

Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

October 8, 2020

Present:

Michael & Bertha Adjemian

Michelle Adjemian

Santos Padilla

Rudy Macias

Virginia Abilez

Cassandra Hernandez (District 3 Representative)

Armando & Ceci Renteria

Rose Ann Martinez (Principal, MacArthur Intermediate School)

Francis Servin

William Veliz

Mayra Rivera

Amy Wilson Feltz (& Olivia) (St. Paul's United Methodist Church)

Vivian

John Perches

Elizabeth Abilez

Elsa Chacon

Bettina Olivares (Cassandra Hernandez's Admin Asst.)

J. Barr

GalaxyS10e (?)

Isabel Vigil

GalaxyS7

Enrique & Quita Fierro

Home Laptop

Mary Kirschenbaum

Michael Adjemian, President of the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association, called the meeting to order at 6:00 and welcomed everyone to our second virtual video conference. He welcomed our primary guest speakers, Amy Wilson Feltz and Rose Ann Martinez, District Three City Council Candidates Cassandra Hernandez and William Veliz, and shared the meeting agenda.

Guest Speaker 1: Amy Wilson Feltz

Guest Speaker 2: Rose Ann Martinez

Report from District Three City Representative Cassandra Hernandez

Candidate Forum (intros and Q&A)

September General Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Open Forum

Closing Comments

Guest Speaker 1: Amy Wilson Feltz, Pastor at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. She has been a minister since 2008 and has been in El Paso just over one year. She moved here from Abilene, TX, with her husband (John), 5 year-old daughter Natalie, and 4 year-old Augie; 11 month-old Olivia was born here. They arrived six weeks before the Walmart shooting (8/3/2019), then Olivia was born, followed by the Coronavirus pandemic. These have slowed her outreach efforts within the community; she is looking forward to a turn around in the circumstances. Pastor Feltz has built relationships within the neighborhood near her churches and nearby schools, community garden, and Little Free Library in the past. She would like to bring these types of activities to St. Paul's. She also looks forward to establishing an auxiliary board that includes community members. The annual Trunk-Or-Treat festivities will be a drive-through event this year.

Guest Speaker 2: Rose Ann Martinez, Principal of MacArthur Intermediate School. (ramarti1@episd.org the number 1 precedes @episd) (236-0625 – school) (ismroseann@aol.com personal email)

She has come full circle, having grown up in the neighborhood and attended MacArthur and Burges HS. Fifty years as a neighbor.

She shared a PowerPoint on the school and its current construction. She welcomes community involvement. She shared current re-opening dates and waivers, the EPISD Covid-19 Dashboard. Meals are distributed M-F from 11-1 in the faculty parking lot, School Cash Online (on the district website) allows payments for various school activities. Construction highlights include Promethium Boards in the Middle School, new Fine Arts classrooms, additional traditional classrooms, technology updates, fire and alarm upgrades, bus loop, furniture, and landscaping. The gym has been upgraded and its floor was taken down to the bare wood for the first time in 50 years.

2021-2022 will see the consolidation with Bonham Elementary School. Approximately 300 students will be transferring over. This will increase the already large military presence.

The Pathways to School Project, which incorporates safe walking and biking paths from home to school has been designed but has not been fully implemented because of the pandemic. After-school programs include clubs sponsored by the school, tutoring, athletics, fine arts, and UIL activities. The YWCA after-school program, which runs until 6:00 PM, is also available for a fee.

Pre-AP and Dual Language programs are also available. Ms. Martinez aims for transparency and support. They have been having virtual parent meetings. End of PowerPoint

MacArthur students regularly garner individual and team awards. They struggle athletically in football since not enough students participate, but excel in volleyball. 52% of the students are transfers because there are not enough families with school-age children in the neighborhood. We are an inner-city neighborhood whose average age is over 50. To this end, they actively recruit families for the school.

Francis Servin stated it has a great faculty that feels like family. (She is a MacArthur employee.)

Mike Adjemian asked what the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association can do?

Francis Servin's response was build as a community through things like banners, movie nights, Nextdoor App, block parties, and invite the media.

Elizabeth Abilez, who also works at MacArthur, stated that they are pro-active and ready for students to return to in-person instruction.

There is also an open position for a traffic monitor: M-F, 7-8:30 AM, 2 hours at lunch, and after school; it is 20 hours/week

Mayra Rivera, who also works at MacArthur, stated that it is a great school. She also asked for the membership to keep an eye out for students walking and biking to school.

Cassandra Hernandez, updates from District 3:

(postpone wish list comments)

She looks forward to working with Amy Wilson Feltz and Rose Ann Martinez.

Ponder Park: The current memorial will be accessible late next week. Mike Adjemian spearheaded this project.

Edgemere Linear Park: Walk through was on Saturday, 10/3/2020. Sam Rodriquez, city engineer, was present and has issued a change order to include irrigation, seeding, and trees in a section not previously included in this project. The price is not to exceed \$1,500. These funds come from District 2 discretionary funds. For each tree that dies, two new trees will be planted. They will try to add color, not just green.

