

**NWACA Board Meeting Minute September 8, 2020**  
**Zoom 6:30**

Attendance: Joanie Arrott, Robert Nash, Chris Wojtewicz, Bridget Keating, Julie Waidelich, Connie Lundgren, Vicki DeWeese, Mike Polston, Julie DePalma, Ruven Brooks, Richard Grayum, Ben Luckens, Jessica Halich, Ben Luckens, Julie Rawlings, Teri Schock, Joyce Statz, Monique Wright, Robyn Nunis, Carol Dochen, and Charlie Galvin.

6:33 Call to order by Joanie Arrott. Introduction of new members

August minutes were approved by Robyn Nunis and seconded by Chris Wojtewicz. Motion to approve minutes with name spelling correction. Minutes for August were approved.

Robert Nash asked to be copied on any replies to NWACA Notes. Joyce asked for clarity on the process and Joanie asked that communications be approved by Robert.

**6:35 Housekeeping**

**Membership** – Joyce shared that we sent out about 1,700 emails and 126 mailers for membership renewals. About 70 people responded with questions or other follow-up. We had a number of new members and some members who paid twice, but most want to extend their membership through next year as opposed to receiving a refund.

Robert asked Joyce to share any issues she's aware of regarding homelessness for our neighborhood. Joyce noted that those of her who work with the homeless through their church have been unable to work directly with our homeless neighbors due to exposure concerns with the virus. Joyce mentioned an organization called TOOF (The Other Ones Foundation) that is doing a good job working with the homeless.

**Special Projects –**

We have two funding periods per year. These opportunities are typically initiated by our neighborhoods who are asking for money to fund special projects. We often work in conjunction with the city or we can fund ourselves. It's typically a project that will improve our community. We recently had an individual come forward to ask for funding for an eagle project for structures in a park or garden boxes at one of the local elementary schools (Doss or Hill). The scout who has requested this funding is still working on the details for the project. In order to consider this, we will need to open this to our neighbors, promote it online and through NWACA notes and ultimately determine our recipient.

**6:57 Financial Report - Mike Polston**

Frost Bank account includes checking, checking (business money market), high yield money market. Each month is between \$100,000-\$115,000 within separate deposit areas. Mike feels there is opportunity to use our funds to help various parts of the neighborhood and/or Austin. The \$10,000 was disbursed to Murchison PTA for the garden and mural contribution last week.

## **Committee Reports**

7:01pm **Update on NWACA Committees** – Chris “Kaz” Wojtewicz

Kaz sent out member sheet to get member emails for all of their committee members. Kaz offered to help committee members set up their groups of Group.io so we have consistency among the board for the various committees. The Group.io allows members to set up calendar events, share files, etc. The board has a lot of questions about the intent of having multiple platforms and the purpose of each one, so we have more clarity and structure about how we process/organize information as an organization. Joanie Arrott and Kaz are working to provide more guidance as we determine the best way to utilize the various platforms.

Proposal to establish Welcoming Committee

Kaz initiated the idea of forming a welcoming committee within our organization to welcome new residents. Connie Lundgren mentioned the idea of sending a postcard to new residents, but it can get expensive. There was mention that our organization is well publicized in our newsletter. Connie Lundgren, Carol Dochen and Kaz will discuss offline about what this effort would entail.

Communications for current and prospective volunteers – Joanie Arrott

This was initially an effort to reach out to prospective volunteers to get involved with our efforts. Joanie mentioned including a newsletter article thanking our current committee chairs and committee members for their involvement and inviting residents to get involved.

**Civic Engagement** – Joanie Arrott/Robert Nash

Joanie highlighted that Civic Engagement is very important and we should promote the election for the propositions and District 10 city council elections. Robert Nash is willing to be a support to anyone on our board who will take on this role to help promote our neighbor’s participation in the elections. Early voting starts in October and we have time for a newsletter article (updating voter registration card, etc.).

Joyce Statz moves that board support a Project Connect forum by our transportation committee. No board members opposed motion; Kaz Wojtewicz abstained. Joyce approved and seconded by Julie Rawlings. It was recommended that we shoot for mid-October for our meeting.

**Crime and Safety** – Connie Lundgren

Connie did not receive the constable report, but she did find out that several officers have COVID and the force is working hard with long shifts. Connie was not certain that we were having constables patrolling the neighborhood currently. There was a lengthy conversation about the need for having our neighborhood patrolled by the constable in consideration of the car break-ins, speeding, homeless, etc. We agreed to continue research and resume conversation on our next board meeting.

Next board meeting October 13, 6:30 pm via Zoom.

8:27 Meeting adjourned.