

# OSO GRANDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (OGNA)

**osograndena.org**

General Membership Meeting

October 19, 2017- 6:30 p.m.

Bear Canyon Senior Center

**Present - Board members:** Ryan Giar-Pres. (RG), Beth Baker-VP (BB), Charmaine Schmille-Treas. (CS), Carolyn Kelly (Sec.)-CK, Alicia Q.-Past Pres. (AQ), Richard Cooley (RC), Vivienne A. (VA), Carol Infante (CI); + **26 other attendees.** **Absent - Board members:** Bruce Bisulco

## 1. Upcoming OGNA Events in 2017-18:

- **Sept. 22, 2018:** Fall Board Meeting
- **Oct. 18, 2018:** General Membership Meeting-Board Elections, Bear Canyon Senior Center, 6:30pm
- **Oct. 28, 2018:** Oso Grande Park & Habitat Fall Renewal Day, 9:00am-11:30am

## 2. Board elections (RG):

- Nominees for the 2018 Board are: Ryan Giar, Beth Baker, Charmaine Schmille, Linda F., Carolyn Kelly, Alicia Q., Richard Cooley, Vivienne A., and Carol Infante. A motion was made and seconded to elect these members: there were 22 in favor, and 0 opposed. *[Notes: (1) Officers were elected by the Board after the meeting: President-Ryan Giar; Vice President-Beth Baker; Secretary-Linda F.; Treasurer-Charmaine Schmille. (2) Alicia Q. and Beth Baker will continue to be contacts for the Association on CABQ's Charter Report form.]*

## 3. OGNA Meetings and Projects (RG):

- As a temporary measure, the Board agreed to eliminate the Spring Board and General Membership meetings, as well as any new projects in the immediate future. The Board and a group of volunteers have worked diligently to accomplish a number of projects, and they need a respite. Members and other residents are encouraged to volunteer for any projects found on their flyers (website maintenance, fundraising for Morris & Osuna project, and newsletters/flyers).

## 4. Treasurer's Report (CS):

- We have \$1,381.77 as of 10/19/17.
- \$392 has been donated towards the plantings to be installed on the corner of Morris and Osuna. (See below for project details.)

## 5. Volunteer Coordinator Report: (AQ & RG)

### • **Pollinator Habitat:**

As a review, AQ noted that the Pollinator Habitat is located on 1-1/2 acres in the natural space, east of the playground area of Oso Grande Park. It is the first municipal park in the United States completely done by volunteers (some 150 volunteers). It was a City-sponsored project, supported

by a grant from the PNM Foundation, and with assistance from the Native Plant Society-Albuquerque Chapter, and other groups. A group of volunteers provides ongoing maintenance.

- **Neighborhood Sign and Plantings Project at Morris & Osuna:**

RG and AQ reported on the status of this project. Phase 1 (clean-up of the area) has been completed. Phase 2 involves adding native plantings to the corner prior to considering placement of a sign. The area houses some 6-8 utilities that have wiring, and City permissions to landscape the area are being obtained. As of this date, we need approximately \$300 more to hire a landscaper to install the irrigation system and plantings. The hope is that this phase will be completed by next year. The Association asks that anyone who would like to donate to complete this phase, send a check in any amount to the address below; indicate on the memo line that it is for the “OGNA Plant Fund.”

**Contact Alicia Q. at [info@osograndena.org](mailto:info@osograndena.org), if interested in serving on the Neighborhood Sign Committee or in any other volunteer capacity.**

**6. Adopt-a-Park (BB):**

- BB is responsible for keeping the Mutt Mitt stations full in the park and contacting the City with any concerns, such as broken tree branches, trash removal, etc. She also spearheads clean-up activities in the park on volunteer days. October 28<sup>th</sup> is our next volunteer day (see above). Beth will submit a workday report to the City’s Park Services for this effort.

**7. District 8 Coalition Report (RC):**

- Richard Cooley is our representative for the District 8 Coalition. This group is made up of regional neighborhood associations. There are 19-20 active associations in our coalition, and OGNA is one of the most active. The group shares information about issues affecting our neighborhoods and routinely has guest speakers from the City (including the mayor and APD reps). Our councilor is Trudy Jones, who also attends.
- RC advises to call 311, Trudy Jones, or 242-COPS if residents note speed problems on neighborhood or surrounding streets. He also advises to contact our state representatives with not only our general concerns, but also to let them know when things are going well. He encourages residents to follow up with representatives if they are not satisfied with the responses to their concerns.
- The Coalition will be sponsoring a meeting for our representatives to discuss what they intend to work on in the upcoming legislative session in early 2018. Attendees can also provide input about any issues. The Coalition will post the date of this meeting on the OGNA website as well as on nextdoor.com.

**8. Crime report (RG, AQ, and Attendees):**

- There was an extensive discussion about crime in the neighborhood. AQ advised that a 2016 UNM report on crime in the City indicated that the NE Heights had the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst property crime in the City. Additionally, APD’s crime map shows some 121 property crimes in a half-mile radius centered on Oso Grande since May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Property crimes included 11 residential break-ins and four auto thefts, with the bulk being vehicle break-ins.

- **Tips for preventing and reporting crimes:**

- \*\* Neighborhood Watch: RG began a Neighborhood Watch on Noreen Drive and was elected block captain. This is the second Neighborhood Watch group in our neighborhood. Any resident can start a Neighborhood Watch program on their block. For more information, contact Steve Sink at APD.

- \*\* Create a contact list of your neighbors so that you can call or text each other if you see something suspicious. When you call them, ask that they call 242-COPS also. The more calls go in to APD about an event, the more likely a quick response.

- \*\* Residents are reminded to park their cars in their garages, if possible; if not, residents should ensure that their vehicles are locked.

- \*\* Keep your car keys close when you are indoors, and press the alarm if you see suspicious activity.

- \*\* Call APD Friday evenings to request a patrol for the weekend.

- \*\* Password protect your wireless and video cams.

- \*\* Take note of license plate numbers of cars that look out of place.

- \*\* **Residents are reminded and encouraged to call 242-COPS for anything that seems suspicious, as well as for noise problems, illegal parking, etc.**

- Please note that daily property crime reports are posted on the Foothills Area Command website at [www.foothillsareacommand.com](http://www.foothillsareacommand.com). For a visual map, Albuquerque crime types are updated daily at [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com). Residents can also access information by zip code on the City's site at [www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov).

- Residents are also reminded to join the social media program called Next Door. Residents sign up on the website at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) to be included on a neighborhood blog. Participants post a variety of items of interest, including recommendations for service providers and babysitters, lost-and-found notices, crime watch concerns, City events, etc. Periodic notices of activities from APD's Foothill Command are also included. All OGNA residents are encouraged to sign up and exchange information. RG will include announcements of our neighborhood association meetings.

**DOOR PRIZE:** A fake video camera was given out as a door prize at the meeting. Congratulations to Alvin!

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**Please consider becoming a dues-paying member of Oso Grande Neighborhood Association. Annual dues are \$18 and are voluntary.** Monies collected go towards flyers, signs, postage, District 8 dues, and the OGNA website.

**Also, please consider donating to Phase 2 of the Neighborhood Sign Project. (See information above.)** Indicate on the memo line that your donation is for the "OGNA Plant Fund."

**For membership dues or donations, make your check payable to Oso Grande Neighborhood Association. Send it, along with your name, address, and phone number, to:**

**Oso Grande Neighborhood Association  
c/o Charmaine Schmille, Treasurer  
4925 Edwards Dr., NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111**