Halloween plans include a drive-through candy bag distribution sponsored by Representative Hernandez. It will be in front of Burges High School. The EP Police Department will be on hand for traffic control. John Fields from EP Disposal donated \$1,000. Friday, October 30th from 6-8 PM

Gift Certificate give-aways

Elsa Chacon named the nearest library branch with curbside delivery, Judge Marquez and/or Clardy Fox. \$30.00 gc for Red Lobster

Francis Servin stated that Bonham ES will merge with MacArthur in 2022. \$30.00 gc for _____

Candidate Forum for District 3 City Representative

Will go in alphabetical order.

90 seconds per response. Mary Kirschenbaum will be timekeeper.

Introductions (by candidates themselves)

Cassandra Hernandez Incumbent, 2nd generation El Pasoan, Strong family ties and support, Graduated from Bel Air HS and UTEP

Will Veliz Challenger, has lived his entire life in the Cielo Vista area (McCabe), graduated from Burges HS and has UTEP Bachelor degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice, has served on the Police Pension Fund Board and the Zoning Board, is a realtor

Question 1 (Rose Ann Martinez) What is your vision for growth?

Cassandra Hernandez People often fear involvement, we need to get the word out, get them involved, build relationships

Will Veliz Need to address the needs of the community, more streets and sidewalk improvements, spend more effectively, lower taxes

Question 2 (Mando Renteria) How do you foresee the transition from Covid restrictions to normalcy?

Cassandra Hernandez Waiting patiently, people are letting their guard down now, over 500 new cases reported today, patients are in the hallways, lobbies, and

waiting rooms of the local hospitals. We need to support local businesses and practice safety.

Will Veliz This highlights the shortages in hospitals, there should be a publicly disclosed grading system for restaurants and businesses

Question 3 (Mary Kirschenbaum) Referring to your previous response: The law does not currently allow for “grades” for businesses to be publicized. How would you go about changing that?

Cassandra Hernandez Needs open records request, the data exists

Will Veliz Enhance our decision making

Question 4 (Elizabeth Abilez) What can be done concerning the Blue Dolphin Pool property?

Cassandra Hernandez Continue what she has been doing, there is an option on the 311 app to report anonymously, the 311 app is a more trackable complaint system. Shine as a city, stress the positive, use the Nextdoor app, more for kids to do

Will Veliz He would continue reporting, we are a most diverse city, there is more to highlight, we are an economic power, promote local businesses, tie incentives and rewards to businesses

Question 5 (Mando Renteria) There has been a great deal of talk nationally about defunding the police. What about El Paso?

Cassandra Hernandez Does not support defunding the police, we have a good Police Department, they have a close working relationship, they speak with us, we need more police officers, we need body cams , the infrastructure for body cams is expensive

Will Veliz We need to protect our “Safest City” designation, money for body cams is available, we should be a role model

Question 6 (Elsa Chacon) The city budget keeps going up. How can it be funded other than raising property taxes?

Cassandra Hernandez Economic development will play a major role, the Hawkins Pool is often slated for closure due to its cost and lack of revenue, sales taxes, fees, has experience with budgets

Will Veliz We should spend efficiently, Cassandra Hernandez always raises taxes, is in favor of public/private partnerships, he knows how to do it

Question 7 (Cassandra Hernandez to Will Veliz) What are your top three priorities for District 3?

Will Veliz Advocacy of constituents, roads, know where the money is going, energy-efficient lighting, satellite offices – north and south of the freeway, take on the resident's concerns

Question 8 (Will Veliz to Cassandra Hernandez) Streets are a major concern. You were removed from the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Why?

Cassandra Hernandez I was appointed by the mayor. He wanted to appoint someone else. Rather than create problems, she resigned. She continues to work with the regional transportation authorities, TxDOT, and state representatives.

Closing Remarks

Cassandra Hernandez Continues applying for and using street maintenance funds, she visits residents at their homes, offices, etc. therefore, there is no need for the expense of satellite offices, she wants to remain in El Paso and is raising her family here, She works hard every day

Will Veliz Who do you trust? (Mike Adjemian stopped him and the timing was stopped. He was warned to stop personal attacks on his opponent. Timing resumed) Leaked document for ... (Mike Adjemian stopped him (Timing was

stopped) again and he was warned against personal attacks. Timing resumed)
He will advocate for change.

End of Candidate Forum

Secretary's Report Mary Kirschenbaum read the minutes from the September General Meeting. They were approved as read. Elsa Chacon made the motion and Mando Renteria seconded it.

A request was made to email the minutes to the members. It was decided to post the minutes to the website. (ep-cvna.org)

Treasurer's Report Armando Renteria stated that we started the month with a balance of \$2072.05. Disbursements were two checks for \$30.00 each for gift certificates, leaving a balance of \$2012.05. The report was approved as read. Elsa Chacon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, it was seconded by Vivian _____.

Open Forum

Michele Adjemian El Paso Giving Day is approaching. Please, consider VOLAR Center for Independent living. She challenged all neighbors to donate to the non-profit for a minimum of \$10.00.

Vivian _____ El Paso Giving Day is coming up. Please, consider donating to Crime Stoppers. She also still has tickets for Papa Eric's as a Crime Stoppers fundraiser.

Mary Kirschenbaum The October Special for the Friends of the Cielo Vista Library Bookstore is 50% off all adult 50¢ novels. Thank you for supporting the bookstore and in turn the Jose Cisneros Cielo Vista Library.

Motion to adjourn made by Elsa Chacon, seconded by Vivian _____ at 7:54 PM.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Mary Kirschenbaum, Secretary, on November 12, 2020.