

Minutes from Fair West Neighborhood Association Board and Neighbors Monthly Meeting Wednesday, May 20th, 2026 at 6:30pm at RSPP, 1307 San Pedro NE

In attendance: Nick Hamill, Barbara Hroza, Hillary Malu, Emily Stafford, Joseline Loera, Jim Farmin, Matt Vining, Robert Donovan, Jena Marquez-Donovan, Kathleen Turner, Marcia Badowski

1. Barb called the meeting to order at 6:35.
2. Introductions were made.
3. The minutes from the April 25th 2026 meeting were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

FWNA's new treasurer Frances Steinbach is now enrolled on the BMO acct, Nick is a signatory for checks, Colton and former president Kathleen Turner are no longer enrolled on the acct. It was discussed and agreed that one more person, the VP, should be enrolled as a signatory. A debit card from the acct may need renewal, to be discussed next meeting.

Discussion occurred re: the Bitcoin acct that Colton, former treasurer, opened last year. The board does not know what name it was opened under, the current amount, \$95? We may need those funds for future expenses. Nick will talk with Colton and report back at next meeting for further discussion.

Barb reports approx. \$200 in donation box, she will transfer to Frances for deposit into acct.

5. Sichler Farms update

Nick received an email from a plotting company, informing our association that they are working for Sichler Farms, expanding the farmstand area. They reported that we'll see movement within the year towards the addition of a restaurant. The garages at the property will be removed to make space for the restaurant. Sichler will maintain the farmstand for now, and hope to be operating both restaurant and farmstand in 2027.

Jena would like to push for a HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWALK) crosswalk at that location. Kathleen reports that D6 Councilor Nichole Rogers said she is interested in that as well. Perhaps MRA funds designated for this 'blighted' area of San Mateo could be tapped for this project. Jena will investigate the process and discuss at next meeting.

Nick said he emailed Sichler Farms expressing our support. Emily expressed her willingness to be the point person communicating with them moving forward.

6. Fairgrounds Redevelopment update

Hillary shared her understanding that next steps, since Stantec's final recommendations presented during a community presentation and on fairgroundsdistrict.nm.gov last March, include soliciting RFP's (request for proposals) to actuate fairground building renovations, create a 10-acre park, improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety at Central and at San Pedro, and to acquire the SW corner "notch" properties at that intersection. As well, a 10-12K seat soccer stadium was strongly recommended to generate sustaining income and activity. Hillary recently reached out to Ben Lewinger, communication person between the community and Stantec during the assessment process, which ended last March. He has repeatedly reached out to Alex Greenberg, Economics advisor to Gov. Lujan Grisham, and current designated communications person, but has received no response.

Hillary spoke with Adrian Carver of RSPP. RSPP is supporting the business owners in the SW corner "notch," including the (former Microsoft) Cal-Linn Building, in their efforts to remain and continue doing business there. Adrian reports there will be an event at the Cal-Linn building June 12th, 5-7, celebrating Route 66 anniversary, including a car show, band, steak challenge, etc. That same day, the Cal-Linn Building will go before the Historic Board/Committee, determining whether it will be designated as an historic building or not. That determination could support the businesses in that building who want to stay there, vs. the TIDD Board's recommendation that the Cal-Linn building be torn down for Fairgrounds Redevelopment. We discussed whether there could be a win-win, such that the building remains, but surrounding structures be cleared, making way for above stated redevelopment.

Ron added that he has heard from an associate at BernCo, that the county is moving forward with RFP's, intending to break ground before Gov MLG leaves office at end of 2026.

We discussed whether FWNA should make a written statement of support or not for the proposed development. Development appears to be moving right along, so we agreed to discuss this further at a special Board meeting in 2 weeks, Thursday June 4th at 6:30, either at RSPP if available, or the Park. Details will be announced soon to the Board.

Barb outlined 3 main items for consideration:

- The Fairgrounds as a whole
- The Notch
- The stadium

We will discuss how to survey the neighborhood re: the neighbor's knowledge and thoughts about the Fairground Redevelopment, and it's effects upon our neighborhood. We would then have more info regarding the Board and the neighborhood's preferences and positions.

7. 501-C3

Matt reports it would cost FWNA approx. \$600 to re-instate our 501-C3 status. We could instead find a non-profit fiscal sponsor, such as RSPP, who receives, for instance, BernCo Grant money, and distribute it to us. Matt is willing to take on the 501-C3 effort, we can aim for end of 2026.

Advantages of 501-C3 status include:
We can receive grants, easier for donors.
Donations to our FWNA are tax-deductible
We're exempt from federal taxation

8. BernCo Grant

Rob points out applying for this grant takes a fair amount of work and process. He is proposing we might instead create an Esperanza bike-rodeo, library book, etc. event without the grant. Create larger projects, like beautification, later in the year, more long term.

9. Meeting Dates Calendar:

- June 15th Monday - **Board Meeting**
- July 15th Wednesday – General Meeting
- August 17th Monday – General Meeting
- September 16th Wednesday – **Board Meeting**
- October 19th Monday – General Meeting
- November 18th Wednesday – General Meeting
- December 21st Monday – **Board Meeting**

10. Events – set dates:

Ice Cream Social, ice cream with a cop? Saturday, August 1st, 1:00-3:00.

Produce Exchange every 4th Saturday, June-Sept, 9:00-11:00am

Summer Party, late Sept, a Friday eve, bands

Esperanza Bike Rodeo, Free books from Readme ABQ, during week, afternoon/evening.

Rob can reach out to Esperanza per their availability

Some money-making event during State Fair, bake sale, yard sale?

11. The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Action Items:

Nick will talk to Colton to re: Bitcoin acct.

VP Barb will sign on to BMO acct as signatory.

Barb will transfer the approx. \$200 to Frances for deposit to BMO acct.

Discuss need for BMO acct debit card. Discuss keep or change banks.

Jena will investigate required process, and report back re: crosswalk at Sichler Farms on San Mateo.

Hillary will reach out to Alex Greenberg re: Fairgrounds Redevelopment progress, (& Marty Chavez?)

Hillary to find space availability for special meeting June 4th and announce.

Rob to reach out to Esperanza re: dates available for bike rodeo.