

GPANA General Membership Meeting on October 17, 2020

Zoom Meeting • The meeting started at approximately 10:05 AM

Board members present: Gary Kordosky (president), Melisa Ambers (vice president), Donna Snyder (secretary), Denise Garland (treasurer), Roger Carpenter, Janice Crowder-Torrez, Tony Knight.

Mike Cardwell (husband of Denise Baldwin) provided technical assistance

Guest Speaker: Joe Frannea, International Dark Sky Association

Approximately 16 GPANA members were present for the Zoom meeting

A PowerPoint Slide Program provided the structure for the meeting

1. President Gary Kordosky opens the meeting and reminds us of our mission: to act in the interests of the members on issues such as limiting commercial development, reducing litter and crime, and retaining environmental quality. He also thanked all who participated in the Feliz Paseos Park and Camino de Oeste cleanups.

2. Treasurer Denise Garland reminds members to mute their microphones. An appeal was made on behalf of Tabitha Sims, a Neighborhood Watch leader, for members who live in the area North of Trails End Road. Streets include Desierto, Allenda, Tuberia, Suerte and La Roca. This group normally piggybacks their annual requirement to meet with our membership meeting. But because we could not meet in person this year, it is necessary to contact Tabitha to 'sign in.' If you live in this neighborhood watch area, please contact Tabitha at tsims@specinst.com.

3. President Gary Kordosky introduces our guest speaker, Joe Frannea of International Dark Sky Association. Joe has been with the organization for about 20 years. He gave a very informative talk about the importance of curbing unnecessary night lights and the effect that Artificial Light At Night (ALAN) has on our night skies, circadian rhythms (the cycles of light and dark), the detrimental effects on migrating birds and wildlife. Even people benefit when sleeping in total darkness. He stressed the importance of following Tucson's lighting codes with lights shielded to cast light downward. This can be accomplished by updating outdoor lighting fixtures to modern, compliant designs. Astronomers rely on dark skies. Visit the IDA website (link below) for additional information. It's a great resource. Does your neighbor's outdoor lighting spill over into your property? Talking with an outdoor-light-loving neighbor can be tricky. Here's a link with some guidelines on how you might deal with this issue:

<https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-citizens/my-neighbors-lighting/>

They even supply a suggested letter to get the conversation started. <https://www.darksky.org/>

4. Accomplishments

The past year has been a busy one for the organization. Some of the highlights regarding our mission for 'limiting commercial development' included the dedication of Painted Hills Trails Park. The park, on Anklam Road, is the result of a 15-year-long effort to keep a beautiful desert area, that's close to the downtown, an open space. It provides hiking trails for the enjoyment of all. But there are other large properties still at risk of development in our area and GPANA keeps tabs on activity by communicating with landowners regarding future development.

For our ongoing mission of 'reducing litter and crime,' GPANA held a physically distanced, but well attended, cleanup in July at the Feliz Paseos Park as our part in fulfilling our Adopt-A-Park obligation. GPANA pushed for traffic slowing signage on Camino de Oeste near the intersection with Speedway. We also pushed for a 'speed study' on Gates Pass Road near Speedway. This intersection has been the site of many near misses and accidents. We also worked with the Pima County Parks Department to install "No Shooting" signage by Gates Pass Road in Tucson Mountains Park. It is important to call 9-1-1 if you hear shooting so that the Sheriff's Department will have a record of the incident with the date and time.

For our mission of 'retaining environmental quality' some projects that fell under this heading included pushing to have the south end of Camino de Oeste, the access to the Yetman Trailhead, graded annually. Residents who live in this area had to deal with a heavily rutted road until the county finally came through. The Correctional Officers Training Academy (COTA) was persuaded to modify their upward shining lights that were contributing to light pollution. And the short section of road connecting Camino de Oeste and Speedway was made one way heading west onto Camino de Oeste. This will help cut down on potential accidents.

5. Our GPANA Website (<https://www.gpana.info/home.html>)

Donna Snyder, secretary and webmaster, gave an overview of the website. She stressed that the site is an important resource for members and interested parties. It contains current news and issues affecting our area, the history of the organization, wildlife lists, member photos, area history, our affiliations, quick links to city, county, state and federal officials. Under the Board Matters tab, you'll find current minutes, past minutes, members of the board, and our bylaws. You can also use the Contact page to reach us. And under the Join tab, you can easily renew your membership or join GPANA for the first time. The site accepts Paypal (use your credit card) to pay dues. We strive to keep the site current.

6. Treasurer Denise Garland gave the Treasurer's Report. See attached files.

7. Membership and Recruitment

Gary Kordosky reports that we currently have 120 member households (127 individual members). The board is working on ways to increase membership. As in-person gatherings are not possible during COVID times, we are looking to expand our presence on social media by using Nextdoor and Facebook. And we are always looking to our membership to help us reach out to neighbors by spreading the good word about GPANA.

8. Survey Results

Denise Garland reviewed the results of the survey that went out to membership in September. The survey was emailed to 138 people*. 54 members responded. 84 did not respond. See attached charts.

9. Upcoming Board Elections

Donna Snyder reviewed the status of our slate and the potential need for volunteers. Our bylaws cap the board at 9 members, but members can always volunteer to help in any way. If you are interested in participating on the board, please email us at gpanasec@gmail.com. Commitments include a minimum of 4 board meetings a year, the Spring and Fall Membership Meetings, Roadside and Park cleanups, the monitoring of neighborhood issues, county website and meeting with local leaders among other role specific duties.

With no further issues or comments President Gary Kordosky thanks all who made the effort to attend and ends the meeting at about 11:30 AM.

*Note that this number doesn't jive with our reported number of individual members and your secretary will be working, once we complete our 2020 membership drive to clean up our membership list.

Respectfully submitted.

Donna Snyder
Secretary, GPANA
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