

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2024
Friedel Board Room, Dell Jewish Community Center or Zoom

Attendance: Mike Harreld, Megan Helmbrecht, Naresh Kumar, Joyce Statz, Lori Steinberg, Ben Luckens, Julie Waidelich, Dana Winer, Bart Arnold, Mae Levitan, Emmy Ward, Griffin Meroney, Carol Dochen, Kevin Kott, Vicki DeWeese

Notified Absences:

Unanticipated Absences: Chris Bove, Teri Schock

6:36 pm Call to order by Joyce Statz

Citizen Communication – David Dolling – Noise Pollution Issues

David did not attend, but he was frustrated by the noise pollution created by leaf blowers.

Consent Agenda

Approval of November 2024 Minutes. Naresh made a motion and Lori seconded to approve the November minutes. Minutes approved.

Membership –2024 target was 900; EOY 906. Board agreed to increase the 2025 target number to 950 members. It was suggested that we put a post on our Facebook page to encourage residents to join or renew their membership.

Financial Report

Our statements of income and expenses for October, November, and December are available in board documents. We will be seeking a new Treasurer in light of Mick's loss of life. Dana proposed to rename the Earth Day Festival to Mick Koffend Earth Day Festival in honor of Mick and also create a fund in Mick's honor. Mae made a motion to approve and Lori Steinberg seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Update on December Decorating Contest - Megan Helmbrecht reported there were 11 homes nominated. She mentioned asking the board to drive around and nominate your favorite decorations in the future. There were several streets joining forces to coordinate themed inflatable decorations for the holidays.

Crime and Safety Update - Kevin Kott

Kevin felt the participation was very strong and it will be a good foundation for our future block parties. Kevin has a list of all of the people who participated in the block party and there are a few more who plan to host a block party. Mae, Chris, Teri and Kevin are on the Crime and Safety committee. Mae asked about hosting a block party in April and it was encouraged to call the event NWACA Spring Night Out.

Kevin also noted that he's planning to schedule a Neighborhood Watch meeting and encouraged block captains to attend. There are currently about 10 active block captains, but Kevin encouraged the board members to volunteer to serve as a block captain and let him know. Julie asked if it's possible to raise awareness about fire and wildfire safety and Joyce noted that there is a significant increase in the number of requests for inspections.

Kevin shared an update on the Flock Safety system, which includes license plate readers and collects pictures of them. The purpose is to document activity in the event there are crimes in the neighborhood as they are using intelligence systems to identify vehicles. They can be installed on posts with cameras on top to monitor activity. The systems are available on a contract basis; the cameras are the property of the Flock program and are maintained by them. The service is sold on a pre-paid two-year basis. For a 2-camera system, the cost is \$6300 for the first year and \$5000 for the second. Teri has discussed running a pilot program in her neighborhood to test their viability; APD has provided very positive feedback on the devices. Carol mentioned it may be worthwhile to run a test for a specific area for a two year period to find out how effective the Flock Safety system is for our neighborhood.

Naresh noted that a good number of crimes noted in our newsletter are happening in the Bull Creek District Park. Many of the crimes happen between 1-3 am. Kevin noted that the police have begun using a bait police vehicle at Mt. Bonnell and Bull Creek to deter crime, which has seemed to be effective. Kevin noted we have to pay \$70/hour for constable patrol, so we would spend over \$14,000 if a patrol car monitors the streets twice a week for 2 hours each time. It can be very expensive and although there is some value, it's limited.

Anderson Tennis Courts - Bart Arnold update

Bart reported that we are making progress. The digital locks have been installed on the gates. Bart put signs up with a QR code. Their schedule is to go live on February 1, 2025. However, they will not be collecting a fee initially, but they have their bank account tied into Stripe. Starting February 10, users will be required to pay a fee of \$4 for 30-minute increments. Bart anticipates most people will reserve for 90 minute shifts, so it's expected many will spend \$12. However, they will allow up to 2-hour shifts. If it's an Anderson tennis player, they will not be required to pay a fee. However, private tennis instructors will be required to pay a fee for court use. Two sets of courts (5 & 6) will be reserved for the Anderson tennis team.

