

# **Del Webb Mirehaven Neighborhood Association Bi-Annual Membership Meeting and Candidate Forum DRAFT Minutes September 27, 2025**

Board members present:

Alison Dabney, President; John Newell, Vice President; Jim Hulburt, Treasurer; Margaret Shogry, Secretary; Martha Hine, Membership

Board members absent: June Oliverson, Lydia Cote

The meeting was called to order to by President, Alison Dabney who also introduced Board members who were present.

**Approve minutes** - There was a motion and a second from the floor to approve draft minutes from the March 22, 2025 membership meeting, which was approved unanimously.

**President's report** was a review of Neighborhood Association activities since the last meeting which included the shredding event in May, the National Night Out event in August, and our participation in WSCONA (West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Associations).

**Treasurer's report** for FY 25 so far (January to December) includes a balance of \$3,876.56, plus \$205+ donations made at the current meeting.

**Membership report** stated current membership of 468 members, M. Hine reminded attendees that membership is available free to anyone who lives in the DWM neighborhood.

## **City Council District 1 Candidate Forum -**

Margaret Shogry introduced Candidates Ahren Griego, Joshua Taylor Neal, Stephanie Telles, and Daniel Leiva and reviewed the following process by which the Forum will be conducted.

- Each candidate will be allowed 2 minutes to introduce themselves.
- Five questions were sent to the Candidates prior to the meeting and each will be allowed 3 minutes to respond to each question. The questions were also provided to members on the meeting agenda hand out.
- All remaining time will be available for questions from the audience.

### **• What is your priority for District 1 and your vision for the next four years?**

Griego: Public safety.

Taylor Neal: Crime-strong prevention tactics and accountability.

Telles: Public Safety and Crime.

Leiva: take pride in Albuquerque, elevate programs.

### **• Where do you stand regarding the balance of power and clarity of roles between the City Council and the Mayor's office, in making policy decisions vs. oversight and operations?**

Leiva: He is a collaborator; make sure we are heard and work together.

Telles: Checks and balances matter; Council makes policy and has budget oversight. Ensure transparent oversight.

Taylor Neal: Mutual respect and shared goal of what's best for the City. Will hold Mayor accountable, use budget controls and not vote along party lines.

Griego: Mayor needs to remember that City Council is there to represent their constituencies and makes policy through the budget.

- **Regarding West Side development, what is your understanding of the changes adopted to the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) that are being challenged by WSCONA and others that completely remove the right of Neighborhood Associations (NAs) to participate in and to appeal development decisions?**

Griego: Wants to learn more about the changes, but definitely thinks NAs have to “be at the table”, have input and be able to work with developers.

Taylor Neal: Thinks NAs have a right to be involved, will oppose efforts to limit NAs.

Telles: 1,000 changes to IDO are being proposed with no public review. She’s looking for answers, thinks NAs must be involved and informed, with opportunity to participate.

Leiva: He is firmly against the changes that were adopted in O-24-69; they are clearly hostile to NAs.

- **What are your plans to address crime and homelessness? What approaches would you support?**

Leiva: 1-Housing First policies, 2- health treatment, 3- diversionary programs to keep homeless out of Criminal Justice system, 4- unified 911 system to assure appropriate responses.

Telles: invest in infrastructure, behavioral health (make sure clients are required to show up for counseling), change laws for arresting youth, we need to invest in them.

Taylor Neal: Need metrics and standards to hold the City accountable. Results-based programs, enforcement of public space laws, wrap around services, balance access to services with protecting neighborhoods.

Griego: Need to respond to people on the streets, get the people to the resources, put resources together in other communities to keep people in their own towns, instead of sending them to Albuquerque.

- **What are you doing to prepare for the day you are potentially elected and take office?**

Griego: Doing direct outreach to find out what the needs are. He is working with trade unions.

Taylor Neal: He is a collaborator, worked in Colombia with refugees from Venezuela; advocacy for Engineers; need for infrastructure development.

Telles: She is already doing the kind of work required: Library Advisory board, Alzheimer’s Association, Neighborhood Association, United Nations Partners, wants City to do more intergenerational programs, is committed to working with other Candidates.

Leiva: understanding the needs is his preparation, has been doing outreach with various interest groups around the City, he is bilingual and bi-literate, preparing to take office by becoming informed.

### **Questions from the audience:**

- Do you want to raise your kids here? APD is terrible, schools are really bad, medical care is inadequate.

Griego: Police officers need our support. We need more programs to engage students after school.

Taylor Neal: Our policies need to support the Police and be clear so they know what to do. Lots of reasons for kids to leave Albuquerque, those need to be addressed.

Telles: Yes, she does. She chooses to live here. We have a major problem with Charter schools whose funding is sent to foundations and then has no State oversight. We have grants to build subsidized housing for working families, issues can be uplifted.

Leiva: Many in his family are public educators, but yes, youth are leaving and we need to do more to keep them here, including partnering with trade unions to make sure young people know what is available to them. We should be able to live, work and play here.

- How could the DWI enterprise happen and no one know about it?

Leiva: It could not have gone on for 30 years and no one know about it.

Telles: It all comes down to the culture, the tone at the top.

Taylor Neal: The City's reaction was unacceptable. City Council doesn't have oversight or authority over the school system, but our proficiency rates are grossly inadequate.

Griego: He never heard about it when he worked at the City Fire Dept.

- What would you do to increase economic development for small businesses?
- What can City Council do to address truancy rates in the school system?

Griego: create opportunities for kids in after-school programs.

Taylor Neal: kids don't see value of education. Quit lowering standards, raise expectations for kids.

Telles: We have high truancy rates because basic needs in families are not being met. We need to do more to meet basic needs.

Leiva: Support our families, address basic needs, Cost of Living.

- What can City Council do to get another bridge?

Leiva: look at alternative forms of transportation to address heavy traffic times.

Telles: invest in our people, local businesses; small business grants to keep local money here.

Taylor Neal: we need to do good Master Planning.

- What about keeping doctors here?

Medical malpractice laws here are the problem. We have to encourage the Legislature to do more in that area.

Telles: City Council can lobby the Legislature to make changes. She has strong partnerships with Legislators.

Leiva: Medical malpractice is the problem. Insurance defense tries to recruit law students. It's a State issue, but City Council can work on it.

Questions were concluded, Margaret thanked attendees for coming, thanked Candidates for coming, as well as for their willingness to run for office.

**Adjourn** - There was a motion and a second from the floor to adjourn at 12:00, motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.