



MPWNA

Newsletter

April 2008

Mitchell Park West Neighborhood Association

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/tempe/mpw/>

Important Phone Numbers

Police Non-Emergency: 480-350-8311

Loud Noise: 480-350-8311

Trespassing: 480-350-8311

Alley Trash: 480-350-8265

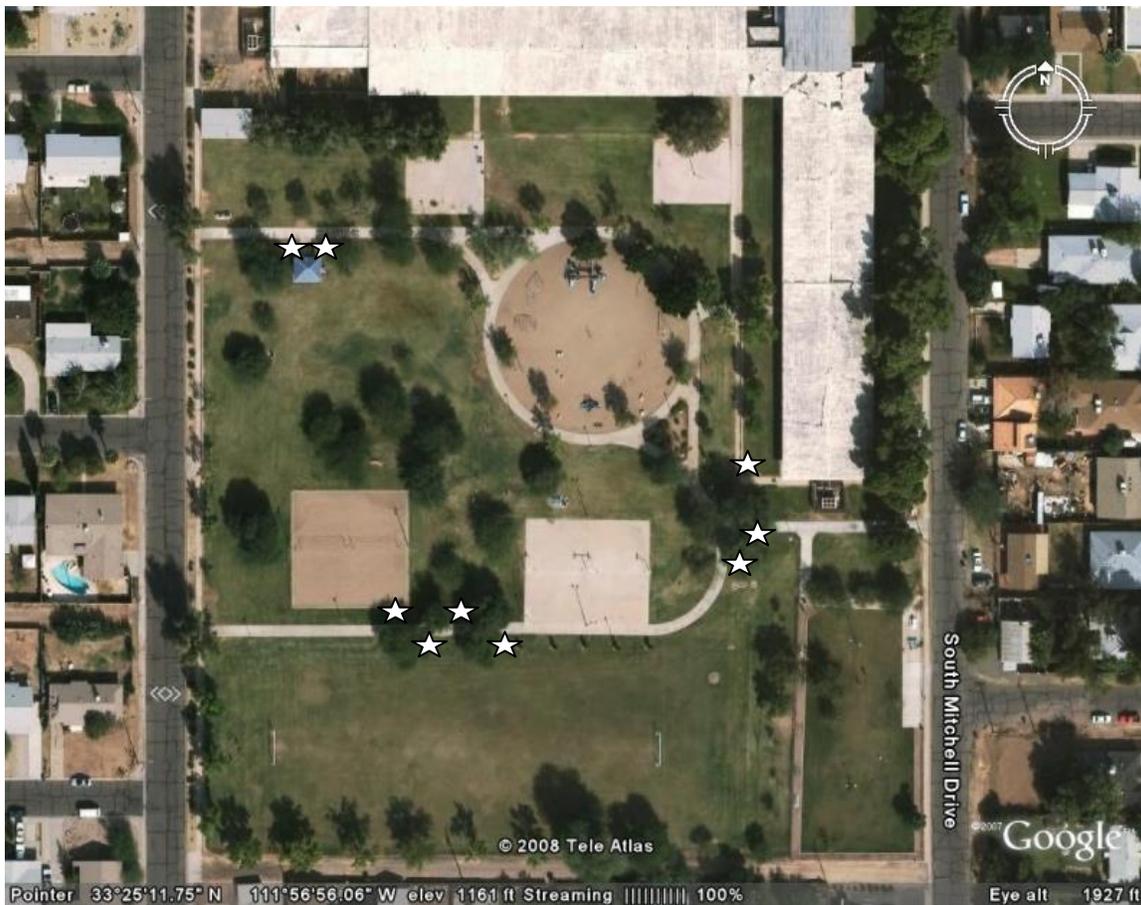
Code Compliance (lawn, rentals, yards): 480-350-8671

Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant Application, 2008

MPWNA is applying for an annual \$12,000 grant that Tempe makes available for a capital improvement that benefits the entire neighborhood. Our application proposal, being prepared by the Grant Subcommittee, will be to add a set of 9 benches in Mitchell Park as was discussed at the last Neighborhood Meeting on 22nd March. An original idea had been to also name the walkway after Margaret McGinn. But this component of the Neighborhood Grant is a different approval process and was subsequently suspended. Other ideas are being considered that would honor her contribution to the neighborhood, as well as others.

The MPWNA Grant Subcommittee has arranged benches around the park by placing them under or close to reasonably large trees so that they will be shaded from the sun. The City also requires that they only be beside concrete walkways for ADA reasons, and on a concrete pad. They won't allow them to be placed in the grass anymore. In addition, the Subcommittee has selected the proposed actual locations to provide seating to those watching soccer and volleyball games, to those using the Ramada, and to those wanting to relax and watch the goings-on in the park in general.