NWACA Business Membership plans - Julie Waidelich noted we have established more distinction between the business membership levels to provide the highest level with premium benefits. Our campaign has begun and we have been in contact with over 175 local businesses to explore a partnership. We will need assistance with follow up and welcome any help the committee or others on our board are willing to assist with. Big thank you to Mike Herald's wife, Lila, and Lori Steinberg who assisted with thank you notes to our 2024 Business Members. Joyce is helping to ensure that our Business Membership page is updated and that the payment links are up and working. Once we have an established set of new Business Members, we will begin promoting our Earth Day celebration. Kevin asked if there would be any possibility of a Business Member funding the Flock Systems and Julie and Kevin agreed to discuss off line.

New Business

Standing Item: Updates from latest ANC meeting [none in Dec] Arnold/Herrald

Budget approval – Joyce reviewed the proposed changes and Kevin suggested that we increase the budget line for Constable patrol to \$5,000 through July for two-hour shifts. Kevin made a motion to adopt this budget increase and Naresh seconded. Motion passed.

Zoning Updates - Ben Luckens/Naresh Kumar

- Comprehensive Plan Working Group – it has yet to get established. Ben is going to meet with Marc Duchon for an update.
- 7201 Hart Lane – this is the Acacia apartments and there's a proposal to change the MF3 zoning to make it a 90' apartment building. It would create a significant bump in impervious cover, but a percentage of the units will be allocated for low income residents. There are currently 295 apartments which would be replaced with 700 apartments. One issue is the GR zoning of this 10-acre site. To meet the standards related to drainage and water quality, there will need to be improvements made. There is also the consideration of tenant displacement, for which the City of Austin requires certain benefits, moving expense allowance, etc. It's expected this proposed project will be 5 years in the future due to permitting, planning, financing, etc. Ben forecasts this project will be approved. It's recommended that the developer set aside one acre of the site for parkland open to the public and that they conduct a tree survey to identify protected trees that are at risk from the impact of redevelopment. NWACA supports the proposed DB90 rezoning subject to the recommendations listed above.
- 7304 Knox Lane – There is a request to zone this site with historic zoning, based on a building on the property. It is not expected to be approved.
- 6601 N. Capital of Texas Hwy site plan – Naresh reported that the local committee in the Lakewood Club was able to get a two-week postponement. The second time the owner asked for a two-week postponement. However, the plans were approved by the Zoning and Platting Commission, basing on the fact that they could

find no code violations in the plan. There are now 6 different organizations who have filed an appeal with the city council and Naresh believes it's on the docket for January 30th.

Plans for Earth Day - Winer

- Dana noted the Earth Day Festival committee is up and running. The event will be held at Hill Elementary. It will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2-4 pm. Dana is looking for volunteers for the event and asked board members to sign up to be available. The committee is also looking for 6' tables and folding chairs to borrow for the event. Emmy is going to reach out to Anderson High NHS and other organizations to encourage students to get involved. There are a lot of opportunities for volunteers. Griffin agreed to seek volunteers at McCallum as well.

Other Business for the Board

Announcements and Updates - Statz, Board

- Special Event scheduled for Friday, February 7, about 6 p.m. – Board members invited to stop by and show support – Night to Shine: prom (dinner/dance) event for special needs kids and adults, at Grace Covenant Church, something hosted around the world.
- “Buy Nothing” Boutique online and events could be a great opportunity to build community amongst neighbors. Think about this for discussion at February board meeting.

Adjourn

Calendar Notes

NWACA Notes Deadline-Each **Tuesday** at Noon

Next Board Meeting, **February 19, 2025**, 6:30 p.m.

Friedel Board Room, Dell Jewish Community Center

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm. Minutes by Julie Waidelich, Co-Secretary.