

Sunrise Park Organizational Meeting Minutes. 9:30 a.m. April 5, 2014

Palm Springs Police Training Center, Room 101 "C"

Attendees

- Residents and business owners of proposed Sunrise Park Neighborhood Organization
- Lee Bonno Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations
- City Manager David Ready

Scribe Roseann Bleiweiss, with final edits by Jerry Braun with input from Board Members.

Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
 - **Why Organize?** Brief Review
 - **Where are we in the Process**
- New Business**
- **Neighborhood Boundaries** Discussion & Vote
 - **Neighborhood Name** Discussion & Vote
 - **Bylaws** Discussion & Vote
 - **Board of Advisors** Nominations & Vote
 - **Wrap Up/ Next Step**

Welcome and Introductions

- Jerry Braun introduced himself and called the meeting to order @ 9:35am. Announced our neighborhood will be the 34th Palm Springs Neighborhood Organization if the City of Palm Springs approves our group.
- Jerry explained the meeting agenda.
- Jerry welcomed Special Guest from the City of Palm Springs, Lee Bonno Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations
- Everyone who hasn't attended a meeting before was asked to complete the orange card found in front of each seat for future contact info.
- Jerry thanked all those who have volunteered thus far to keep this effort moving forward.

Why Organize? Guest Speaker Lee Bonno, City of Palm Springs, Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations.

- Lee Bonno explained what a Neighborhood Organization is.
- Lee explained the benefits of organizing a neighborhood organization:
Forming a communication network between Neighborhoods and City such as street paving, forming an emergency notification network, neighborhood watch, etc.
- Lee congratulated the group on its hard work and the great turnout of residents.
- Lee reminded Jerry that 20 signatures are needed to present to the city for consideration and acceptance. Jerry passed around the sign in sheet.

Where We Are In The Process

- We held a **Formation Meeting** on January 25, 2014. There was enough interest and volunteers to keep us moving forward.
- Core planning team met several times to discuss **Boundaries, Naming Options, and Bylaws**
- **Bylaws** were written for approval today
- **Meeting Notice Letter** mailed to all neighbors
- Today is the **Organizational Meeting** to finalize Boundaries, Name, Bylaws and to elect the Board of Advisors
- **Application with Boundaries, Name, and Bylaws** will go to the city
Powerpoint Map of the City of Palm Springs Neighborhood Organizations is shown, noting we will be #34

Neighborhood Boundaries

Meeting turned over to Curt Watts who showed the maps of the 2 proposed boundaries

Why we are Revisiting Neighborhood Boundaries

1. Neighbors South of Tahquitz expressed interest
2. The City Manager determines boundaries with concurrence from PSNIC based on:
 - Geographical Identity of the area
 - Whether properties in the area are likely to be affected by City Actions in a similar manner or have participated together concerning prior city actions
 - How long existing neighborhood has been previously established and its recognized boundaries
 - Whether size of area will or will not facilitate communications
 - Other factors showing a "Commonality of Interests"

During discussions among Core Planning team several issues were raised in this regard:

1. If Sunrise Park name is chosen, **original boundaries**(north of Tahquitz) **may not be acceptable to the city**, if expectation is that additional areas adjacent to park need to be included
2. **Properties south of Tahquitz were not included in previous mailings**. Informal survey indicated 26 residents from that area are interested in the neighborhood organization.
3. Larger area may be difficult to administer

Floor Opened to Discussion:

Who came up with boundaries? Initial planning group came up with initial boundary lines. Do we need to include Apartment/Condo Units? Apartment/Condo's had low participation interest based on mailings, yet the City can turn down our application for Neighborhood Organization status if we don't include those residents.

Does the Commercial Property Owner and their tenants both get a vote? Both can be members, but voting right needs to be clarified and decided upon.

