

NWACA Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025 6:30 p.m.
Dell Jewish Community Center, Friedel Board Room

Attendance: Bart Arnold, Chris Bove, Jonathan Friedman, Ben Luckens, Megan Helmbrecht, Kevin Kott, Teri Schock, Joyce Statz, Dana Winer, Julie Waidelich, Mike Harreld, Emmy Ward

Notified Absences: Carol Dochen, Vicki DeWeese (Joyce proxy), Naresh Kumar (Joyce proxy), Lori Steinberg

6:32 pm Call to order by Joyce Statz.

Special Projects Presentation(s) - Allen Park Improvement Proposal by Caroline Alexander

Caroline has asked for \$1,500 to install a picnic table, including funds to build a base for it. Vicki DeWeese has proposed adding a sunshade, but Caroline anticipates the location adjacent to the tree line would provide ample shade. Caroline is going to research a poly-type table for durability. Kevin made a motion to approve the proposal, and Bart seconded it, with the understanding that there may be proposed changes to the type of table used. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Approval of September 2025 Minutes: Motion made by Kevin and seconded by Megan to approve the September minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership: The 2025 target is 950; EOM August was 785; a reminder was sent on 10/6; about 30 more have renewed since then.

Financial Reports

Files are posted in Google Drive. The balance sheet continues to be healthy. Household dues are slightly below target. Joyce reviewed the August expenses.

Old Business

Report on Election Forum

Dana reported that we had a successful online election forum focused on the City of Austin Tax Rate Election last week. Several neighborhoods are on the planning committee, and the forum was open to all Austinites. Speakers were in favor of and against the proposition. We ultimately had 179 people register and 63 attended. The forum was recorded and posted on the NWACA website under News and Events. Joyce has also put together a list of resources on Prop Q and on the State of Texas Constitutional Amendments that are on the ballot.

Zoning Updates

- 8905 Wildridge retirement housing case – Neighbors have been active, and the zoning case withdrawn.
- Overlook at Spicewood Springs Road – Ben checked on this; the site plan is under review, and several reviewers have rejected it; we'll have to keep checking back, since the reviews are not online. There is no neighbor input as it's an administrative site plan whereby the plan would be approved as long as they meet the requirements put forth.

Plans for National Night Out Block Parties

Kevin sent an announcement for fall block parties via our media, noting that NWACA provides a \$100 gift certificate. We have 15 people registered and 4 people have already hosted their events.

New Business

Discuss/vote on new Board Member Jerry Mankovsky

Lori Steinberg recommended Jerry Mankovsky, who is a retired doctor and long-time resident of Northwest Hills. He is interested in neighborhood watch, recycling events, wildfire prevention, oak wilt, etc. He suggested including a recipe column in our newsletter because he enjoys cooking in his free time. A motion was made by Dana and seconded by Kevin to invite Jerry to join the board. Motion passed unanimously.

ANC – report on recent meeting(s)

Bart reported that Leana Mann, Chief Appraiser for Travis County Appraisal District, had a couple of comments at the recent meeting. She mentioned a common misconception is that your property taxes can only increase 10%, but it's your appraisal that can only increase 10%. ANC officially opposes the Tax Rate Election, also known as Prop Q. Bart said he offered to put together a summary of the results of our survey and feedback on our process for ANC.

Planning for 2026

We entertained discussion about collaborating on activities with other organizations (such as Neighborhood Pantry), which provide resources to families in need. The founder, Mary Pearce, who runs the organization, collects money and other goods to help needy families in our neighborhood. Megan explored funds throughout our special project campaign, but it was not eligible, since our bylaws prohibit contributing to another non-profit. Teri mentioned that Mary could potentially post to the NWACA page if she was a NWACA member. It was also noted that we could provide a table for her at our Earth Day festival. Joyce and Megan will be brainstorming with one of Mary's collaborators about possible sources of support.

We discussed the Planning for 2026 document, and we set dates for major events, avoiding major happenings in Austin that could conflict for some. There was also discussion around creating a magnet (4" x 6") to remind neighbors of our key events and distribute these at our annual meeting. Mae is going to take a picture of her sample and send it to the board. We might create such a thing and distribute it at gatherings such as Earth Day and our Annual Meeting.

We also identified people to lead and staff some of the 2026 NWACA events, adding them to the Planning for 2026 document in our Google Drive.

Other Business for the Board

Neighborhood Garage Sales Sept. 27 - We had 12 sites in this year's Neighborhood Garage Sales vs. 22 last year.

Fall Recycling Event – October 18 - Recycling Event had 71 households; 7 new/renewing memberships (2024 117 households; 2023 103 households)

Discussion: how to identify ways to use oak wilt money for wildfire mitigation

Wildfire Mitigation Task Force will meet 10/30 for first time; Laura Yeager from D10 office will take part. Chris, Joyce, and Vicki volunteered to serve on the committee.

Proposal to change our meeting time for January 2026 through June 2026 to 6:30 PM on the First Tuesday of the month. Board approved.

Next month – consider – EOY gifts for Business Members.

Next Board Meeting, **November 18, 2025**, 6:30 pm at JCC Friedel Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm. Minutes by Julie Waidelich, Co-Secretary.