

Woodlea/Melrose Neighborhood Association
Meeting Notes 08/20/2008
7pm Copper Star Coffee
Guest Speaker, George Abrahams from Friends of Encanto Park.

The City of Phoenix will be holding a public input meeting about the 1 billion dollar Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative at Burton Barr Central Library on Wednesday August 27th at 6pm. This initiative will raise funds which will be used to improve community parks. The Friends of Encanto Park would like to receive our support for the Encanto Park Grand Plan. This would help preserve and restore Encanto Park. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to show your support please visit their website www.FriendsOfEncantoPark.com or you can go directly to the city's website www.phoenix.gov/parks. On the right side of the screen select the option "Park Funding Survey." Let's help keep Encanto Park the "crown jewel" of Phoenix.

Guest Speaker, Nancy Carpenter on reviving the Victory Garden. With all of the recent issues in the news regarding the safety of the food we eat, why not consider growing your own Victory Garden. If you don't have space to dedicate an entire garden, consider planting some vegetables in a container. Lettuce, carrots, onions, fruit trees and many other items can grow in our desert climate. The University of Az Cooperative Extension offers workshops in gardening and preserving. Please visit the website, cals.arizona.edu/maricopa or contact Nancy for more information in starting your own Victory Garden

Guest Speaker, Denise Stravia from AZ Cats AZ Cats promotes a Trap-Neuter-Release program. This has been found to be the most effective solution to working with feral cats. If you remove the cats and leave them somewhere else or exterminate them other feral cats will move into the area. Currently Maricopa County has approximately 350,000 feral cats. By trapping the cats and sterilizing them that will stop them from breeding and the cats will then die off naturally. Kittens can start reproducing between 4-6 months. They can have 3-4 litters a year with approximately 4 kittens per litter. Sterilizing the cats can also reduce some of the annoyance caused from yowling during mating or fighting and spraying. Once we have determined a rough estimate of how many cats are in the neighborhood AZ Cats will then provide traps and a facility for the sterilization. The more help the neighborhood can provide the faster the process will get done. AZ Cats is made up entirely of volunteers and runs on donations. They have found that a neighborhood sweep is the most effective way to run the program. This means that if you have a pet cat and it is caught in one of the traps, it will be taken to the clinic for sterilization. Once the data is gathered regarding the number of feral cats in the neighborhood, we would set a date for trapping. The cats are then sterilized and ear tipped to identify that they have been fixed and released.

Pam Pawlowski asked for a vote; do we as a neighborhood want to go forward with having AZ Cats assist us in handling the feral cat problem. Majority vote was yes. More info to come.

Guest Speaker, Todd Bradford on revoking the reverse lane. September 30th at 2pm City Council will hold an information gathering meeting regarding the reverse lanes. The more support the neighborhoods can provide the better. A rally will also be held on September 29th at 4pm at the Melrose Center on Montecito. Please get the work out, Call or write the City Council people who are

not in favor of revoking the reverse lane and voice your concerns. A workshop will be held on August 3rd, Todd will forward information to be posted on the website.

Pam Pawlowski-New Business

Traffic Circle Update The circle has proven to be effective. It does have some opposition in the neighborhood. Once the city builds the permanent structure we would then be able to design either landscaping or artwork in the circle.

Street Fair No city funding will be provided this year for the fair. They are looking for corporate sponsorship. It might be moved further North on 7TH Ave to be close to the light rail stop.

Yard Sale Annual Yard Sale will be held October 11th, so start cleaning your closets out now. Participants should make a \$5 donation to cover the cost of advertising.

Third Thursdays The merchants along 7th Ave will be staying open late for evening shopping until 9pm. Refreshments and discounts for all patrons. This will continue through the end of the year.

Next Friday 09/05 is First Friday. Come support your local artists.

Next Association meeting 10/15 at the fabulous Copper Star Coffee