

Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

5.10.18

Call to order at 6:00 PM by Association President Mike Adjemian

Pledge of Allegiance and introductions by those in attendance.

I. PROGRAM

A. Detective Susan Kislenger, EPPD Animal Cruelty Investigation Unit

The unit was established in November 2017 with 5 police officers. Their objectives are to inform the public and to help people identify abuse. Abuse includes abandonment of animals; cruelty to animals; and a lack of food, water, care, shelter, and shade for animals. Animal abuse leads to crimes against persons.

What we can do: stop feeding feral cats so they will move on and take pictures or videos of abuse such as chained animals or animals in cages. Call immediately if you witness a pet locked in a hot car. Report to the officers. They will respond to the most serious cases first. One officer finds foster homes for abused animals so that they can be adopted. Perpetrators are charged with a crime and penalties depend on the severity of the abuse.

Call 911 if it is an emergency; call 311 if it is not an emergency; call the unit at 212-0800 if you have a question or concern. See “Laws and Paws” on Facebook to volunteer as a foster parent or to make donations to the cause.

B. Raquel Rodriguez, Outreach Coordinator at Center of Hope

The Center of Hope serves the victims of human trafficking in our community. Most of the survivors are U.S. citizens between the ages of 16-24. This includes sex slaves and forced labor in agriculture, construction, nail salons, and restaurants. This is a billion dollar underground industry fostered by social media and poverty. The victims are subjected to fraud, coercion, and violence. The FBI and DPS are involved in catching the perpetrators.

The Center of Hope seeks to educate parents, students, and the medical community about this tragedy. They also directly help the victims who are freed. Each survivor gets a plan for recovery that includes medical care, counseling, and legal aide. They

stay in the shelter until they can be returned to a safe place. Donations, like the large one made by Burges High School, are accepted.

C. James Heredia and Letty West, Kiwanis Flag Program

James represents the St. Luke UMC program that will come out and put up flags on 5 major holidays at individual homes for \$30.00 each.

Letty distributed many flyers and forms which she explained. Members were given the opportunity to purchase flags. Part of that money is returned to CVNA, so she wants us to promote the program within our boundaries. She also gave us helpful information about flag etiquette.

D. Mike passed out the “Chime in Survey” for the city of El Paso.

Each member was urged to fill it out so that our voices can be heard in the City of El Paso. Cassandra Hernandez Brown’s aide picked those up for District 3. He also invited us to the representative’s next meeting at the Jose Cisneros library next week. The City’s Chief Financial Officer will make a presentation.

II. CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, MOTHER’S DAY!

All mothers were presented with corsages to wear at the meeting. A group picture of the mothers was taken to put on the web page. A rousing chorus of “Las Mananitas” was offered in support of the Moms.

III. BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Mike Adjemian gave us updates on

1. The Robert E. Lee Beautification Project
2. The Edgemere Linear Park Project: A Community Meeting will be held May 30th at the Burges High Library. The city will listen to input from the community and follow that by a rendering of the project. Mike will speak on our behalf as to including exercise stations along the path. The project will be completed in 2019.

B. Jenny Rodriguez, President of the Burges High School Football Boosters, asked for assistance in fundraising and volunteering. Mike pointed out that we had met our obligation by selling all of our tickets to Papa Eric’s.

C. The minutes from the April meeting were read over and approved.

- D. Armando Renteria handed out and went over the Treasurer's Report.
- E. District #7 Representative Henry Rivera spoke about ongoing city projects and the need to address the recreational needs of the children in El Paso.
- F. A CVNA member, Dino, presented his findings from the city meeting at Grandview Park. The City of El Paso pay is dismal and we need a COLA yearly. We also need more accountability from the City Council. He offered that auditing is providing a good check and balance within city departments. He is frustrated that city projects are taking so long and that costs have risen for the taxpayer.
- G. Dino's last statement led to a lively discussion about Max Grossman and his efforts to thwart the multipurpose arena downtown.

IV. Mike adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM