



NORTHWEST AUSTIN  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**July 13, 2016 6:30 PM**

**Mangia Pizza Meeting Room**

In attendance: Caroline Alexander, Debra Danziger, Julie DePalma, Vicki DeWeese, Chris Hajdu, Carol Jones, Ernie Saulmon, Joyce Statz, David Whitworth

Absent: Kirk Ashy, Jen Despina, Cuatro Groos, Rebecca Leightman, Shannon Meroney, John Sepehri, Robert Thomas, Stayton Wright

1. The President, Chris Hajdu, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS. None
3. CONSENT AGENDA. The Board reviewed the consent items and identified several corrections to the minutes. The minutes were adopted as corrected. Treasurer Joyce Statz reviewed the financial report for the end of June, answered several questions, and pointed out that the income and expenditures were on target for this time of year. The membership report for June was reviewed, pointing out that there is a need to continue our membership drive. These reports were adopted by consent without any changes.
4. OLD BUSINESS:
  - a. July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade Debriefing: Julie DePalma, Parade Chair, reported on the very successful parade and after-party. The events were well attended. People liked the new parade route because it was a bit longer, had more shade, and enabled the crowd to flow more easily into the party area at Doss. T-shirts sold well, despite the color issues we had. School of Rock was especially popular; the use of the water monster was a big hit (need more water next year); removal of a snow cone offering simplified logistics and there was no complaint about it being absent. Because of donated printing of signs and banners, and because of careful management, the parade expenses came in below budget by more than \$1000. All in attendance thanked Julie for a job well done!
  - b. Coyote Management Update: Chris Hajdu reported on his meeting with neighbors about the prevalence of coyotes in certain areas of the neighborhood. Neighbors are very concerned with the plans of the City of Austin to drop the coyote management contract with Travis County, which uses Texas Wildlife Services to remove coyotes that have demonstrated aberrant behavior. It is unclear how problem situations will be handled in the future, but calls to 311 should continue, with life-threatening ones reported to 911.
  - c. Austin Oaks Update: Joyce Statz reported on some of the key issues identified by City Staff in their July 1 Master Comment Report: concerns about drainage and detention, more detail needed on the creek restoration plans, potential underground parking impact on underground water, ongoing discussion on affordable housing, need for transit (bus stops) and bicycle parking, missing information in the TIA, difference of opinion with respect to how much design guidance should be in the PUD documentation. Today, Spire submitted PUD Application Update 4, in response to the Master Comment Report. The zoning subcommittee will continue its review, looking at this update to see how it accommodates

issues they identified in May and June, as well as the City's comments, with a goal of ensuring the PUD application supports the charrette outcome.

- d. Community Project Reserve Fund Update: Joyce Statz and Vicki DeWeese provided updated copies of the Project Reserve Fund description (to be published in the August newsletter and on the web site) and the project grant application form. Modifications were made to the wording about the program, and an addition was made to the form. The Board agreed that to help ensure projects were actually completed, the funds would be dispersed in two increments – one at project start and one at project completion. **Julie DePalma moved to approve the process for using the Project Reserve Fund as described; Vicki DeWeese seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**
- e. Parks Update: Caroline Alexander reported on recent events and upcoming activities related to neighborhood parks. The improvements at Murchison Pool were the subject of a ribbon-cutting event on June 11, and they were praised by several who had used the pool recently. Plans are now under discussion for a playground to be created outside the gated pool area. We've received materials from several suppliers and are waiting for PARD staff to have time to work with us on the design, prior to seeking funding.

In June, we also celebrated the completion of two projects at Stillhouse Hollow Preserve – improvements to the entry to the preserve, including a kiosk describing the preserve. The restoration of the deck is also complete, a much more fire-resistant structure of ipe flooring with metal rails.

Bull Creek District Park is now a primary focus of the Parks Committee, along with people in the Lakewood Homeowners Association and the Bull Creek Foundation. Members from each group met this week to discuss how to handle current issues at the park – littering, use of alcohol, ground fires, and excessive parking on the road near the park on weekends. A recommendation being made to everyone is to call 311 whenever you see a violation of park rules; we expect that to result in better policing and enforcement of the rules. There is also a plan to organize more volunteer days to do cleanup. A task force is being put together by Sheri Gallo's office to bring PARD, AFD, APD, and neighborhood groups together to work on improving the park. Among the goals being discussed is to strengthen the Bull Creek Foundation to enable it to do some extensions to the Bull Creek trail system, as well.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Pool Parties at Murchison this summer: Friday, July 15 and Saturday, August 13. All Board members are encouraged to promote the events, attend them, and bring friends and family.
- b. Zoning Committee Question: David Whitworth raised a question about how NWACA has responded when asked for NWACA support by an applicant for a zoning change, variance, or site plan cases requiring public hearing. Those present could not recall having provided such support in the past. At times, the Board expressed concerns raised by neighbors, such as when a vote was taken on the Austin Oaks PUD and results reported to the City and the applicant. In some cases, the Zoning Committee or the Board has responded to an applicant that there were no issues being raised by the neighborhood.

- 6. ADJOURNMENT: Ernie Saulmon moved, and Caroline Alexander seconded the motion that the meeting adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.