

OSO GRANDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (OGNA)

osograndena.org

General Membership Meeting

March 16, 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), Bruce Bisulco (BB), Vivienne Affat (VA); **Absent - Board members:** Carol Infante; + **20 other attendees = 28 total**

1. Upcoming OGNA Events in 2017:

- **April 29, 2017:** Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat Spring Renewal/ Morris & Osuna Plant Installation Volunteer Day, 9:00am-11:30am
- **Oct. 19, 2017:** General Membership Meeting-Board Elections, Bear Canyon Senior Center, 6:30pm
- **Oct. 28, 2017:** Oso Grande Park & Habitat Fall Renewal Day, 9:00am-11:30am

2. Treasurer's Report (CS):

- We have \$985 as of 3/16/17; 24 households have paid dues.
- \$118 has been donated towards the plantings to be installed on the corner of Morris and Osuna. (See below for project details.)

3. Crime report (RG):

- Ryan Giar began a Neighborhood Watch on Noreen Drive and was elected block captain. This is the second Neighborhood Watch group in our neighborhood. Out of 29 homes on his street, approximately half belong to the Watch. Any resident can start a Neighborhood Watch program on their block. For more information, contact Steve Sink at APD, or search the City's website at www.cabq.gov for details. Residents may also contact Ryan for more information.
- Ryan notes that most of the recent crimes in our neighborhood were vehicle break-ins or thefts. Residents are reminded to park their cars in their garages, if possible; if not, residents should ensure that their vehicles are locked.
- Please note that daily property crime reports are posted on the Foothills Area Command website at www.foothillsareacommand.com. For a visual map, Albuquerque crime types are updated daily at www.crimemapping.com. Residents can also access information by zip code on the City's site at www.cabq.gov.
- **Residents are reminded and encouraged to call 242-COPS for anything that seems suspicious, as well as for noise problems, illegal parking, etc.**
- Residents are also reminded to join the social media program called Next Door. Residents sign up on the website at 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.

4. Volunteer Coordinator Report: (AQ)

- **Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat/Morris & Osuna Plant Installation Volunteer Day: April 29, 2017, 9:00am-11:30am.**

In the Habitat, we will repair cages, plant new plants, and do general clean-up. At the corner of Morris & Osuna, we will install irrigation and plant red yuccas and native grasses. Please meet at the playground area in the park, and bring your rakes, shovels, and gloves. (See below for more information on the Morris & Osuna Neighborhood Sign and Plantings Project.)

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

This project, which will provide visual recognition for our neighborhood, will consist of a sign that says “Oso Grande Neighborhood” (accompanied by the Oso Grande bear logo) and native plantings, just east of the corner at Morris and Osuna. There will be three phases to the project: (1) clean-up of the corner (already accomplished); (2) planting of red yuccas and native decorative grasses (to be completed April 29, 2017); and (3) creation and installment of the sign (to be completed in 2018). The Association asks that anyone who would like to donate to purchase native plants for Phase 2, send a check in any amount to the address below; indicate on the memo line that it is for the “OGNA Plant Fund.” *[Note: The OGNA Board thanks all members who have already contributed to the plant fund!]*

Volunteers were requested to assist with the sign and its statutory compliance. **Contact Alicia Q. at info@osograndena.org, if interested in serving on the Neighborhood Sign Committee.**

5. Adopt-a-Park (BB):

- Beth Baker 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. The April 29th Volunteer Day (see above) qualifies as our City-required yearly workday for the park.

6. 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 has guest speakers from the City (including the mayor and APD reps). Our councilor is Trudy Jones, who attends also.
- The Office of Neighborhood Coordination, which oversees all neighborhood associations, was previously organized under the City’s Planning Dept.; it has now been moved to the City Councilors’ Offices.
- 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.

7. Guest Speaker, Debi Harrington, President, Albuquerque Garden Council:

- Ms. Harrington’s topic was “Container and Small Space Gardens.” She had a slideshow with many interesting examples of how to design and landscape small spaces. Among the many facts, suggestions, and examples of what she covered were:

** Using containers—whether traditional pots or recycled boxes, tubs, etc.—to plant a variety of flowers or shrubs. When planting in containers, follow the “Thriller, Spiller, Filler” technique to place plants (an eye-catching, taller plant, plants that spill over the edge of the pot, and low-growing plants to fill in spaces). Such containers can be placed on patios, walls, or attached to the sides of houses

** Ensuring that one purchases appropriately sized plants and trees (dwarf, if possible)

** Using pavers, decking, gravel, and/or ground cover; especially helpful is to lay pavers at a diagonal, which makes a space look larger

** Creating sections and separate areas of interest

** Planting cool colors in front areas and warm colors in the back of a yard, so as to make the yard look larger

** Adding mirrors, metal sculptures, statuary, etc., for interest

** Making or purchasing raised beds for growing vegetables

Ms. Harrington stated that the Garden Center has a wealth of resources for the public. They also have a Master Gardener Hotline: call with any question, and a master gardener will be available to consult with you. The Garden Center is located at 10120 Lomas Blvd., NE; 505-296-6020; www.AlbuquerqueGardenCenter.org

8. Questions & Answers:

- RC asks the group what they expect from their neighborhood association? Several participants answered that they appreciate the information provided by our speakers and like being kept up-to-date on neighborhood activities and concerns
- A participant asked about our possibly hosting a forum for mayoral candidates. More than half of the participants indicated they would be interested in attending such a forum. OGNA will look into hosting a forum in early fall, before the election on October 10th.
- Another participant suggested that it would be nice if there were more neighborly interaction to assist those in need.

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 Schmile, Treasurer
4925 Edwards Dr., NE; Albuquerque, NM 87111**

