

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2023

5280 Burger

Attendance: Connie Lundgren, Kevin Kott, Julie Waidelich, Jessica Forrest, Mick Koffend, Ben Luckens, Chris Bove, Richard Grayum, Joyce Statz, Mae Levitan, Dana Winer, Carol Dochen, Bridget Keating

Not present: Vicki DeWeese, Ruven Brooks, Julie Rawlings, Charlie Galvin, Teri Schock

Guest: Sharon Miller

6:37pm Call to order by Joyce Statz

Minutes Review

Review of June minutes. Mick asked to amend the financial section of March minutes to be changed to note that it is our CD# 00337230 that is maturing. Mick made a motion to increase the amount of that CD; move \$7,000 from our money market account to this CD. A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Carol Dochen and seconded by Mae Levitan, approved

Electronic Vote

Since the last meeting, we conducted an e-vote on the payment for a full-page ad (\$650) for July and November issues of the newsletter. There were 14 votes in favor, with 4 people not voting.

Membership Report

We were at 841 members at the end of July, with our goal of 975 for the year.

Financial Report

Mick shared that our balance sheet reflects the increase on the CD. He also adjusted the current deferred charges to reflect the in-kind expenses we had for the July 4th Freedom Fest. So far this year, we are down about \$5,000 on membership with both business and resident memberships accounting for this.

Old Business

NWACA Swag

Joyce Statz distributed Board Name Tags and Caps to board members who had not previously received them.

Update on Constable patrol – what’s being done? Invoices?

Lundgren/Kott reported that Kevin sent the Constable an email, but he hasn’t heard back about it. They met with Wes Ogilvie (resident in the neighborhood) and he could not get APD to come out, so he called the Austin Park Rangers who came out and gave tickets to those in question. We don’t have information on Constable patrolling.

Progress on signs source for NWACA Special Projects

Joyce noted that as we have completed the project for Sally Grayum, we need to come up with a sign that acknowledges the NWACA contribution. There was discussion that we may want to come up with a standard sign that we can use for this project and future projects. Kevin is researching this and showed us several possibilities, which we deemed too large.

Social Media

There was also discussion about starting an Instagram page and possibly posting to X (ie. Twitter) as well.

Shredding Event

Mae Levitan noted there were approximately 84 people who drove in to drop off items for shredding. About 20 of the visitors were not members, but Joyce asked that non-members join NWACA if they would like to participate. Mae noted that in advertisements, we should note that you must be a member to participate; some who came to the event thought it was open to all..

National Night Out

Connie noted the NNO event is September 30th in the Randall's parking lot. She has the band and the stage rented and is working on other logistics. Connie would like to focus on activities and games for the kids. Teri has said she would do the bubble station again. Joyce mentioned that we have games in our storage shed that can be used. Julie W. mentioned a bouncy house may be a fun idea, but the cost and liability of having one is a concern. The board recommended that we consider having a bouncy house and Mister Softee as these will be a huge draw for the families. We have food that will be donated by our in-kind business members. It's \$9.25 to rent a table from Austin chairs and tables, which we would like to pursue to help ease logistics.

New Business

Financial Review Report

Vickie DeWeese, Margie Burciaga, and Sharon Miller worked to review our financial documents and they spent approximately 40 hours in meetings, gathering information and reviewing the financial data. Sharon was present to answer questions of the Board. Their findings were that all prior deficiencies were cleared and all recommendations were followed with the exception of the planned update of NWACA Financial Policy-Statement of Budget Philosophy, etc. More details can be found in the document, "NWACA Financial Examination Committee (FEC) for FY 2022" reported to the board on August 23, 2023. Mick made a motion to raise the salary of the bookkeeper to \$25 per hour. Carol Dochen seconded with approval by all in attendance.

Zoning Committee

Ben reported that there is a certain amount of anxiety about the zoning changes proposed by Councilmember Pool (essentially that the minimum lot size for building a home is to be reduced). Ben described the work of a subcommittee of the Zoning Committee to put together a neighborhood information session. That session begin with a description of current zoning and then have someone explain how the Pool resolution would affect that. Then, we might have someone from a title company or an attorney to explain deed restrictions and how they relate to current and proposed zoning. Ben met with the Director of Planning who is thinking about having a future land map exercise for the whole city in the next year, and that she was interested in having neighborhood input for that - though this is a matter for a time after this proposed information session. Joyce made a good point that we have some responsibility to inform our residents of current issues that affect our neighborhood. Any meeting would be purely informational. Dana asked if there was anyone organizing city-wide information sessions, in which we could take part; nobody was aware of any. But it was suggested that Alison Alter's office may be able to facilitate this.

Neighbor Concern about Water Quality

There has been some concern raised by Peter Squire about water quality. He suggested we consider several steps such as we test the water quality throughout the neighborhood, negotiate a discount with an approved quality tester, negotiate a discount with a plumbing service, and petition the city to do the following. Carol mentioned that Lynn Katz (resident on Greystone) is an expert in water quality and works for UT. Joyce is going to share the email with Carol, who will share it with Lynn and ask what the benefit would be to test the water and what resolution could be recommended if issues are found.

Ideas for Special Projects – applications due Sept. 30

Joyce asked those in attendance if they have ideas for special projects. Joyce and Vicki are exploring an exterior facelift for the Quarry Library, which will be undergoing interior renovations. Carol suggested a monument sign on Far West that announces the entrance to Northwest Hills.

Other Business

Announcements and Updates

Joyce asked when we should plan on Halloween judging. After considerable discussion, we settled on judging on Monday, October 16th. There were a couple volunteers who offered to help with judging – Bridget, Ben, and Robert Nash (a suggested participant).

8:29pm Meeting adjourned. Joyce made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Carol seconded it.

Minutes by Julie Waidelich