

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
Dell Jewish Community Center, Friedel Board Room

Attendance: Bart Arnold, Carol Dochen, Megan Helmbrecht, Kevin Kott, Teri Schock, Joyce Statz, Julie Waidelich, Emmy Ward, Dana Winer, Mike Harreld, Naresh Kumar, Mae Levitan, Griffin Meroney

Notified Absences: Vicki DeWeese, Ben Luckens (proxy Joyce)

Unanticipated Absences: Chris Bove, Lori Steinberg

6:34 pm Call to order by Joyce Statz

Consent Agenda

Approval of March 2025 Minutes: Motion made by Naresh and second by Bart to approve the March minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership: 2025 target is 950; EOM March is 658, now over 700.

Financial Report

The balance sheet continues to be healthy. Joyce shared the P&L month and year to date. There were some annual and maintenance expenses in March.

NWACA is still searching for a treasurer; nominees are welcome. Two people responded to the NWACA Notes request for board of members, one of whom may be a potential treasurer candidate.

Old Business

Earth Day – Dana reminded our group of the event on Sunday, April 27th, from 2-4pm at Hill Elementary. Dana thanked everyone who signed up to volunteer at the event or loan 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. Carol, Mae (2), Griffin, Teri (2), Julie and a couple others will loan tables. Joyce has 8 chairs to loan. Naresh offered to host the Parks table in Teri's absence. Dana encouraged everyone to come out and support the event. Lynette, our publisher, will be there to take photos and has adjusted the due date for our newsletter to accommodate photos from the event.

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 calls to the existing Business Members to make sure they are aware of our Business Member campaign.

Annual Meeting (March 26) – There were 42 neighbors and 20 exhibitors with a great panel of presentations - Wildfire Division Chief, Austin Energy, Austin Water, Matt McCaw for Austin Parks, etc. Objective: Get people to come and hear what's happening in the community. Build community. People can get information without coming in person. Suggestion to have a social hour. Continue to have tables/displays? Resounding yes. Ideas for next year: door prizes/swag/silent auction with business members and food / food truck. Suggestion to use the Kogut terrace at the JCC. Make it accessible for families? This is not one of our kid-friendly events. Timing? Fall didn't result in better attendance. Market as social reception followed by speakers/tables with testimonials and ask previous attendees to tell their neighbors. Can we livestream or record the annual meeting? We tried on zoom and didn't get great attendance. It might enable more accessibility but discourage in-person attendance.

There was discussion about the various neighborhood newsletters in NW Hills. We would likely need to buy an ad to advertise our events. It was suggested to publish event dates along with helpful numbers on a magnet or flyer insert. Joyce will discuss with Lynette.

Property Tax Forum (April 9) – There were five attendees. Carol suggested putting out yard signs. We used to have a list of neighbors who agreed to put out yard signs; we should probably reinstate that. Board members are asked to send

additional suggestions to Carol. It may help to have the meeting earlier (beginning of March) before people have committed to a tax protest company. Next year we could run an article in the newsletter beforehand and list the different companies and their fees. It was suggested that we focus on sharing with neighbors that it's critical that as many neighbors as possible protest to help keep values in check.

Oak Wilt Fund – deferred to next month. Vicki spoke with our attorney for guidance, but could not be with us tonight.

Oak Wilt Request for Reimbursement – A neighbor who applied in 2018 has a recurrence and submitted an invoice for approval. Teri will look into getting an arborist to inspect the trees along Prickly Pear, since the neighbor indicated others have the problem, too. The current reimbursement limit is 40% up to \$2K per incident. Motion by Megan and second by Naresh to approve the expense. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Recruiting – Continue thinking about neighbors who would make good candidates.

Fourth of July – Chris, Lori, Megan, Joyce, and Amy Hajdu are on the team. Emmy offered to ask for NJHS volunteers at Anderson High School. We are still in the process of obtaining a permit for the event. As a reminder, we are not selling t-shirts this year, but plan to make last year's leftovers available on July 4th, for a donation..

New Business

Spring Block Parties – IKevin suggested that we move forward with a NWACA neighborhood gathering and consider hosting something between now and the end of June. We would let the block captains set the date for their neighbors. It was suggested that a Cinco de Mayo (Monday, May 5th) or Memorial Day gathering could be fun. Kevin suggested providing tips on photography so we have pictures worthy of publishing in our July newsletter. This is an event we would plan on hosting twice a year (spring and fall). Julie mentioned she used Sign Up Genius to invite neighbors and allow neighbors to sign up for a side or dessert. It was proposed that we offer hosts \$100 in reimbursement toward the cost of food, paper goods, etc. Each host would need to send photos and request reimbursement Motion made by Kevin and second by Teri to allocate the funding. Motion passed unanimously.

NW Hills Thanksgiving Turkey Trot – We explored options to coordinate this event in the fall. Last year, Walter Matthys coordinated the event and Julie has reached out to explore the possibility of collaborating with NWACA on this year's event. Julie will ask him to speak with us next month. Teri suggested getting Coach Mo to sponsor it.

Highlights from latest ANC meeting – No updates, since our attendees were at our Annual Meeting that night.

Other Business for the Board

Announcements and Updates:

- Request to Board Members: double post any NWACA FB item to NWA.

Next Board Meeting, **May 21, 2025**, 6:30 pm at JCC Friedel Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm. Minutes by Dana Winer and Julie Waidelich, Co-Secretaries.