Boundaries Option #1

Bordered by Tahquitz, Sunrise, Alejo & Farrell

- **Smaller more cohesive area**, possibly easier to administer and to focus on neighborhood issues with fewer members.
- Expect low participation from condo/apartment units
- **Tahquitz could be a natural dividing line** for neighborhood in future discussions/issues
- **NOT** adjacent to Sunrise Park itself
- Area encompasses aprox. 398 single homes, 180 condos units (3 complexes), 327 apartment homes (8 complexes), 15 commercial properties

Boundaries Option #2

Bordered by Baristo, Sunrise, Alejo & Farrell

- **Larger, more inclusive area**, possibly harder to administer and to focus on neighborhood issues (aprox. 20% more households)
- Expect **low participation** from condo/apartment units
- Area **may have** greater influence with larger numbers
- Tahquitz **could be** unifying for future discussions/issues
- **Adjacent** to Sunrise Park
- Area encompasses aprox. 490 single homes, 180 condos units (3 complexes), 426 apartment homes (22 complexes), 26 commercial properties

Jerry Braun introduced City Manager David Ready, who had just joined the meeting.

Floor Opened to Discussion:

How many ballots went out? 1000. How many returned? 60.

Byron Lohman expressed why he felt Boundary Option #2 was the way to vote.

Residents asked what was happening with COD moving to the present PS Mall location. Curt Watts replied there is no deal yet, as was stated in the City's recent Press Release.

Discussion regarding empty mall continued: We as an organization CAN voice our concerns and bring issues to the City Council.

Resident asked Curt Watts to again explain the cons of larger boundary lines, Curt obliged.

Does Boundary include Sunrise Park itself? No, but boundary 2 is adjacent to the park.

Resident inquired why we can't exclude Apt/Condo Units, who will get the vote? Curt again explained the city can deny our application if we exclude them. Lee Bonno stated that the owner and resident get to vote. Even if that owner owns property in another PSNO as well.

Resident asked if anyone was present from South of Tahquitz, several hands went up followed by applause.

Neighborhood Boundaries Vote. Curt explained the voting Process

1. One Vote per Household/Property
 2. White & Blue Ballots - North & South of Tahquitz.
 3. If South of Tahquitz is not included, that area could form its own organization if approved by City.
- Floor opened to VOTE. (Ballots had been previously distributed in a controlled manner as attendees entered the meeting room.) Ballots passed forward and counting team took them outside to tally.
 - **Final boundary tally: 46-43 for Option #2, Borders of Baristo, Sunrise, Alejo & Farrell**

Neighborhood Naming Options

- Curt Watts introduced the discussion.
- Curt stated that in our last meeting, a preliminary "Straw" Ballot was held on the fly for input on the name for our neighborhood group.
- Curt explained that no one single name received majority of 1st choice votes.
- It was explained by Curt that the core planning team wants to make sure we are thoughtful and thorough in our Naming Process.
- Suggestions of several additional names not considered in initial "straw" ballot were added to today's ballot by the core group.

Curt Watts introduced residents Richard and Roseann Bleiweiss (Richard Bleiweiss designed the Blade signs for the residents to see before voting).

Curt asked Richard if he would like to explain the process but Richard declined. Roseann took the opportunity to remind the residents that the design, font color can, and most likely will, be changed later. These just help residents visualize the name as it would appear on a Blade.

- Curt explained that this is our opportunity to define and "brand" our neighborhood.
- We can choose a name that is historic, geographical, image-based, or a combination thereof.
- Curt stated we are holding a final, formal vote today including mail-in ballots for those unable to attend today's meeting.
- Curt then showed the Blade designs to the residents. The slides include an artist's rendition of how Blade Signs could look. (Thank you Rich Bleiweiss!)
- Explanation of each name is presented via PowerPoint

Residents were asked to vote on the Neighborhood Organization name.

Voting Process Explanation:

1. One Vote per Household/Property.
2. Rank Possible Names as #1 through #6.
3. "Instant Run-Off" until one name receives a majority of votes.
- VOTING done. Ballots were passed forward and collected for tally.

