

# East Gateway Coalition of Associations Meeting

Minutes of Annual Meeting Held

January 19, 2017

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Michael Brasher. Introductions by audience members followed. Mr. Brasher acknowledged all the incredible work the late Roger Mickelson has done for this coalition, and our city, over the years. He also thanked Geneva Meeker for all the years she served as the Coalition Secretary. President Brasher asked for a motion to approve the evening's Agenda, and it was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson gave an update with good news from the County. Behavioral Health money is getting out into programs in the field now. So far \$10M has been made available, with \$4M of that specifically for youth behavioral health programs. The joint committee ACGC with the City and the County are ensuring these dollars are being used as effectively as possible. The County budget started with an \$18M deficit, which has been filled. We are halfway through the budget year, and we still have 59% of our budget for this year. Three pods have been closed in the jail now, bringing the population there down to 1,300 inmates, and he would like to see this progress even more. The new rail park in Los Lunas, though located in Valencia County, will bring revenue to Bernalillo County as many of their workers will be Bernalillo County residents.

Joe Zmuda made the comment that the tent city in the Tijeras arroyo which was a problem last year seems to have disappeared. Sheriff's Department Captain Josh Campos said there haven't been any complaints on it recently, but the onset of warm weather could change that.

City Councilor Don Harris echoed some of what Commissioner Johnson said about the benefits of reducing jail population, but said that the courts are so focused on reducing jail population that some people are getting out who shouldn't. This is of great concern to the City Council. That is creating some of the problems we are having, and causes problems for police officers to have to re-arrest the same people over and over again. Jail population reduction should be based on letting people out who really shouldn't be in there to begin with.

Councilor Harris reported the City is \$12M underwater right now; he is on budget committee. New taxes may have to be imposed to make up the difference. Hoping to get more Public Safety Agents involved in investigating property crimes so that officers can respond to higher priority calls. Gross receipts taxes from online purchases, such as to Amazon, are not coming back to the City. This is part of the reason for the budget shortfall.

Councilor Harris stated that Pickleball is the latest sports craze sweeping the country. The Singing Arrow Park/Community Center is being remodeled and will include a group of pickleball courts. The City is also working on getting the patchwork of private land in Tijeras Arroyo under City control. The new community center will be a gateway to the trails that will eventually be put in the arroyo.

Councilor Harris said the new Four Hills Park is a great addition to the community, and explained that it is the first park in the city that doesn't have any grass. There is exercise equipment, play equipment, boulders to climb, a tree canopy and great views. Traffic issues on Stagecoach Rd. are being studied and addressed to make accessing the area safer.

Liz Reardon, of Landscape Architects, spoke next. She told the audience that on January 31, 2017 there will be a meeting to look at the project of landscaping Central Ave. from Juan Tabo to Tramway. The City meets with neighborhood associations and asks them to select from a number of designs and plant options that would be most appealing to their area. She encouraged everyone's participation. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Manzano Mesa Community Center.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department Commander Josh Campos then spoke about the increase in burglaries and auto thefts in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. He stressed the need for people to lock, and check, their doors. Should you become a victim, please report it! They have officers who are good at breaking up burglary rings. Oftentimes, property is recovered but can't be returned to its original owner because of a lack of documentation. He encouraged everyone to take a couple hours to take pictures of your possessions and, as applicable, their serial numbers. He also mentioned that the Tablazon neighborhood purchased a \$160 game camera which is mounted at the entrance and takes a picture of each vehicle which enters and exits the subdivision and records it on a SIM card.

**Evacuations:** they are issued for a reason. Cmdr. Campos shared a Doghead Fire story about lost hours and cancelled firefighting activity due to people being outside who shouldn't have been there during scheduled slurry drops. Please obey them.

**Active Shooters:** Cmdr. Campos encouraged everyone to take a moment when they arrive at a new place to locate the exit points. A "Citizen Response to Active Shooter Class" is being offered to Neighborhood Associations, schools, businesses, etc. Give them a call. It will be tailored to your specific needs.

APD Commander Shane Rogers, of the Foothills Area Command, spoke next. He said recruiting efforts in APD are ongoing. Academy classes are ongoing, but qualified applicants are still low. The Foothills Substation has changed its schedule to go to 12-hour shifts. A recent survey suggests response times have improved slightly since this schedule change even though number of officers in the FAC has not. They have been able to put more officers on the street with this schedule.

Sara Mancini, manager of Council Neighborhood Services, reported that her office is moving from the Planning Department offices to the City Council offices, and gave some background about this decision. She said the City Council decided to supplement the services the Office of Neighborhood Coordination is able to provide, so it has been merged to provide improved services to neighborhoods. Vanessa Baca, Neighborhood Communications Liaison, said that improved training, organizing neighborhood events, creating organizations are all areas of service they provide.

Cindy Miller was unavailable for presentation on the Residential Zone O-1 property code. She will be at the next meeting.

Jim Andrews made a motion to appoint Debbie Owen as the Coalition's new Secretary. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A new website is being created. It will most likely have the URL of [Eastgatewayneighborhoodassociation.com](http://Eastgatewayneighborhoodassociation.com). President Brasher will send out an e-mail to the group when the transition is complete.

President Brasher then invited the candidates for the APS District 6 School Board position to speak with the audience. Paul Louis Sievert, Doug Brown, Melissa Ann Finch and Paula Maes each presented their backgrounds and positions on different issues, and all were available for a question & answer time which followed. President Brasher thanked them for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

President Brasher thanked Geneiva Meeker once again for her work as Secretary of the Coalition, and thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

The next meeting of the East Gateway Coalition will be on **Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Owen, Secretary