

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023

5280 Burger

Attendance: Joyce Statz, Chris Bove, Mick Koffend, Connie Lundgren, Carol Dochen, Teri Schock, Julie Rawlings, Ruven Brooks, Richard Grayum, Dana Winer, Julie Waidelich, Charlie Galvin; Ben Luckens by Zoom

Not present: Vicki DeWeese, Bridget Keating, Kevin Kott, Jessica Forrest, Mae Levitan,

6:43pm Call to order by Joyce Statz

Application for Special Project Funding

Presentation: Anderson High School Tennis Booster Club by Esther Cho

Esther, President of the AHS Booster Club, presented on behalf of the AHS tennis team. They charge dues to their players, which cover the basic expenses (meals, snacks, repairs, tournaments, etc.). However, this does not cover the court maintenance. In the last couple of years, they raised money to resurface 4 of the courts that used for school tennis only. The cost for the 4 courts was \$26,000 to resurface. This year, they are hoping to fundraise to resurface the remaining 4 courts. They have 2 bids for the remaining 4 courts (court 5-8) with bids of \$28,000 and \$31,500. There was some discussion about limiting the use of the courts to the public to minimize wear and tear. The booster club has discussed the open court policy with the principal, but there is a feeling that 4 of the courts are designated as community courts. They have asked AISD to help with funding for resurfacing, but there are not funds allocated for the courts. However, they are working with Brian Lancaster, the new AHS Principal, to obtain funds. Their understanding is they may not be eligible for AISD funding due to the fact that they keep the courts open to the public. Joyce recommended we publicize the issue about the courts in the NWACA newsletter.

Discussion/Decision on Special Project funding – VOTE

The board discussed the pros/cons of supporting the request for \$10,000 toward the resurfacing of courts. Chris made a motion and Julie Rawlings seconded. All parties present approved; one opposed. Motion passed to contribute \$10,000 to Anderson High School tennis booster club for court resurfacing.

Minutes Review

Review of September minutes has been delayed until November.

Membership Report

Joyce reported the following data for our membership activity:

Membership – 892 at end of September, with goal of 975 for year

Neighborhood Garage Sales – 21 homes this year; 25 last year

Carol and Teri reported that traffic was extremely slow and some felt it was not advertised well. Joyce mentioned we did not advertise it in the Austin American Statesmen this year, which could have had an impact. It was recommended that we consider scheduling the garage sale during a non-football weekend. We also discussed finding a place to advertise via a marquee in the neighborhood and possibly the schools would consider allow us to advertise on their marquees. Mick was going to explore the possibility with Doss and Murchison.

October 21 Recycling event – 106 households (vs 74 last year); 10 new members; no data from last year

Richard mentioned it was a significant effort to manage and clean up after the event. He said Joanie was a huge help and she worked tirelessly to drop the items, clean up the van, etc. It was suggested that we should consider paying Joanie for her time and efforts.

Financial Report

Mick presented on our September financials and National Night Out expenses. He reviewed his financial reconciliation with the board and he feels we will be able to support the special project contribution without having to liquate any

funds from the CDs. He also mentioned Connie did a good job staying within our budget and he has been diligent about noting the in-kind contributions so we can track this for future years.

Old Business

National Night Out Lessons Learned

Connie Lundgren shared that approximately 200 people or so attended NNO. For next year, we may want to consider the following:

- Consider dropping the band - focus on first responders
- Consider having an earlier start and end time; it was really dark by 8 pm; at least 30 minutes earlier. And, would another day – Sunday – work better?
- Choose a date when there's no UT game – should be a BYE weekend in the schedule.
- Form a team of at least 4 people to plan and prepare for the event.
- Secure our own fire truck – perhaps from local station 21.
- Contact the YPW Spanish Immersion School in person to get vans away from the area.
- Plot out the footprint of the event by going there first in person at 6pm one day, considering the trees and shade provided by the buildings.
- School of Rock – has its own tent; will arrange the stage as they wish; could power the band from a truck – if not theirs, perhaps see if Davis Ward would let us use his Rivian; don't rent a generator.
- Fix the big NWACA sign to have "Saturday" in place of the date with plastic from PostNet – we used paper this year, and that worked fine, since there was no rain
- Replace our yard signs by a more readable version – much bigger print!
- Advertise the flu shots well in advance; see what it would take to do RSV and COVID, too.
- Put Mr. Softee in a more visible place.
- Have at least one recycling can and one trash can out during the event.
- Get simpler tacos for the kids: Connie: One thing I thought of was we could buy some egg & cheese tacos for the kids. Torchy's provided fried avocado and trailer trash, two of their most popular. I don't think the kids appreciated all the extra ingredients. Maybe they could give us 100 adult tacos and we could purchase tacos for kids.
- It was also recommended that we purchase a speaker that can be used at the event
- Richard suggested offering an opportunity for NHS kids to earn service hours for volunteering at the events (recycling, etc.)

Neighbor Concern about Water Quality

Carol Dochen will report on this in November. Richard offered to ask Austin Water about their testing method and results as well.

November 15 Zoning Town Hall

Joyce shared that we have a lawyer who is committed to talking about deed restrictions. Alison Alter is trying to get someone from city development department to present. Ben Luckens reported that there are a few meetings upcoming, which are open to the public:

- Thursday, October 26th at 2pm (joint planning commission and city council meeting)
- Tuesday, November 14th at 6pm (planning commission meeting)
- Thursday, December 7th at 10am (city council meeting)

These meetings were publicized to our neighbors through a direct mail piece. Anyone who is signed up through Austin Energy received a notice.

New Business

Discussion of LDC changes, proposed Board position

Ben Luckens was at the meeting via zoom and reviewed his notes about the proposed changes. Ben also proposed that the Board support a resolution regarding the changes.

Joyce made a motion to approve the resolution. However, Julie and Dana mentioned a concern about making sure we are representing the best interest of our community. It was suggested that we go through our resolution point by point to make sure we're aligned with the resolution. Charlie noted that Alison Alter is in a minority of the Council with respect to these changes, so it's difficult for us to have much power to force change. Joyce suggested we gather information to share with our neighbors at our town hall meeting to educate our neighbors and then survey the neighbors.

Julie Rawlings feels there are still some opportunities we could agree upon with regard to our current resolution. Ben suggested we should focus on land use first, then lot size second. Mick felt we should provide our neighbors an opportunity to provide input before we submit a resolution. We have decided not to submit a resolution at this time, but will disperse information at our Town Hall meeting and then request feedback via a survey.

Other Business for the Board

Announcements and Updates

Newsletter feedback – format, content

Joyce asked for input about our newsletter. Carol felt we are not seeing enough information about our schools and she would like to know more about school activities, theater events, etc. Generally, the feedback was positive about the format and content of the newsletter. The distribution addresses used are determined by the postal carrier, which consistent with Every Door Direct Mail. Dana expressed concern with the newsletter not being distributed to our apartments and asked if it's possible to include them in the future. There was discussion among the board about exploring options, but we are limited to use the more economical method offered through Every Door Direct Mail when selecting our target areas. Richard offered an idea to send a direct mail piece to our renters in the neighborhood inviting them to view our digital monthly newsletter online. Connie also suggested leaving copies of our newsletter in our local HEB, post office, etc. Lynette already puts boxes in front of the post office and the library with free copies of the newsletter for our neighbors. Carol suggested putting boxes by the mailboxes in the apartment complexes, but it would require some effort. Joyce and Julie plan to meet with Lynette, our publisher, this week to discuss the newsletter and explore the distribution methods.

9:09pm Meeting adjourned. Joyce made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mick seconded it.

Minutes by Julie Waidelich