

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2023

St. Matthews

Attendance: Connie Lundgren, Kevin Kott, Julie Waidelich, Jessica Forrest, Charlie Galvin, Mick Koffend, Ben Luckens, Chris Bove, Richard Grayum, Teri Schock, Joyce Statz, Mae Levitan, Dana Winer

Not present: Bridget Keating, Vicki DeWeese, Ruven Brooks, Carol Dochen, Julie Rawlings

6:39 pm Call to order by Joyce Statz

Minutes Review

Review of March minutes. A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Kevin Kott; seconded by Chris Bove; motion passed.

Electronic Vote

Joyce noted an eVote on approval of Grayum Special Project Proposal on May 16. We had 13 board members out of 18 vote in favor; 5 members did not vote, including her husband who recused himself. Sally was notified that her project could proceed.

Membership Report

We were at 807 members at the end of April, with goal of 975 for the year.

Financial Report

Mick shared our Federal income tax form has been processed. Mick reminded us that we are now tax exempt on purchases.

Old Business

Update on Special Projects

Joyce provided an update on our Special Project Proposals. Sally Graham has begun her project, which is well underway.

The Highland Park quote for the music equipment installation was discussed, and they have asked AISD to cover the story walk portion of the project. A part of the music equipment project was to fund a stage, but they have dropped that and adjusted their proposal to \$3,800 to allow a company to install their equipment on their accessible playground. Charlie asked why we are contributing to a school outside our boundaries, but it was explained that we have students within our boundaries who attend the school. Jessica suggested that they put something in the school newsletter sharing the news that NWACA helped fund the playground. Richard Grayum asked if NWACA could get some type of signage at the project to recognize NWACA. Charlie and Mick asked for some clarity around \$3,800 and how these funds would be utilized. Per the email provided from the company who will install the equipment, the cost would be \$3,800 for a full day of labor to install the equipment. Julie Waidelich and Jessica Forrest brought up the issue of liability and noted we would want to structure the payment such that we do not have liability. Joyce explained that we typically pay the vendor directly as it allows us to ensure the funds are going directly toward the project at hand. Mae Levitan proposed that we should help our candidates properly bid projects and provide structure around the process. Charlie offered to help provide some structure for future project submissions. Joyce asked for a motion to approve this project. Mick moved; Jessica Forrest seconded.

We gave Anderson High School \$4,500 last year toward the beautification of the school grounds, which they used to renovate the sign at the West side of the Anderson High property, and they are using remaining funds to complete their project by adding picnic tables.

We gave \$1,000 to the Doss PTA to help subsidize an artist's mural, but there was a significant misunderstanding between the PTA and the artist about the project. Thus, there has been no request for funds, so our contribution has not been paid.

Status of Greystone Drive Speed Mitigation

Joyce noted we had the City's revised proposal at our annual meeting. Since then, the people who were upset about having speed bumps have continued to gather momentum against the speed bumps. The latest effort is by a resident who has paid for an ad in our June newsletter, and he is trying to get ATD to understand the concern regarding the speed bumps. His proposal is to stop the plan for 6 months and see if we can get voluntary slowdown along Greystone. He is trying to find someone in the transportation department to listen to his proposal. Experience of the Constable working for us indicates the people speeding are 50% local residents and 50% people cutting through. Joyce asked if there are things that we as a board could do or as members of the transportation committee could do to help address the speed issues we face in our neighborhood. Further discussion is needed.

Report on Annual Meeting

Joyce Statz reported that we had approximately 88 people attend this year, about twice what we had last year. There was a lot of really good activity around the tables and the feedback about the meeting was very positive. Julie Waidelich mentioned it might be nice in the future to offer bags with our NWACA logo for visitors to carry their giveaway items.

Status of July 4th Planning, Volunteer Requests

Richard Grayum shared that we filed a permit, and we have a shirt design, which he shared with the board. The feedback on the design was very positive and Richard plans to push out the design tomorrow and get the t-shirt in production.

