

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024
Dell Jewish Community Center –Fridel Board Room

Attendance:

Joyce Statz, Carol Dochen, Ruven Brooks, Ben Luckens, Dana Winer, Richard Grayum, Teri Schock, Mick Koffend, Kevin Kott, Chris Bove, Charlie Galvin

Not present:

Julie Waidelich, Connie Lundgren, Mae Levitan, Vicki DeWeese, Bridget Keating, Jessica Forrest

6:31 pm Call to order by Joyce Statz

Special Project Proposal(s) - Discussion

NWACA received a special project proposal to put stickers on recycling bins informing neighbors not to (plastic) bag their recyclables, however this is not allowed per the City. Other options include:

- Earth Day & Annual Meeting – Have a large sign.
- Run an article in the newsletter highlighting this point.
- Include an insert in the newsletter.

A second special project proposal is to offer painting addresses on houses as was done previously. We will come back to this.

Consent Agenda

Approval of February 2024 Minutes – **VOTE**

Motion made by Carol Dochen and second by Ben Luckens to approve the February minutes with a spelling correction.

Motion passed unanimously.

Membership

Membership –2024 target is 900; EOM February 526 – system issues fixed week of 3/3; renewals sent again on 3/11; as of 3/18, count is 685, still behind 2023.

Financial Report - VOTE

Membership revenue is down for both businesses and households. There has been no new spending on special projects this year.

Motion made by Mick Koffend and second by Chris Bove to renew the CD ending in 7233 for the maturity value plus accrued interest another 12 months. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Status report from newsletter distribution committee/survey (Winer)

March was the first month of the 3-month pilot which included an insert. So far we've received 10 responses to the survey. There will be another insert in May with a link/QR code to the survey.

Status report on Earth Day Festival – requests for help (Winer/Koffend)

There are a number of organizations that will have tables and activities including petting zoo and test-driving electric vehicles. It was noted that we should coordinate participation at Earth Day and the Annual Meeting for organizations that may be interested in both. A sign-in sheet was passed around for people to volunteer and loan tables and shade canopies. The event is April 21 2-4pm at Doss Elementary & park.

Budget increase requested - \$500- **VOTE**

Motion made by Dana Winer and second by Ben Luckens to increase the budget by \$500 to include a petting zoo.

Motion passed unanimously.

Status report of Nominations Committee (Statz, et.al.)

The Nominations Committee is considering seven candidates who responded to requests for new board members.

Status report on Business Members (Waidelich/Statz)

Nine business members have signed on for 2024. Julie Waidelich asked the board to review the list of prospective members and let her know if they have connections by the end of March.

Status of Annual Meeting Planning and Agenda (Statz, Board)

Mayor Watson, Councilmember Alter, and School Board Trustee Chu are confirmed to attend. There will also be presentations on wildfire, insurance, transportation, etc. There was discussion about the best forum to educate neighbors about 4-way stops. There is a very full agenda – we will give clear time limits and a possible stretch break.

Status of annual interest survey (March 20 deadline) (Statz)

There are 347 responses to the annual survey. The survey closes today.

Update on 4th of July Planning (Bove/et.al.)

The 4th of July parade route is confirmed near Hill Elementary. The freedom fest will follow the parade. We will have access to the Anderson parking lot and possibly Westover Church. The Committee will ensure neighbors are aware of the new route, especially those who live by the new route. This year we will order t-shirts based on pre-orders.

Update on Subdivision Deed Restrictions (DeWeese/Dochen/Statz)

Independence Title pulled deed restrictions for all of NWACA, in exchange for a business membership. There will be a page on the NWACA website that explains how a neighbor can navigate to their subdivision and find their documents.

New Business

Discussion/ Decision on Joining Austin Neighborhoods Council and/or Friends of Austin Neighborhoods

Context: NWACA was a member of ANC about 10 years ago and left due to lack of focus on the issues relating to Northwest Austin and therefore misalignment on issues as well as management level tension which have both since changed. FAN is a more recent organization and NWACA doesn't have any history. Membership fees are \$50 to ANC and no fee for FAN.

Pros & Cons: Some members expressed a preference to maintain our independent status. It was noted ANC is an opportunity to learn about other neighborhoods and provide our voice. There was a question about the extent to which ANC and NWACA engage millennials. There was some concern having our name listed as part of either organization. It was noted that ANC is primarily NIMBY and FAN is primarily YIMBY.

Decision: The group decided that Kevin would attend an ANC meeting to learn more about the organization and report back on potential benefits. Ruven is already an individual member of FAN and will attend a neighborhood FAN meeting to learn more.

Other Business for the Board

Announcements and Updates (Statz, Board)

- Vicki DeWeese, Acting VP through July
- Bridget Keating leaving the Board; family commitments
- Reminder: BOPA event Saturday 1-3 - all help welcome!

Any other topics from Board members

April 17 board meeting minutes taker – Richard Grayum

National Night Out – Carol, Kevin, and Connie met and recommend smaller NNO gatherings on Sunday, October 6 rather than a central one. It was noted that October 6 is during ACL. NNO will be hosted by “block captains” who will be provided goodies for their block. The City has a “Living Streets” program for block parties. There was discussion about an incentive such as food coupons or an ice cream truck. NWACA board members are asked to host block parties.

Next Board Meeting, **April 17, 2024**, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm. Minutes by Dana Winer