

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2023

5280 Burger Bar + Zoom

Attendance: Joyce Statz, Mick Koffend, Dana Winer, Carol Dochen, Julie Rawlings, Jessica Forrest, Teri Schock, Julie Waidelich, Ben Luckens, Chris Bove, Kevin Kott, Richard Grayum

Not present: Bridget Keating, Vicki DeWeese, Charlie Galvin, Connie Lundgren, Ruven Brooks

6:36pm Call to order by Joyce Statz

Introduction of candidate board member – Mae Levitan

Proposals for Special Projects Fund

- Amy Bryant and Katy Stuhr (PTA President) visited our meeting to propose two projects. Amy provided an overview of Highland Park Elementary.
 - Funding Request #1 – Story Stroll Installation. They are requesting \$5,000 toward the project. The \$5,000 would cover the cost in full.
 - Funding Request #2 - Playground equipment installation. They raised \$24,000 through their fun run and the children wanted to use the funds toward equipment that was accessible to all of their students. They were able to purchase the equipment, but the installation costs were ~ \$35,000. This playground backs up to Perry Park and it's accessible to the public. At this time, they have not been able to install the equipment due to shortage of funds. As such, they are requesting \$15,000 toward installation costs.
- Sally Grayum - She is requesting money to clean up the planters at the entry to Balcones West between Steck and Spicewood Springs. She estimates the cost at \$1,272.83 and the hope is to begin the project as soon as possible. The hope is to make the area look nice and inviting

Minutes Review

Review of March minutes. A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Julie Rawlings and seconded by Carol Dochen.

Electronic Vote

Joyce moved that NWACA allocate \$450 to help defray the cost of delivering the April monthly newsletter, with the understanding that we will help recruit advertisers for future issues that should limit our need to continue this investment. Julie Rawlings seconded. Board Members (14) vote in favor by email on 3/29 and 3/30.

Membership Report

We were at 781 members at the end of March.

Financial Report

Mick shared that we are caught up on membership, which is positive and we are ahead of budget. However, we are not spending money as expected on our Special Project Fund projects. We have full tax exemption at Office Depot. Mick also proposed we pass along our tax status to the special projects we're supporting to help save on the taxes. The name of the Annual Financial Review has been updated to Financial Examination Committee.

Old Business

Earth Day Festival - Dana and Mick reported on the Earth Day Festival. Mick estimated there were approximately 150 visitors at the event. He put out a draft of the expenses and a recap that the members of the committee are reviewing. The BoD approved a \$2,000 budget for this event, but they ended up using closer to \$1,500-\$1,600. Dana thanked Ben, Connie, Richard, Charlie and others who were there to help with the event.

Greystone Drive Town Hall – Joyce reported that the neighborhood is split on the project. ATD is going back to the drawing board to put together an updated plan. Joyce asked if they could provide an update by May 11, but we are waiting to hear back.

Crime and Safety Town Hall – Kevin Kott reported that the meeting was well attended by block captains. Christian Mendoza with APD was present as well, a liaison for the APD Office of Community Liaison. There were a lot of questions and interactions with those present. It was proposed that we consider publishing crime and safety information in the newsletter (like a police blotter) to respond to the safety concerns in the neighborhood.

Status of July 4th Planning - Richard Grayum provided an update on the July 4th event. He proposed using a map on the front of the t-shirt with our boundaries and major landmarks. Richard is looking for a master of ceremonies to kick off the parade after they announce the winners, etc. Richard is planning on filing the permit soon.

Status of Annual Meeting - The Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 11th at Huffman Hall at St. Matthews. Joyce shared that Alison Alter has committed. Additionally, Austin Water Conservation will be participating and Austin Fire Dept is coming to speak and possibly bringing their simulation table. Joyce asked our board for questions we may ask Allison Alter to address. Teri Schock agreed to speak on the oak wilt issue. We will also include NWACA Business Members. Ben recommend we show a video about the proper way to navigate a four way stop. Julie W. made a motion to order hats and buttons for board members to make our group more visible. Richard seconded the hats and nametags and the group voted to pursue the project.

New Business

We are currently undergoing a new Board Member search. We had a new prospective member visit the meeting today – Mae Levitan. Mae provided an introduction and she’s hoping to put her effort into the community. She would like to see our community grow. She’s originally from NY and she is very motivated about crime prevention and it’s a passion of hers to see the community grow and prosper, keeping it as wholesome as it is. She’s been on different boards and it’s a passion of hers. She has previous experience in Philadelphia with the Diabetes Association. She’s lived in the neighborhood for 18 years. Mick asked what committee she would like to work on and she specified grant committee, crime and safety and possibly helping to distribute information. Chris made a motion to approve Mae joining the board and Mick seconded with all board members in favor.

Discussion of Special Projects

- Signage at Steck/Spicewood by Sally Grayum – there was discussion about the getting an estimate for pointing the brick on the sign before improvements are made. However, there was a general level of support for the project.
- Highland Park Elementary Project by Katy Stuhr and Amy Bryant – there was discussion about how realistic the numbers are to ensure the job is completed. We agreed to go back to the presenters to ask for two formal bids in writing for both the sign installation and the installation of the playground/stage. We would also ask for some NWACA recognition, in exchange for the donation. There was also discussion about asking the proposers to approach the Highland Park Neighborhood Association to make a contribution.

Response to Neighborhood Survey - We discussed creating a newsletter bio of each board member and Kevin Kott offered to interview each board member.

Other Business

We settled on August 19th from 2-4pm for the shredding event. Mae Levitan offered to help with coordinating efforts along with Julie Rawlings.

On May 4th City Council will have a resolution to eliminate parking minimums. If we have an opinion we would like to share, we can email all city council members to voice our concerns.

8:32pm Meeting adjourned. Richard Grayum made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Julie Rawlings seconded it. Minutes by Julie Waidelich