

NWACA February 6, 2018 Board Minutes
Mangia Pizza Meeting Room

In Attendance: Vicki DeWeese, Joanie Arrott, Brad Banister, Mehlam Bhiwandiwala, Roger Bolick, Ruven Brooks, Julie DePalma, Tracey Fine, Charlie Galvin, Louri O’Leary, Mike Polston, and Lauren Ward.

Absent: Caroline Alexander, Chris Hajdu, and Chris Roddy.

Guests: Warren Darileck, Connie Lundgren, and Richard Grayum

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President, Vicki DeWeese, who welcomed everyone.

Citizen Communications

- 1) Warren Darileck discussed North Cat Mountain signage. The sign was hit by a car and damaged beyond repair. The car owner’s insurance company has accepted liability. Warren submitted a replacement bid, pictures, and a letter from the insurance company for the NWACA Board’s review, as the insurance company wants to complete the claim through the neighborhood association. Vicki mentioned that the property might be in the City easement. Lauren Ward will reach out to CM Alter’s office for further assistance.
- 2) Connie Lundgren spoke about the need for Neighborhood Watch to be re-established for some streets in our neighborhood. She will take on the project, find a meeting space to promote and put an article in NWACA newsletter.
- 3) Balcones Civic Association President, Richard Grayum, spoke regarding their association (which encompasses Westover Hills, from Spicewood Springs to Hwy 183 and Hwy 360 to Loop 1-Mopac, the area just north of current NWACA boundaries) disbanding and joining NWACA. Vicki DeWeese discussed how Peel, Inc., the publisher of our newsletter, and our advertisers, would be impacted by adding approximately 2,300 families to our newsletter mailing list. Vicki recommended consulting with an attorney who lives and works in our neighborhood, about what would be required to incorporate BCA into NWACA.

Minutes

VOTE- Louri O’Leary asked for approval of the January meeting minutes. Joanie Arrott moved, and Lauren Ward seconded. Motion Approved.

Financial Reports

Mehlam Bhiwandiwala, Treasurer, presented the Financial Reports for January.

Membership Report

Mehlam Bhiwandiwala, Treasurer, presented the January Membership Report. Discussion was held about what numbers are truly meaningful to us and Mehlam will provide additional statistics next month.

Budget

VOTE- The operating budget for 2018-2019 was presented by Mehlam Bhiwandiwala, Treasurer, who focused on significant items and/or changes from last year. There was discussion about making changes to the website and mailing list as well as automating systems and how to fund the Constable program going forward. Mehlam asked for a motion to approve the budget. Louri O’Leary moved to accept the budget and Joanie Arrott seconded. Motion Approved.

Housekeeping

Vicki DeWeese discussed several issues, the first being the NWACA calendar and the need for one person to monitor it, cautioning committees to check with the EC to avoid conflicts. Lauren Ward, Communications Chair, will reach out to a member of the Communications Committee to see if she is available to manage the calendar going forward.

Proxy forms were distributed. Louri O' Leary, Secretary, will keep on file. If you are sending a proxy via email it should be sent to Louri via email, no later than 5:00 p.m. before a meeting.

The structure of the NWACA committee system was discussed stressing the need for existing committees to encourage the involvement of new Board members and for committees to be inclusive. Per the by-laws, committees exist to serve the Board as a whole, and as such all communications are considered Board communications. Optics/PR and social media do's and don't's were reviewed.

The Holiday Lights Tour/Fun Run was discussed with the need for more information on who would lead this, locations, and NWACA responsibility. Mike Polston suggested that the Events Committee include this idea and meet to discuss this and other ideas to present to the Board.

A preview of the Neighborhood Annual Survey was recently sent out via Survey Monkey. Board members were encouraged to participate. The survey will be sent to the neighborhood in March.

Old Business

VOTE-Constable Project Based on requests from neighbors, Mehlam Bhiwandiwalla and Vicki DeWeese led a discussion on whether to establish a separate fund, similar to the past Oak Wilt Fund and current July 4th Parade Fund to allow a place for donors to contribute to help fund the Constable Program. Motion was made to start a separate fund. Motion was made by Brad Banister and seconded by Mike Polston. Motion Approved.

