

# Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association

## General Meeting via Zoom

February 11, 2021

6:00 PM – 8:16 PM

### Present:

Michael & Bertha Adjemian

Michelle Adjemian

Santos Padilla

Armando & Ceci Renteria

Cassandra Hernandez (District 3 City Representative)

Bettina Olivares (Cassandra Hernandez's Admin Asst.)

MariCruz Chavez (City of El Paso, Neighborhood Services)

Terri Flickinger (liaison between CVNA and St. Paul's UMC)

David Stout (County Commissioner Recept 2) Sieto Negron (works with Comm. Stout)

John Perches

Elsa & Gary Chacon

Jo Barr

Isabel Vigil

Sylvia Garcia

Josh Herrera (Justice of the Peace Precinct 3)

Moises Flores

Jennifer Gonzalez (works with C. Ordaz-Perez)

Toni Beltran

Dino & Maria Medina

Officer Patrick Martinez, EPPD

Roger Montoya

Elisa Tamayo, Emergence Health Network

Rene Hurtado, EHN

Steven Lazarin

Mary Kirschenbaum

Michael Adjemian, President of the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association, called the meeting to order at 6:00 and welcomed everyone.

A Moment of Silence for held for those experiencing hardships now and/or impacted by the pandemic.

Those present introduced themselves and the meeting agenda was shared.

**Guest Speaker 1: MariCruz Chavez, City of El Paso – Neighborhood Services**

Discussed the **Neighborhood Improvement Projects (NIP) Grant Program**, \$10 million is available, the process begins in February and applications are due in April, competitive process, smaller projects are awarded (ex. a canopy not a park)

The **Neighborhood Leadership Academy** is now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year; it explains how the city functions, promotes neighborhood leaders, attendees visit every city department, learn about administrative functions, funding, and facilities; videos of previous classes were shown, classes run 19-20 weeks meeting weekly on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM, nothing yet scheduled for 2021, applications will be available online; Advanced Leadership Classes begin in March

**Guest Speaker 2: Rene Hurtado & Toni Beltran, Emergence Health Network**

<http://www.emergencehealthnetwork.org> [rhurtado@ehnel Paso.org](mailto:rhurtado@ehnel Paso.org)  
[emtamayo@ehnel Paso.org](mailto:emtamayo@ehnel Paso.org)

History: Mental Health Authority for EP County opened in 1966, became EP MHMR & Life Management, now EHN

Clientele: citizens with mental health disorders and/or intellectual & developmental disabilities and/or those suffering from substance abuse issues

630 Employees serve 15,000 clients by providing outpatient services, 24-hour crisis line, immediate crisis services; fees are on a sliding scale, work with Texas State Health Department; now partnered with EPPD to respond to 911 calls involving residents with mental illness in an attempt to avoid unnecessary force, trained in verbal intervention and de-escalation skills; they have an extended observation unit with 11 beds that can hold for 48 hours; offer several programs for those with intellectual disabilities and dual diagnosis, counseling services, youth services, and veteran's services for veterans and their families

**Guest Speaker 3: Jennifer Gonzalez for Texas House Representative Cladia Ordaz-Perez**, who is on a plane, 915-873-0037 cell phone, text after hours

No El Paso office yet; it will come in August or September

**Committee assignments:** Business & Industry, Resolutions Calendar, International Relations

The *state has set aside* \$5 million for businesses with 20 or fewer employees

**Bills ready to file & present:**

Active Shooter Drills in schools create trauma for some; mental health care workers will have input in training, parents will be notified before drills

Medical Waste Notifications will be enforced

Payday/Predatory Lenders will be pulled back to 30% interest rate

Parental Leave

Animal Cruelty (co-sponsor)

**Guest Speaker 3: City Representative Cassandra Hernandez, District 3**

Shared PowerPoint that addressed COVID-19 vaccine availability, explained some of the problems being encountered, 20% of doses now reserved for Super Seniors (75+); Blood Drive on 2/27 from 10-2 at 1338 Zaragosa, special goodies for donors; Some youth sports are resuming; Animal Services will have a mutt mixer on 2/12 & 2/13 from 11-5; Edgemere Linear Park has new plants and trees on the way; new committee assignments: Metropolitan Planning Commission and Financial Oversight Committee; Viscount BLVD will get new roadway lighting and median landscaping; Ponder Park will get sidewalk and access improvements; Montana Rapid Transit System is funded for \$49 million – Sun Metro

