

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2024
Friedel Board Room, Dell Jewish Community Center or Zoom

Attendance: Mike Harreld, Naresh Kumar, Joyce Statz, Ben Luckens, Julie Waidelich, Kevin Kott

Zoom: Dana Winer, Chris Bove, Griffin Meroney, Mae Levitan,

Notified Absences:

Unanticipated Absences: Teri Schock, Lori Steinberg, Bart Arnold, Emmy Ward, Carol Dochen, Vicki DeWeese

6:40 pm Call to order by Joyce Statz

Consent Agenda

Approval of January 2025 Minutes. Kevin made a motion, and Naresh seconded the approval of the January minutes. Minutes approved.

Membership – end of January number was 623, which exceeded the goal of 950.

Financial Report

Joyce stated our balance looks healthy. We have funds in various money market accounts. Will move the donations from Parks 2024 into the Parks Money Market Account. We are invested in four CD's and will likely continue to remain invested in CD's unless we have a need to utilize funds. Our balance sheet shows a balance of \$128,000. We have received approximately \$3,000 in Business Membership Dues and \$14,555 in household dues.

Update on Earth Day event - Dana reminded our group of the event on Sunday, April 27th, from 2-4pm. Dana has started sending out save the date to schools and other local venues. From the board, they are looking for volunteers on the day of the event. Secondly, if board members have a table or chairs to loan, we will need extra tables. We will also be collecting tin cans for the art project they plan to host at the event, so we were asked to help in any way possible.

Update on Business Membership - Julie noted that we have had several existing and new Business Members sign up as Business Members for the coming year. All have been invited to Earth Day, and we will continue to recruit. There is a need to help with follow-up with calls to the existing Business Members to make sure they are aware of our Business Member campaign.

Progress with Annual Meeting Plan - Joyce noted that we will need help with some of the duties at our Annual Meeting on March 26th at 6pm. Megan offered to help greet; Chris offered to help with headcount; Dana offered to serve as timekeeper and be at the civic engagement table; and Megan, Kevin, and Ben offered to help set up and clean up. So far, we have a good panel of representatives, including the Police Chief, Austin Energy, Austin Water, Matt McCoy for Austin Parks, and all have been asked to discuss wildfire prevention. The committee chairs will prepare tables, set up name tents, etc.

Zoning Updates

- 7121 Hart Lane (aka Far West Multifamily) – Ben Luckens reported that the NWACA Board of Directors reviewed the proposed rezoning of 7201, 7201 1/2, 7205, and 7121 Hart Lane from MF3 to GR-V-CO-DB90. An engineering analysis confirmed that traffic at the intersection of Hart Lane and the proposed project driveway will operate at LOS B or better under 2028 buildout conditions, with minimal queuing. Additionally, Price Realty has agreed to collaborate with NWACA in requesting Council Member Duchon to direct the City Parks Department to allocate any fee in-lieu of parkland dedication within the assessed service area, specifically for a playscape at the Hyridge Drive entrance to the Steck Valley Greenbelt. Following discussion, the Board voted to support the rezoning request, contingent upon these conditions. Ben made a motion, and Naresh seconded. Motion passed.

- 7304 Knox Lane - Ben reported that the proposal for the existing home to be declared a historic site was denied. As such, the development plans will proceed.
- 6601 N. Capital of Texas Hwy site plan - Naresh reported that ZAP approved the plan, but Lakewood residents tried to appeal the decision. The mayor and city staff said the only way the decision could be overturned as the vote was 9 to 1 against the appeal.
- Comprehensive Plan Working Group -

New Business

Board Member Recruiting -Joyce asked for recommendations for Board member recruits, and Megan and Mae offered to explore the opportunity with their contacts. We can have up to 25 board members, and we have the authority to bring board members in between elections.

ANC Meeting - Joyce shared highlights from the latest ANC meeting. The ANC meeting on January 22, 2025, covered several key topics, including AUS airport expansion plans, which require \$400 billion in funding for improvements like additional gates, a new baggage system, and a future terminal projected for completion in the early 2030s. The Bond Election Advisory Task Force discussed infrastructure projects related to housing, transportation, and stormwater management, with public participation encouraged. Other topics included concerns over changes to neighborhood planning priorities, upcoming state legislation impacting neighborhood development, and the City Council's pending debate on flooding ordinance changes.

Fourth of July Planning – Joyce emphasized that it's time to kick off planning for our July 4th event. Chris Bove noted he would be happy to help with planning, and Joyce offered to help with tasks for the event. Megan and Ben also offered to help with the event. We are still in need of a chair as it's time to get our route defined, paperwork submitted, etc. Julie noted it would be worthwhile to ask our neighbors to participate in the planning.

Cell Tower Installation - We have a request to support a Jester neighbor, Carol Philipson, regarding the cell tower Firewise issue. Carol has shared that a 100-foot cell tower is being constructed near the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, raising concerns about wildfire risk, violations of city code, and potential harm to endangered species and migratory birds. Despite efforts to stop the project, Tower Ventures has broken ground, and critics argue it disregards local, state, and federal regulations, including the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act. The NWACA Board is being asked to approve an email from the NWACA President to City Council before Thursday at 10 a.m., urging a halt to the project, a full environmental review, and updates to wildfire, fire, and land development codes. Joyce made a motion to support Carol's request, and Kevin seconded; the motion passed.

Buy Nothing Boutique - Joyce brought up the concept of a Buy Nothing Boutique where neighbors can bring the things they want to get rid of and swap items. The idea was well received, but it might be a duplicate effort with all of the Facebook pages offering items for sale. Mary Pierce is a neighbor who is a good samaritan; she has a huge garage, and people donate items that Goodwill might not accept. She sorts it all and reaches out to families at the local schools and serves the most needy families in our area. She accepts monetary donations and items to help support her cause. We agreed that there could be an opportunity for NWACA to collaborate with Mary Pierce.

Announcements and Updates

- Mick Koffend funeral and reception – 1pm Saturday 2/22, St. Matthew's
- Library reopening is not likely until summer – maybe do an event like an Ice Cream Social, but we may want to think about something that's non-sticky or an art project.
- March 15 – Special project proposals due – What progress has Emmy made with Styrofoam recycling with Sandy Dochen?

Adjourn

Calendar Notes

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

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

Friedel Board Room, Dell Jewish Community Center

Annual Meeting: **March 26, 6:30 p.m.** (helpers there at 6:00) – Huffman Hall, St. Matthew's

Meeting adjourned at 8: 13pm. Minutes by Julie Waidelich, Co-Secretary.