

State of the Neighborhood Association Speech  
By Katherine Turner  
Given at Fox Memorial Park May 16, 2021

Welcome the Annual 2019-2021 Fair West Neighborhood Association General Meeting. 2019-2021 because we didn't have one last year due to...you know.

I am so happy to see all your faces and happy that so many of you, who are not yet ready to venture out, can join us on Zoom. Our ability to hybrid this meeting due to the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC)'s new Zoom license rental program available to Albuquerque neighborhood Associations. I am proud to say that we are the first to take advantage of this generous program. And I thank them for this opportunity.

The state of our neighborhood, despite the yearlong shut down, is good.

Our last public board meeting was January 19, 2020 at the Sundowner on central where Mayor Keller came to talk to us about the improvements he planned for Fair West which included paving of our streets, lighting in the park, and trimming of our trees, all of which were successfully completed. He also said that he would work to complete the San Pedro Art station. I was told last week that they will begin construction in September, maybe sooner if they can make that happen.

Although our last in person traditional event was Scary Supper in 2019, we had a great Speakers Event at the Fairgrounds in February 2020, where Ahmet Tiryaki told us about his proposed development on the corner of La Veta and Zia which is now finished and full of happy new neighbors. We also had a presentation by Laura Kuehn about the block captain program and Louis Head about the Census.

Even though we were shut down after March of 2020 we still managed to have neighborhood events where people came together to show the love and support for each other. Last December neighbors stepped up to light up the park with Luminarias for Christmas. On June 30 and July 1st, we had a Black Lives Matters event that was so well supported it brought tears to many a neighbor's eye. In September we had a Fall clean up event that resulted in five bags of garbage hauled out of our neighborhood. And just this April we had another that cleaned up the

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park. In March neighbors participated in a Walking Audit with city planners to inform the Community Planning Area assessment which will be out for review later this month.

We attempted several events that were stalled due to COVID. Rich Wood tried to organize a Fall Crawl Music even for October 24<sup>th</sup> but many of the neighborhood bands had not met to practice due to the pandemic. However, the band Soul Puddin' played to a small crowd in front of their home on Alvarado.

We attempted to have a socially distant Ice Cream Social Aug 15<sup>th</sup> and Scary Supper but due to the Governor's restrictions we could not pull it off. Let's hope we can this year.

If you would like to see picture or get information on these events you can find them on our information Blog Archives on the Fair West Website or on our Facebook page. We have used the blog to send information to those who want to stay informed. If you are not signed up I encourage you to do so.

The Board has continued to meet. We have focused our efforts on revising the bylaws and I am proud to say that on April 11<sup>th</sup>, after seven drafts, we passed the bylaws revisions which we will be signing here today. The new bylaws serve to do the following:

1. They clarify the Neighborhood Associations Purpose.
2. They also define residential and business membership in the Association. And set the dues amount so as not to be arduous but gives membership real value. It states that if a resident does not have the financial means to afford the 15.00s per year cost of membership that it will be suspended for them for one year if the neighbor contacts the board to request a waver.
3. The revised bylaws define the eligibility, roles, and responsibilities of board and executive member representative.
4. The bylaws also make sure that notice for the general meeting (this meeting) are made so that every household and place of business has ample time and are notified through a variety of methods so that all that want to may attend.

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5. And lastly they make sure that the finances of the organization are well recorded and secure.

The new bylaws are on the Fair West website and after today will be registered with the city at the ONC.

Plans, which will be ongoing from my administration, are the following.

Traffic Calming by the Traffic Engineers Division of the DMD (Dept of Municipal Development) is moving forward. Amanda Herrera informed me that we would have a traffic analysis and I saw evidence of that about a month ago. I have not heard from them, but I will continue to bug them.

Pat Davis, our city council representative, and David Flores and Laurie Firor of Parks and Recreation are working with me to get an Information Kiosk for that park that will sit over there next to the neighborhood sign. This Kiosk will be a wonderful place to share information that comes to the neighborhood association through the president's and neighborhood Gmail account. I would also like to see one side of this three-sided board dedicated to the history of our great neighborhood and its representation.

I hope that we continue to have coffee with cops at Kaps and I encourage you all to attend the Citizen Policing Council meetings with me on the third Thursday of the month so that we can keep the relationship that we've developed with the Southeast Police Command. This relationship has helped to clean up our park and our neighborhood. I would like to thank Commander Yara for all his support and the challenging work that he and his team of police do for our community.

One last thing I want to tell you all. I have learned that the most important reason to keep a neighborhood association alive and kicking is that it fends off developers who want to build undesirable projects in neighborhoods. They look for evidence of concern and they find it in neighborhoods who are registered with the ONC and

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file their annual report. Those that don't they see as suitable places to build without resistance. So, let's make sure that we show we care and keep this gem alive.

Lastly I want to say that it has been my immense pleasure to represent our neighborhood during the last two years and to be a neighbor for 18 years.