Question: Can the City use recreation Centers for vaccine distribution; the City already has dedicated COVID Response Centers ready to go, the problem is lack of vaccine doses

**Raffle #1** conducted by Mando Renteria

Winner: Officer Patrick Martinez; Bundlette Cake from Nothin' Bundt Cakes

## **CVNA Business**

**District 3 Wish List Update** – these are needs not wants (Mike Adjemian and Representative Cassandra Hernandez)

Repaint top and Bottom of Edgemere Overpass west of Airway: estimate \$50,000, will have to put out to bid

Traffic Study to install speed humps on Meadowview: done, now need residents' signatures

Install Yield sign on Nueces at Meadowview: Completed

Completion of Hawkins' medians in front of Immanuel Christian Church: in process

Can CVNA adopt street medians: Completed; No, legal issues

Remove old, deteriorated Neighborhood Watch signs within community: In process, Street Department is short-handed due to pandemic

Wish to have a dog park: in process, city must determine available site large enough

Address median area between Corner Bakery and GECU on Edgemere at Airway: project is probably suitable for a NIP grant

Have a concert in Ponder Park: Request made, city still under pandemic measures

Traffic Study for Catalpa at Sunburst: Neighborhood Traffic Management Program application needs to be completed, application emailed to Catalpa resident (E.C.)

Property maintenance on Acer and Viscount: 4 stakeholders have been notified and will devise a plan for action

**Coffee with a Cop:** Friday, 2/19, 9-11 at Luby's on Hawkins

Commander Briones will answer any, and all questions; purpose is to work together; breakfast will be available

**Kiwanis Flag Program:** John Perches will chair

Eleven members of the Crime Stoppers Board of Directors have already donated

**Plastic Bottle Caps:** 1,000 plastic bottle caps = one juvenile chemotherapy treatment at DIF Hospital in Juarez; Mike will send flyers out; drop off caps at 7913 Edgemere; year-long commitment, sent to Juarez at the first of each month

**Texas Tech Walk the Walk Team Challenge:** will be in April, 10 members/team, will share details via email

**Humane Society of El Paso:** Mary Kirschenbaum will create the flyer; February 14 – 2/17; donations of toys, food, cat litter, newspapers, wish list online

**Walmart Foundation Grant:** deadline is 3/1; Robert Evans is local manager

**El Paso Electric Grant:** deadline is 3/1; Zoom meeting on Tuesday, 2/16 to discuss the rules

**Minutes from the January Meeting** were read by Mary Kirschenbaum; Armando Renteria moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, Santos Padilla seconded

**Raffle #2** conducted by Mando Renteria

Winner: Jennifer Gonzalez; Bundlette Cake from Nothin' Bundt Cakes

## **Treasurer's Report – Armando Renteria**

Beginning Balance (1/14/2021):	\$1861.10
Deposits:	\$ 880.00
Debits:	\$ 189.85
Ending Balance (2/11/2021):	\$2551.25

Mary Kirschenbaum moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, Elsa Chacon seconded

## **Open Forum:**

**Josh Herrera, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3**, 915-546-2170, [jp3office@epcounty.com](mailto:jp3office@epcounty.com)

Rental assistance is available through the Texas Diversion Program, help stop evictions

**County Commissioner David Stout, Precinct 2**, 915-546-2111

Will present to CVNA soon, probably in May

**City Representative Cassandra Hernandez, District 3:**

Will be out in March for Spring Break, her staff will provide updates

**Elsa Chacon:** El Paso Community College has received an \$1.5 million grant to reskill and upskill El Paso workers, [go.epcc.edu/reskillinggrant](https://go.epcc.edu/reskillinggrant) for the application

**Sylvia Garcia:** Americorp is having a Love your Neighbor Toiletries Drive and hand sanitizer; will repeat in the future; for the homeless

**Mike Adjemian:** Talked to a Burges HS Assistant Principal about CVNA wanting to be more involved

**Closing Comments** by Mike Adjemian: Glad to see newcomers; meeting went well with a few technical glitches; Thank you to all

**Motion to adjourn** made by Mike Adjemian, seconded by Elsa Chacon at 8:16 PM.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Mary Kirschenbaum, Secretary, on May 31, 2021.