

Vista Grande Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
At the West Mesa Little League Concession Stand in Redlands Park

Website: www.vistagranda.org/

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO INFORM YOUR VGNA NEIGHBORS OF THIS MEETING AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO ATTEND!

VGNA boundaries: West: Coors Blvd., East: Rio Grande River, South: Sequoia Road including first row of properties on south side, North: St. Joseph's Drive projected straight east to the River.

AGENDA ITEMS (New items can be brought up before or during the meeting.)

6:40- **Announcements:** (Done around 7:45 p.m. to accommodate the APD officers.). Dana Skaar: Redlands Park trash cans, the weeds overgrowing onto Sequoia Road and the need for roundabout landscaping that is not driven over or pulled out.

7:10- **APD crime and homeless report**

6:45- APD Officer Padilla – Crime stats here are low. Property crime handout. Use 242-COPS for non-emergencies, and 911 for emergencies, or ACS (Albuquerque Community Support), such as a person who is yelling in an uncontrolled manner. There's also the TRU (Telephone Report Unit), they'll call you back and you can also do reports online. 911 and 311 are also good for residents in the county.

Your substation is near Cibola High School.

Contact your city councilor for changes that involve money, such as the need for an ordinance to cite the homeless through city ordinances and state statutes.

Dana Skaar: We have a homeless person with a tent and dogs in this park.

You need to talk to your city councilor to get an ordinance to deal with those types of homeless cases. We are constrained by city ordinances and state statutes.

The APD Open Space Unit handles issues on the river and in the Bosque. Call them and the Park Service for issues in that area. Tell them it's State Park property.

Schaefer: The homicide rate is not on here, but there's a 94.5 Percent clearance rate for homicides.

Padilla: Clearance means a call, an investigation, and made an arrest.

Schaefer: Or there's a warrant for an arrest.

Officer Padilla says his priority is going to spots where there are all sorts of crime, especially along the commercial areas, particularly south of here. We try to be proactive and deter crime. The detectives handle much of the homicide cases.

Skaar: What can homeowners do?

Padilla: Neighbors need to help and watch out for each other. Citizens should take video of crime and problems. Ring cameras are helpful, and you can use that as evidence. Show us the pictures when we get on scene. . . or you can upload it.

Lovelady: Alamogorda Next Door is helpful, but it has many emails per day.

Padilla: You should call 242-COPS if you see people who are about to commit a crime.

Also see **ABQ311 website** (<https://www.cabq.gov/311/abq311/>), it has crime reports and lots of info, as well as crime reporting.

We drive by if you see someone suspicious. Use the VGNA distribution list.

Share information with each other.

Dekker: Who owns the park? The Little League.

Schaefer: The City still owns the Park.

Lovelady: We appreciate what you (the officers) do.

6:40- **VGNA website** – URL: [Vista Grande NA website](http://www.vistagrandena.org/) (www.vistagrandena.org/)

6:50- **Voluntary distribution list of neighbors** – If you don't want to share your info, you need to opt out, by contacting Richard Schaefer (schaefer@unm.edu)

Lovelady: We'll just assume you're in, unless you say "No."

Schaefer: Contact me if you don't want to have your info included on the distribution list.

7:10- **Plans for 5130 Sequoia Rd.**: There were homeless in this area. But there are plans to develop the lot into multi-family housing. Is this a density an issue? It will have about 45-48 units. Dave Dekker volunteered that he will look into it. They will be "affordable" units. The current IDO requires less parking than was required in the past.

7:15—What about **Desert Hills**?

Schaefer: No info. There's a rumor that the Desert Hills security is assisting the homeless guy in the park with his doors.

7:15- **3801 Coors** development proposal: Subdividing the commercial spaces on the west side of Coors.

Schaefer: That block is being subdivided and is being developed in a manner similar to the Skaarsgard property one block north of it.

7:20- **West Mesa Little League and Redlands Park**—

Joseph Lovato of the West Mesa Little League attended the ABQ meeting on crime and homelessness, so he arrived after the start of the meeting.

Lovato: We don't get a response from APD on homeless issues. We still find needles in the park. The Little League would like to see Desert Hills parking available or go with plans that extend the park. Councilor Sanchez and his assistant, Brandon MacEachen, doesn't respond to calls and emails. I will try to set up a meeting with him (Sanchez) in the next two weeks.

Lovato: The Little League is on City property and LL has to do community service to be on the property. Our LL people are security around here. We do our own needle patrols.

LL has approached State Rep. Moe Maestas for \$100K for flashing stop signs and other improvements, including buying and demolishing **Desert Hills**. Also people lauded Dekker's design to make the Desert Hills facility into an extension of the park.

Little League Bathroom Proposal: LL will construct a four-unit bathroom. Flushable toilets and changing stations. It will save the LL some money because we rent port-a-pottys. It will be locked, except when the LL is open. The LL will pay for damages to it and we'll pay the water bill and electricity.

Lovato: **Trash**: We leave our dumpster open. The City is responsible for picking up the trash. The LL and VGNA could approach Councilor Louie Sanchez for better or more trash pick-up in the park. Again, he has \$100K for his area. He should have some money left.

Lovato: We will be proposing projects in November and we should put joint projects to our reps, city councilor and county commissioner.

7:00- **VGNA Treasurer Report:** Richard Schaefer VGNA Account balance before 8-23-22 was \$817.10. VGNA 2021-22 activity: WSCONA dues - \$20, Dreamhost webhosting for three years - \$93.24. VGNA collected an additional \$115 in contributions at the 8-23-22 meeting. VGNA's new account balance should be \$932.10 as of 8-24-22.

7:45- **VGNA Bylaws:** The proposed completely revised Bylaws needed to conform to changed City requirements for recognition of neighborhood association. See: [Old 2009 Bylaws](#) and [Proposed 2022 Bylaws](#). Major changes are the need to include businesses, all residents and resident organizations, as well as not charge mandatory dues. So, we re-worked the bylaws to conform to the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) and the City's Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance (NARO), which makes us eligible to receive notifications from the City.

7:55- **ACTION ITEM:** New proposed bylaws changes passed unanimously by voice vote.

8:00- **[New membership form](#)** indicates that there are suggested voluntary contributions in lieu of dues.

Suggested contributions: (Make checks to "Vista Grande Neighborhood Assoc.")

One-person household.	\$10
Two-person household. (two votes)	\$15
Non-resident property owner	\$15
Non-profit organization	\$15
Business / For-profit org	\$20

8:20- Election of new officers and board members. Terms end tonight. (The list of current officers and board members can be found below.)

ACTION ITEM: VGNA Officers were nominated and elected for 2022-2023 by acclamation.

Elected Officers:

President (and board member) – Dana Skaar

Vice-President (and board member) - Susan Homer

Secretary Treasurer (and board member) - Richard Schaefer

WSCONA reps: Richard Schaefer and Dana Skaar (alternate)

Board Members: Brady Lovelady and Charles "Chuck" Noya

Brady Lovelady said he will run for president next year.

8:20 Meeting adjourned.

For more info contact:

Richard Schaefer – 505-917-9909 schaefer@unm.edu

See the VGNA website: www.vistagradena.org