The following diagram shows the locations of the 9 benches as stars on either side of a path. The proposed locations also take account of the existing benches around the children's play area. The two benches by the Ramada are either side of the short path from the walkway to the Ramada and face each other, east / west. The idea is to provide additional seating for people using the Ramada and allow them to chat, while complying with Parks rules on ADA, etc. The one to the east of the play circle area is on the Childsplay side of the walkway facing west towards the park. The two down by the dog park entrance are on the east side / dog park side of the walkway curve south under the big tree there and face west towards the park. The four down by the soccer field / volley ball court are arranged two on either side of the walkway facing across the walkway and staggered east / west from each other. So people sitting on those can see across the walkway to the soccer field or to the volley ball court, depending if they are on the southern or northern pair, and are not blocked by the seats on the opposite side of the walkway, but they can still chat.



We have endeavored to put them all in the shade of existing larg(ish) trees, other than the Ramada ones. When we negotiate with the City Parks Department on the exact locations we'll try to ensure they are in the shade. The bench we have chosen is shown here:



It is the same model that Tempe already buys under contract for the bus stops and parks (you can see them in our dog park, for example) and the City has agreed we can add our order to their contract since this gives us the best price and installation conditions, plus they require that any new benches match the existing ones. It is also a City requirement that they do the actual installation of the pad, and the bench contractor will do the bench installation on the pad under their contract from the City. Our benches would have black legs and teal seats to match the ones in the dog park, and would have two center arm rests to deter sleeping vagrants. The approved seat design also seems to deter graffiti artists and vandals. We plan on buying 9 benches plus concrete pads with the \$12,000 grant, if we are approved, and this is reflected in the layout diagram, above.

The conditions for the grant application require that we inform all the residents of the neighborhood of what we are proposing, and that the residents be given a chance to comment. Because it is the neighborhood as a whole that ultimately decides what is proposed in the grant application. Therefore, if after review of the above information you have any comments, please either:

- email them to John Purchase (jpurchase@cox.net), with copies to Marcia Kyle (mkyle@asu.edu) and David Saar (dsaar2@cox.net), or
- phone John Purchase at 480-921-3217, or
- post a comment in the Community Discussion (blog) section of the MPWNA web page: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/tempe/mpw/>, or
- express them at the Neighborhood Meeting on May 3rd (see below)

The deadline for any comments is May 3rd. The comments from the neighborhood are for this proposal only, not for alternative proposals. All comments will be compiled and considered in the final design.

Mitchell Park West Neighborhood Association (MPWNA) Information

The Mitchell Park area is bounded by University Drive to the north, 13th Street to the south, Southern Pacific Railroad to the east and Hardy Drive to the west. This neighborhood contains Mitchell Park with the City's only dog-run and the former Mitchell Elementary School facilities which are now being converted into the new head office complex for Childsplay. The area is divided into Mitchell Park West and East, with the dividing line being Roosevelt St.

MPWNA is an informal gathering of all the residents in the Mitchell Park West area. It is recognized by the City of Tempe under their Neighborhoods Program and the City provides some funding for four multi-page mailings per year through their Neighborhood Services Division. Association activities include crime prevention, advocacy with the City and developers, grant acquisitions (for things like trees and benches for sidewalks, dog park improvements, etc.), community mobilization and neighborhood social events (like street parties, July 4th celebrations, neighborhood yard sales, etc.). It should not be confused with an HOA!

The association has an elected Board to coordinate association activities and act as an interface to the City, and Sub-Committees of association members are formed whenever a particular activity has to be planned and organized. Recent examples of the latter are the Neighborhood Art Festival and Maryanne Corder Grant sub-committees.

MPWNA has regular neighborhood meetings every one to two months, but one of them in the March / April / May timeframe is the Annual Meeting at which the Board members are elected to serve one year terms.

Unlike an HOA, there are no compulsory annual dues to pay. However, it is impossible to do anything like provide refreshments at meetings or organize area social events without having to spend some money so all residents in the area who wish to participate in the association activities are asked to make a purely voluntary annual donation of \$5 per household at the Annual Meeting to help keep MPWNA neighborhood activities supplemented.

MPWNA Annual Meeting

The next Annual Meeting is on Saturday, May 3rd from 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm (latest) at the Ramada in Mitchell Park — a post card notifying you of this meeting was also sent to you in early April.

It is suggested you bring a folding camping chair as the park Ramada seating is limited.

Childsplay At Mitchell Park

The new Childsplay head quarters at the Old Mitchell School are almost complete and they expect to move in by May 12th. A neighborhood resident recently took a tour and reports the transformation the old school has undergone is truly remarkable. This new facility will be a jewel in the Mitchell Park West crown! Childsplay plan a Grand Opening and Open House for the neighborhood in the Fall, so plan now on participating in this event!