No Soliciting" signs from APD.

Treasurer's Report (Bruce Bisulco):

- Balance of \$823.00 as of 3/7/13 (Expenditures of \$41, dues rec'd. \$364).

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (Becky Tays):

- Becky, appointed by Councilor Trudy Jones, has been on this board for two years. They meet monthly to discuss a variety of park issues. One goal this year is to get neighborhood associations more involved in issues surrounding their parks; to that end, there will be more projects and activities coming soon. Contact Becky if you want to give input about general park issues.

Adopt-a-Park (Alicia Q., on behalf of Beth Baker):

- Beth, an exemplary volunteer, is one of our contacts for the Adopt-a-Park program. She helps ensure that our park stays clean and picked up for the benefit of all park users.

Outdoor Signs (Alicia Q., on behalf of Ed Baker):

- Ed has made improvements in our signage by making them easier to read and placing them more prominently in the neighborhood.

District 8 Coalition (Alicia Q., on behalf of Frank Osuna):

- The District 8 Coalition consists of 33 neighborhoods and meets to discuss topics or programs of interest to neighborhoods in the region. Recently, the City's recycling program and crime prevention were discussed.

Park Signage and Park Traffic (Carolyn Kelly):

- Board members worked with several City officials to get the southern curb on Osuna between Purcell and Edwards designated as "no parking." There had been longstanding problems with safety, security, and nuisance activities in that area. There has been a noticeable decrease in those activities since the designation.
- The City installed several signs along the curb on Osuna, advising park users that they can park in the CNM lot on the south side of the park. Signs with arrows, announcing "El Oso Grande Parking Area," were also installed on Morris.

Natural Space Revitalization (Alicia Q.):

- The natural space that is adjacent to, and just east of, the park consists of 10 acres: 3 are privately owned, 3 are leased by the Water Authority, and 4 belong to Parks and Rec. In recent years, there has been a marked decrease in healthy native plants (and consequently in native animals) due largely to drought, vandalism, and erosion from walkers and dog traffic.
- Several projects will address these issues: (1) 8 natural habitats were put in the area last fall and are being used by rabbits; (2) the Native Plant Society has helped with advice about what types of plants could be planted by volunteers to fill in some areas; (3) The Society has also agreed to help us reclaim 300 sq. ft. for erosion

control; (4) the City is supportive of our establishing a set of trails through the area to prevent further damage and to close off renegade trails.

Who Are Your Elected Officials (Richard Cooley):

- Richard handed out the League of Women Voters' *Who's Who-A Political Directory (Bernalillo & Sandoval Counties)*. He emphasized that residents should contact officials to thank them for issues and projects that we support, as well as when we have a complaint.

New OGNA Website (Becky Tays):

- Our new website is due to go live in early April. There will be information about upcoming events, as well as links to relevant resources, meeting minutes and bylaws, ways to volunteer, etc. The site's URL will be: <http://www.osograndena.org>
- A committee consisting of Alicia, Becky, and Carolyn will meet regularly to review content and update/upgrade the site.
- Residents are encouraged to provide input about the site through the "Contact Us" link on the site.

New Mexico Family Emergency Preparedness Guide (Alicia Q.):

- Alicia handed out this guide, which is compiled by the Dep't. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. It provides information about what to do in case of fires, earthquakes, floods, terrorism, etc.

Holiday Park Community Center (Becky Tays):

- The new Center, located on Comanche between Juan Tabo and Tramway, is now open. Services include a computer room, workout facilities, basketball court, and meeting rooms. Most services are free; exceptions include a small charge for Zumba and Yoga classes, or rental fees for the large meeting room that has a kitchen. Becky handed out registration forms.

Parking Ordinances for Oso Grande, Zone SU-1 (Alicia Q.):

- Alicia explained that due to our Special Use zoning designation, cars cannot extend onto the sidewalks, and they cannot be parked on yards that are not designated as parking areas. More information about code enforcement is available on the City's website, <http://www.cabq.gov>.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS OR PROGRAMS:

- ***Natural Space Clean-up on April 27th, or other natural space projects: Contact***

Alicia Q. at info@osograndena.org

- *Summer Picnic on June 22nd: Contact Beth Baker at info@osograndena.org*
- *To get more info. about becoming a Neighborhood Watch block captain:
Contact Steve Sink, APD Crime Prevention Unit, at 924-3600; or, contact Frank Osuna at info@osograndena.org, 235-9869 to get more info. about how Oso Grande's current programs are working*