

Summary of RGBNA Annual Meeting

These are not official minutes, but here is a summary of what happened at the RGBNA Annual Membership Meeting on May 22, 2012.

Approximately 50 people attended.

President Jack Taylor presented a summary of RGBNA activities and accomplishments since the last Annual Meeting.

NM Representatives Ed Sandoval, Rick Miera and Senator Dede Feldman spoke briefly regarding State legislative business and its impact on our neighborhood area. Senator Feldman was given a standing ovation for her years of service. She, in turn, thanked her constituents for their strong engagement.

City Councilor Debbie O'Malley informed us that Redistricting had changed the character of her district, making it the largest and poorest with the most infrastructure needs among the City's Council districts.

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board member John Kelly told us that there will be strong demands on the MRGCD's budget this year owing to required repairs on El Vado Dam and the costs of studies and recertification efforts on the levies near Socorro and in Albuquerque. FEMA certification of the levies expires in 2013. Self-certification would be less expensive than FEMA certification and that option is being explored. Director Kelly will be the MRGCD representative to Mayor Berry's river access project.

APD Valley Command Lt. Rob Middleton presented statistics indicating the property crime is down in our area and acknowledged the speeding and noise problems on Rio Grande Boulevard. Neighbors are strongly encouraged to call 761.8800, 242.2677, or email rmiddleton@cabq.gov with time and location specific complaints. APD utilizes these complaints to build a picture of "hot spots", to which resources can be dispatched.

City Council Staff member Tom Menicucci updated us on the Rio Grande Boulevard Corridor Plan and the Candelaria/Rio Grande roundabout. The RGB Corridor Plan Steering Committee has reviewed the consultant's proposals and the consultant is incorporating the Steering Committee's concerns and observations into a second draft of the plan. In general, the plan proposes that Rio Grande Boulevard be narrowed to two lanes with a middle refuge/turning lane, wider bicycle lanes, landscaping and wider sidewalks between Griegos and approximately Zickert, and that the Candelaria/Rio Grande intersection be reconstructed as a roundabout.

Councilor O'Malley responded to questions regarding the proposals by pointing up the well documented improvements in safety that roundabouts offer, and that the

Candelaria/Rio Grande roundabout has been funded by Federal Safety Funds. Further, the roundabout, as well as the narrowing of the traffic lanes and improvements to sidewalks, bicycle lanes, signage and landscaping, will serve to bring much needed reductions in traffic speed.

Some members expressed concern that the roundabout and the reduced lanes would prove troublesome to horse trailers and other long vehicles. Mr. Menicucci assured them that the roundabout would be designed to accommodate all types of vehicles. Some members said they had not been made aware of these proposals. Other members disputed the assertion that information had not been made available.