Oak Wilt Presentation Joanie Arrott provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the program and its impact over the years. She showed previous dollars spent from the program for homes in our area during 2009, 2013, and 2016. Joanie is in the process of obtaining sign rangers to host signs in strategic areas of the neighborhood, now that Oak Wilt season is here. She reached out first to Board members and then to neighbors.

Committee Reports

Sponsorship

Report was submitted via email. Aaron has met with former chair, Kirk Ashy, and Julie Waidelich, who will assist him this year.

Finance

VOTE to engage a CPA to review the 2017-2018 books. Motion was made by Charlie Galvin and seconded by Brad Banister. Motion Approved.

VOTE to engage an attorney to review documents and give us a cost estimate for updating corporate documents relative to encompassing Balcones Civic Association. Motion was made by Charlie Galvin and seconded by Brad Banister. Motion Approved.

Discussion on Reserves- Information was sent via email by Caroline Alexander. It was suggested by Mehlam Bhiwandiwala that since Caroline was not present and that our meeting time was running short that we would discuss this further at the March meeting.

VOTE to increase dues. Motion was made to postpone consideration of this item until the March meeting. Motion was made by Mehlam Bhiwandiwala and seconded by Julie DePalma. Motion Approved.

Communications Committee

Lauren summarized the committee report submitted, discussed the NWACA Newsletter, NWACA Notes, and NWACA social media accounts. She provided a “cheat sheet” showing the activities of the Communications Committee. Lauren emphasized that NWACA newsletter articles are due on the 15th of each month for publication the following month. Louri O’ Leary will serve as backup newsletter editor. Zoning Chair, Ruven Brooks, previously suggested that we update our mailing lists to include the multi-family homes in our neighborhood. He provided more information about updating the lists and the benefits of including additional neighbors. Lauren and her committee will bring a recommendation to the March meeting. Deadline for NWACA Notes is Thursday by 5:00 p.m. Lauren also discussed the operations of and policies for our social media accounts-Facebook and NextDoor. There was extensive discussion about the differences between Admins and Moderators on Facebook. Lauren and Vicki will meet to complete this discussion. The Communications Committee will send out the NWACA Annual Survey.

Transportation Committee

Brad Banister discussed the report submitted for the meeting regarding additional speed cushions to be installed in our neighborhood. He has been corresponding with the City of Austin Transportation Department and the District 10 office and he facilitated a meeting to inform our neighborhood. The meeting is planned for Monday, March 5th at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church. The Board decided that there will not be an official NWACA position regarding speed cushions at this time, as our neighbors have previously been surveyed showing a 50/50 approval/opposition to the speed cushions. Brad will update us at the March NWACA Board meeting.

Crime and Safety

No report.

History Committee

Report submitted via email.

Wildfire Committee

Report submitted via email.

Parks Committee

Report submitted via email. Vicki DeWeese reported that the First Annual Kickball Game was a lot of fun and netted proceeds of \$1,500 towards the Murchison Playground.

Events Committee

Committee will add members and meet in April. Chair needs assistance; she agreed to serve in an advisory capacity and is only available on a limited basis. Board member, Tracey Fine, agreed to begin working with this committee in April.

Zoning Committee

Chair, Ruven Brooks, reported on the Knox Estate Development located off Running Rope. Twelve houses will be built near one end of the property on quarter acre lots in a gated community. Additional committee report submitted via email.

Civic Engagement Committee

Report submitted via email. No activity at this time.

Tree, Environmental, and Wildlife Committee

Chair, Joanie Arrott, agreed to include the former Wildlife Committee with the Tree and Environmental Committee; if activity increases to the extent that a separate committee needs to be reactivated, she will let us know.

New Business

Board member, Charlie Galvin, discussed the possibility of NWACA surveying our neighbors on their use of internet/phone/cable providers to understand their concerns and he pondered the idea of NWACA serving as an advocacy group, setting up a meeting with such providers. He will provide more information at the March meeting.

Adjourn

Brad Banister made the motion to adjourn and Lauren Ward seconded. The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.