

Rio Grande Boulevard Neighborhood Association (RGBNA) Annual Meeting – Summary

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Nahalat Shalom, 3606 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

1. Welcome & Introductions

- **President David Machalski** opened the meeting, welcoming residents and introducing the board:
 - **Vice President:** Eleanor Walther
 - **Secretary:** Carmen Marrone
 - **Treasurer:** Suzanne Shave
 - **Board Member at Large:** Molly Bailey
 - Attendees introduced themselves, fostering a sense of community and encouraging new participation.
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2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes from the 2025 annual meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously, with no objections or amendments.
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3. Treasurer's Report

- Suzanne Shave (Treasurer) reported a current balance of **\$1,403.53**.
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4. Board Elections

- The board discussed the need to expand from 5 to 7 members to better represent the neighborhood.
- Several residents volunteered for open positions, expressing interest in contributing to the community. All new members were elected by consensus. New Board members are:

Tia Eusepi, Shawn Quillen, Andy Carrasco, James Mitas

- Eleanor Walther declined further membership on the Board.
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5. Neighborhood Updates & Issues

Zoning & Development

- The board is actively monitoring proposed zoning changes, particularly those that could lead to large-scale developments.
- Concerns were raised about maintaining the neighborhood's unique character, preserving scenic views, and managing increased traffic.
- Special focus was given to:
 - **Co-op Property:** Ongoing discussions about its future use and potential impact.
 - **Big Jim Farms Lease:** Efforts to preserve this open space for community benefit.
 - **Candlelaria Nature Preserve & Tree Farm:** Updates on educational center plans and outdoor meeting spaces, with opportunities for resident involvement in planning and programming.

Communication

- The board acknowledged feedback about limited communication and committed to improving updates via email and the association's website.
- Residents were encouraged to specify what types of information and updates they would find most useful.

Dog Park Request

- Multiple residents voiced a strong desire for a neighborhood dog park, citing the high number of dog owners and the lack of dedicated spaces.
 - The board agreed to explore potential locations and partnerships with the city.
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6. Traffic & Safety

Traffic Concerns

- Ongoing issues at the intersection of Los Anayas Road and Rio Grande Blvd were discussed, including speeding and pedestrian safety.
- The city is currently conducting a traffic calming study on Rio Grande Blvd from Indian School Road to Griegos Road and considering potential locations for:
 - medians
 - enhanced pedestrian crossings
 - additional landscaping

- protected bicycle lane segments
- Residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback once the study is complete.

Police Report

- Local police reported low crime rates, with most calls related to area checks and suspicious activity.
 - Officers are focusing on:
 - Business outreach and safety training
 - Increased traffic enforcement
 - Encouraging residents to report concerns and participate in upcoming safety events
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7. Community Projects & Events

Open Space Management

- Updates were provided on the maintenance and management of local open spaces, including:
 - Fire prevention strategies
 - Educational programs for residents and youth
 - Ongoing efforts to preserve agricultural lands and natural resources

Transit Updates

- Representatives from ABQ Ride presented new and improved transit services:
 - Introduction of microtransit (ABQ Ride Connect) for more flexible transportation
 - Enhanced safety measures on buses and at stops
 - Zero-fare rides to increase accessibility
 - Residents can use mobile apps or call customer service for trip planning and to report issues
 - The city is hiring more drivers and updating bus routes for improved service
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8. Community Engagement

North Valley Newsletter

- Lindsey Wood, publisher and Leslie Baca, reporter for the North Valley News presented information regarding this newly-established newsletter.
- The local newsletter now has over 150 subscribers, providing neighborhood-specific news, resources, and event information.

- Residents were encouraged to contribute content and share feedback.

Neighborhood Coalition

- RGBNA collaborates with the North Valley Coalition on larger projects, such as open space preservation and infrastructure improvements.
 - Residents are invited to attend coalition meetings and participate in joint initiatives.
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9. Open Forum & Closing

- Residents raised additional concerns about:
 - Landscaping and maintenance of public spaces
 - Sidewalk safety, especially for children and seniors
 - The need for more community amenities, such as gathering spaces and recreational facilities
 - The board encouraged ongoing feedback and invited residents to volunteer for committees and future events.
 - The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude to attendees, guest speakers, and volunteers.
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How to Stay Involved

- **Sign up for email updates** or visit the RGBNA website for news and meeting information.
 - **Volunteer** for committees or board positions to help shape neighborhood priorities.
 - **Attend public meetings and events** to stay informed and voice your opinions.
 - **Contact the board** with suggestions, concerns, or to get involved in specific projects.
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Key Contacts

- **RGBNA Board:** Reach out via the association's website for general information or to get involved. **Website:** <https://riograndeblvd.org/>
- **Transit Questions:** Call ABQ Ride at 243-RIDE for assistance with public transportation.
- **Police Concerns:** Contact the local substation or attend upcoming safety events for support.