Board Identity Apparel

The consensus upon looking at candidate items is that we consider a relatively monochrome visor and a hat to complement our NWACA green t-shirt. Ideally, stone or white for background with large "board member" and small logo. For nametags, we agreed to have board member names and the NWACA logo with magnetic fastening. Larger nametag with rounded corners. Ideally a background that will allow text to pop (white background with largest font possible with first name larger than last name). The logo can be offset to the left of the name.

New Business

Zoning Update – Overlook - 4920 Spicewood Springs Rd

Ben and Charlie provided an update that there's a property near ABoR on Spicewood Springs. It's been purchased, but we do not know who the owner is. They met with two people who are representing the owner in their filings with the City of Austin. The current plan is to build condo units. They are considering potentially rezoning the parcel. Although it looks like a large parcel, there is only 12,000 sq ft of floor area allowed by the most recent ordinance adopted for the property, and no more than 32% of impervious cover. The plan is to build 25-30 units, but Charlie feels they can more realistically build 15 units with two garages; they are currently restricted to 35' elevation use, but they need another 5' or so to build a garage at the base of the unit. This is approximately the sixth iteration of this project. Charlie said if they can get the extra 5', perhaps they can completely block the north side of the parking area. Also they need to comply with the Dark Sky ordinance to avoid light shining across to the neighbors to the north. The other consideration is egress and ingress to Spicewood Springs. There are also critical environmental features that need to be considered, which will impact where they build on the parcel. Joyce noted that we have the list of the people who were involved in the Overlook project in 2019. The objective at this time is to gather opinions for the local residents who will be affected by this project to understand their reaction to this proposed project.

Discuss Support for Shared Use Path on Loop 360

Ben noted that the Austin Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW) seeks funding for work on three segments of shared use path along SL 360, providing bike and pedestrian connectivity between TxDOT's planned grade separation projects at several intersections (Westlake Dr, Lakewood Dr. and Spicewood Springs Rd.). TPW intends to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2023 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program established to provide grants to eligible public sector agencies focused on active transportation network enhancements.

TPW seeks funding to perform feasibility studies, seek environmental clearance, and advance segments

for construction for shared use paths along SL 360 between Loop 1 and US 183.

More specifically the following scope will be completed per segment:

- SL 360 from FM 2244 to Westlake (preliminary engineering and environmental clearance);
- SL 360 from Lakewood Dr to Spicewood Springs Rd – (design and construction of shared use path on east side of SL 360, including bridge over Bull Creek); and
- SL 360 from Spicewood Springs Rd to US 183 SB frontage road (preliminary engineering, environmental clearance, design and construction of shared use path on east side of SL 360).

Further information about what is proposed:

Loop 360 provides primary access to west Austin, acting as both a thoroughfare for residents and a commuter route. It provides access to Lake Austin as well as Travis County greenbelts and is a popular recreational bike route. Increased congestion along Loop 360 has resulted in a lack of mobility and growing safety concerns.

TxDOT's Loop 360 Program will upgrade multiple intersections to improve mobility and safety along the corridor. While TxDOT's planned project will include segments of SUP within the interchange limits, there are extensive gaps between interchanges where a separate SUP will not be constructed. As Loop 360 is a popular recreational bike route, the City and TxDOT both desire to plan and construct a separate path for pedestrians and cyclists.

The request is for NWACA support for this effort. Joyce noted we can cite the fact that we have many cyclists in the neighborhood who would utilize this trail. Ben made a motion to provide a letter of support; Richard seconded; and the remaining board members in attendance voted in favor except for one board member.

Other Business

Announcements and Updates

Joyce noted that one of the items that was discussed at the annual meeting is the monthly meetings Chris Mendoza hosts for seniors in our neighborhood. We are in discussion with Old Quarry Library about setting up a series of these at the library.

We have been recognized as Partner of the Year by Anderson High School.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 28th at 6:30pm at 5280 Burger. We decided to opt against a July meeting in consideration of the July 4th parade and planning involved.

Connie also asked that we put September 30th on our calendar for National Night Out.

8:38pm Meeting adjourned. Joyce made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Kevin Kott seconded it.
Minutes by Julie Waidelich