Name Vote results:

- 1st round there was no clear majority
- Through process of elimination explained earlier the name chosen for our Neighborhood Organization is **Sunrise Park**. (Round of applause)

Bylaws Discussion and Vote:

Curt Watts introduced Jeff Clarkson for discussion of Bylaws

- Jeff Clarkson reviewed the draft Bylaws via PowerPoint.
- Floor opened to discussion and questions on a variety of topics:
 1. How does a person get on ballot for the board? Via nomination of oneself or others
 2. Do we have to mail for annual meeting notifications? If so, how will we pay for cost? If we have dues, they can cover expense of mailing. The City does help by paying for postage for one neighborhood mailing per year. But we should be broad in our language about notification to the neighborhood. The City is planning to change the language in the ordinance to allow for newer technologies.
 3. Possible changes and clarifications to the Bylaws were discussed, and the following two amendments to the draft Bylaws were passed by a unanimous vote of the membership present:
 - Adding the parenthetical "(including business occupants)" after the word "residents" in the first sentence of Section 1 of Article V (Membership) of the Bylaws to make the wording consistent with the City's ordinance.
 - Changing the word "at" to "attending" the two times it appears in the first sentence of Article XI (Amendments) of the Bylaws.

Voting Process explanation: Simple show of hands (one per household/property).

Vote By Show of Hands: Jeff Clarkson asked, Is anyone against the bylaws presented today? No hands go up. Is it Unanimous? Show of hands? **YES! Bylaws are accepted with the two modifications noted above.** (Round of applause)

Board of Advisors Vote

- List of advance Self-Nominations for the Board were included on the pre-printed ballots along with brief statements from each nominee.
- Voting Process explanation: Top 7 elected; elected Board members can appoint up to four additional members per Bylaws (to provide geographic balance and/or to bring needed skills to the Board.)
- Curt Watts asked if there were additional nominations from the floor.
 1. Byron Lohman nominated Roseann Bleiweiss.
 2. Discussion on floor: John Kennedy asked that someone south of Tahquitz to self nominate.
 3. Kathy Cohn (who lives north of Tahquitz) nominated herself, saying female representation is needed on the board.
 4. Mike Scebbi, resident of South of Tahquitz, nominated himself and made a brief statement.
 5. Curt asked all the newly added self-nominees to make brief statements.
 6. He also noted that those that self nominated had made statements on the ballot sheet. He also explained that Greg Probst was not present because of a family emergency.
- VOTE was made, ballots passed forward to tally.

Tally of Board Vote was overseen by Mia & Lee Bonno.

Results: Elected to the Board of Advisors are:

- Roseann Bleiweiss
- Jerry Braun
- Jeff Clarkson
- Kathy Cohn
- Byron Lohman
- Greg Probst
- Curt Watts

Not Elected: John Bingle-Thompson, John Kennedy, Ken Nelson and Mike Scebbi.

Next Steps

Jerry Braun explained:

- An Organization Application needs to be submitted with our signed Petition and our Bylaws for approval by the City Council.
- Volunteers are needed! Volunteer to work on various projects to be identified by the Board. (Neighborhood Watch, Blade Signs, Fund Raising, etc.)
- Jerry made last plea to please get involved, volunteer to help in moving our Neighborhood Organization forward!

Jerry called on resident who asked to make a plea for donation help: That resident stood and asked that we consider either raising funds for or donating funds ourselves to the PSPD whose headquarters needs major help and renovations.

Jerry invited David Ready to the floor for Q&A Highlights include:

- Old Palm Springs Mall/COD David explained "*it's all good*", SPNO dialogue is important regarding the site's future.
- Mall is big enough for COD, existing buildings will be leveled.
- COD may be home of the PS Library which is in dire need of expensive repair.
- Is north PS location out of the question for COD: YES.
- How much will daily population increase? According to the COD Dean – 3,000 people/day.
- Parcel across the street sold 3 days prior for possible apartments.
- Jack-In-The-Box to remain.
- Resident asked is owner of mall from China? David replied yes and City has spoken only to the owner's reps.
- Resident and current COD student expressed her opinion based on experience that traffic will not be an issue.
- Input at a public meeting regarding the center median improvements from Sunrise Way to the airport will be welcome.
- David Ready supplied his cell number to SPNO attendees 760-409-0833 and thanked everyone for coming.

Curt Watts thanked Crave for letting us host meetings there. There was a drawing for 3 gift certificates from Crave using the orange interest cards submitted by meeting attendees.

Jerry Braun thanked attendees for their attendance and participation.

Final Question from the floor: Do we have a website? We do not, but Jerry noted that that residents can join our Nextdoor site and/or our FaceBook page to stay informed.

The new Board now has one month to elect officers and get everything that is required into the City for approval by the City Manager and the City Council.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.