

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes October 20, 2021

Zoom 6:30

Attendance: Joanie Arrott, Julie Waidelich, Chris Kaz Wojtewicz, Teri Schock, Joyce Statz, Connie Lundgren, Richard Grayum, Ruven Brooks, Mick Koffend, Dana Winer, Julie Rawlings, Chris Currens, Louri O'Leary

6:44pm Call to order by Joanie Arrott.

Review of September minutes. A motion to approve the revised June minutes was made by Joyce Statz and seconded by Kaz.

Housekeeping

Membership –

Joyce shared that our membership is up to 903 members as of September 30. We also plan to host our recycling event on December 4th (tentatively planning on 10-12noon). We will accept anything that plugs in - electronics, small appliances, batteries, etc.) More information will be posted in our newsletter.

Joanie mentioned that a few people from AISD reached out to ask if they could do a presentation to the board (45 minutes) re: what to expect in terms of their timeline, etc. related to future development/facility planning.

Thinking ahead to the end of the year, Joanie asked if everyone could be thinking about whether our board prefers to have a gathering, skip meeting, etc. in December. We will discuss this at our next board meeting.

Friendly reminder, early voting is under way. There are a couple very important ballot decisions and it's important to get involved and encourage others to get involved.

Financial Report

Joanie noted that we are caught up with website expenses for annual fees and maintenance fees. We are still working on transitioning access to our PayPal account from the past executive team. Joanie reviewed the various funds included in our financial documents for our newer members. We have an excess of funds to spend when the time is right and it's safe. One payment we should expect before the end of the year, is a donation to each AISD school in the neighborhood (\$150 each).

Committee Reports & Updates

Joanie noted we received a complaint about noise pollution with leaf blowers, etc. This neighbor suggested surveying the neighborhood and asking for their input. However, Joanie suggested we respond to the neighbor and asked the board for input. She also mentioned that we could include a few questions about this in our annual survey. Ruven Brooks recommended that we encourage neighbors to call 311 to report the incident as they keep track of complaints. Joyce suggested the neighbor contact the District 10 Environmental Commission representative to express their concern. Richard Grayum suggested we remind our neighbors of the city guidelines about the level of noise allowed.

New Board Members

Welcome to new board members - Mick Koffend, Dana Winer, and Chris Currens! Dana was very helpful in our election forum. She has lived in Austin and attended UT-Austin. She works at Accenture, working in quality and process improvement. She has been involved in a leadership at her synagogue and in national Jewish organizations. Dana has been in Northwest Hills since she graduated from UT.

Mick Koffend raised 3 daughters in Houston and moved to Austin 22 years ago. He and his wife owned a care management company, which they sold recently. He wanted to find a way to give back to the community and NWACA felt like a good fit.

Chris Currens has lived in Austin for about 42 years. He works for the State of TX for the Preservation Board at the Capitol, where he manages special projects. He expects Austin will have a great deal of growth pains and he feels NWACA is well positioned to assist with this.

Louri motioned to approve our new board members as well as Julie Rawlings and Joyce seconded.

As board members, it's expected you participate or chair two committees. Joanie provided an overview to some of our committees – business membership, civic engagement, communications, crime and safety, events, garage sale, finance, history, nominations, parks, transportation, zoning, trees/wildlife/environment, etc. Members who are not yet on committees are asked to provide their selections to Joanie in the coming week.

Treasurer Position

Joyce noted we are in need a new treasurer. Mick has expressed an interest and he has a depth of experience with financials. Joyce motioned to have Mick selected as Treasurer and Julie Rawlings seconded this motion. The Board approved.

Crime and Safety

Connie noted that the reason we have not had a bill from Sam is that his surveillance has not been consistent. Sam is talking to the chief to find ways to fill the void and he is working on getting support from some of the other constables to get support. Connie asked Sam what a perfect schedule would be and Sam recommended 1-2 nights a week. Night surveillance is more expensive, but he's trying to get the vehicle fee waived or reduced. He believes the night patrol will be more effective, but he does not want to be on a set schedule. Connie suggested creating a matching fund to provide the funds to cover this expense. She suggested two businesses who would front \$2,500 to help support this effort. From those donations, we could ask residents to contribute with the understanding that the two businesses would match up to \$2,500.

Joyce asked about the cost and Connie stated it's \$45/hour for each constable + \$45/car. Joyce asked how many hours Sam suggested we have surveillance. Connie recommended we have two cars (one for 78731 and one for 78759). After doing the math, Joyce calculated the annual costs to be \$28,000 per year. Kaz felt it would be important to leverage the effort (press releases, etc.). Julie Waidelich mentioned publishing crime reports in our newsletter to heighten awareness of our neighbors. Dana mentioned supporting a constable for our neighborhood and another less privileged neighborhood. Ruven noted that our biggest issue is car theft, which is largely a result of unlocked cars. Joyce suggested we use this idea as we plan our budget for next year. Mick offered a couple comments asking if porch theft is a big issue. Ruven recommended we look at crime lab reports. Mick also recommended we encourage neighbors to become more vigilant in locking their cars, shutting garage doors, etc. Joanie asked if Connie could compile data and we will revisit next month.

Parks

We made a \$500 donation to the "Fill the Hill" event at Murchison. The team is hoping to fill the hill with wildflowers.

Richard confirmed that we have a park clean up scheduled for November 6th.

Joanie noted she will follow up with a poll regarding hosting the AISD presentation prior to the next board meeting or planning to have it at the meeting.

8:28pm Meeting adjourned. Julie Rawlings made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Ruven seconded it.