

WPNA General Meeting, 1-12-19

Memorial United Methodist Church

1. **Welcome:** President Dan Strub called the meeting to order at 10:12 am. Dan introduced the executive committee. Dan encouraged residents to apply for memberships/renew their memberships and consider sustaining memberships. Dan welcomed new neighbors. He thanked newsletter deliverers and sponsors of WOW.
2. **Citizen's Communication:**
 - A. **Martin Luecke:** Thanked everyone who donated to the refugee family that recently moved into our neighborhood. Refugee Services of Texas was very happy to hear what the neighborhood has done to help. If you are interested in helping this family, let Martin know.
 - B. **Gloria Neunaber** Windsor Park t-shirts and caps are for sale and benefit parks and the scholarship fund. Mostly large shirts remain.
 - C. **Amanda Rose:** Compliment Mary Alshire on speaking about the bus stop changes that happened at Gaston Place. Thank you for speaking up about this and helping create change, Mary!
 - D. **Jeanette Swenson:** Wednesday Jan 16, public input meeting for Pomerleau Park from 6-8 pm at the WP Library (1906 Patton Lane is where Pomerleau Park is)
 - E. **Emily Vitris:** Scholarship application for 18-19 will soon be posted online soon. Deadline is March 29, 2019.
 - F. **Gabriel from WP Library:** Library opened back up in November. Calendar of youth events can be found online, and Gabriel brought paper copies to the meeting. A survey will be sent out soon to understand what neighbors want to see at the library.
 - G. **Jackie Chandler:** Thank you for filling out the Neighborhood Wants and Needs survey. We have around 100 responses. Please encourage others to submit the form. If you'd like to distribute the survey to business, clubs in our neighborhood, etc. let Jackie know.
 - H. **Parent support person from Winn:** Winn Elementary- spring festival on March 30. Would like community to join us in the event.
3. **Yard of the Month:** Sara Jane Lee, didn't have a Yard of the Month for January. Please submit nominations. You can even nominate your own yard!
4. **Minutes from November 2018:** Motion was made to approve minutes and seconded. All were in favor.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report on the back of the agenda. Most of our money comes from memberships. Memberships ran from January-December. Please renew!
6. **AISD Commissioners:** LaTisha Anderson & Arati Singh

Arati outlined some of her initiatives for her time on the board. They include:

*equity *AISD budget *school finance reform *enrollment issues, particularly in WP

LaTisha: focused on student outcomes, LaTisha started at Overton and then went on to lead Blanton PTA

Questions from membership:

Q: How involved to you plan to be in the planning and development of the Mueller Middle School?

A: LaTisha wants to make sure that WP is involved in the planning committees for the new school. Arati would like to hear about specific programs you'd like to see at a new school. Residents wanted dual language (Spanish), consideration of fair boundaries, request of AISD board members to come to the Miller commission planning meetings. Arati would like for our schools to be able to compete with charter

schools and that can come from programming. Other ideas: STEAM programming, SEL programming, service opportunities and service learning.

Q: Can you speak about the closing of the magnet schools? How will that affect McCallum and Lamar?

A: We have not discussed the recommendations of the committee. We haven't discussed timelines. We are still in early stages of voting for the budget. We can't make a dramatic change for the next school year beyond December of the previous school year. The report was one of the first steps in determining the project. There will be plenty of opportunities for citizens to communicate your feelings on the report.

Q: Is there any chance that any schools will be closed that have not been identified? Including Bertha Sadler and Gus Garcia.

A: Arati will find out and get information back to the Executive Committee to share.

Q: Could we create a forum where PTAs all work together on something?

A: LaTisha recommended vertical meetings among the PTA presidents. Austin Council of PTA is the general body that governs the PTAs. Arati encouraged us to go to their meetings. Metric on Cruz's renewal is 96% of Austin schools will have an active PTA. Arati wants to expand the score card. For example: What are some of the things that would help us expand 96% Austin school PTAs? Translation services, for example. Parent support specialist positions need to remain.

Q: How can we be a part of legislative advocacy?

A: February 25- Texas PTA rally day. If you do one thing, show up on this day. It has a huge visual impact. Just Fund It TX- follow them on Facebook. Email Sonia, the advocacy chair on the Austin Council of PTAs and get added to the Google Group. You can receive the Make It Matter Mondays newsletter. Read the Texas Tribune.

Here's what we need: Increase the size of the pie. State needs more money put into public education. We're ranked 43 in public education funding. 40% of our taxes is going to recapture. (Robin Hood) Recapture payments are so high because as our property taxes increase, our enrollment drops. We have a 30-million-dollar budget downfall. We will be depleted in our savings in 3 years.

Q: Does Austin ISD have a foundation? How is that money allocated?

A: Austin Ed Fund is administered by the school district.

Arati encouraged us to go to the AISD website to track the progress of bond construction projects.

Other ideas: Marketing sports programs! Charters can't always compete with that. We need to understand what is causing families to leave and have a deeper understanding.

Q: How do you hold the district responsible for equity goals?

A: Persistency. Have the board focus on this issue. Be prepared for fall out. First- we need to have the conversation about equity.

Final thoughts: We love AISD. We offer more than charters. We take everyone in. We do better on test

scores than charters. We have equity issues like everyone else. We're going to make it through this, but we have to keep fighting and make tough decisions. We will make sure that the community is involved in the process.

Best way to contact LaTisha:

District1trustee@outlook.com

Best way to contact Arati:

aratisingh2@gmail.com

7. ANC membership discussion:

We can wait for a response to our letter, which was distributed in September.

We don't know if DANA is in or out yet for ANC membership.

Communications from new president have been fairly positive.

Chandler's ideas for his role: bridging relationships with our neighborhood associations, creating subcommittee of other east side neighborhoods, any other suggestions are welcome.

Is ANC the only game in town? Brian said that FAN seems to be the only organization like the ANC. Brian suggested we wait to see what happens.

What do our annual dues cost? \$60

Has ANC reached out to Chandler? Not yet.

Dan reminded us that we are not currently members of the ANC as of January 1. There were no motions made to change that status. Our letter was distributed at the October meeting and sent to the Chronicle and Statesman.

8. Audit committee: Dan would like to reappoint the audit committee: Sheryl Cheatham, Rebecca Carpenter and Alana Carpenter. Motion was made to reappoint the committee pending their acceptance to assist. Motion was seconded. All were in favor.

9. Sponsorship effort update: Jackie Brooks shared updated plan for sponsorships. We're looking for funding for WOW. Meghan Dougherty is coordinating the effort. We'll be making updates to sponsorships for the newsletter. Prices will be increased for all three levels of sponsorships. Want to extend previous rates to those who have sponsored before, so they can lock in pricing if they reach out by Feb 15. Expanding outreach: neighborhood businesses. Looking for recommendations by residents in the neighborhood. Collaborating with Revitalization Committee. Meghan updated current and previous sponsors on the changes in pricing. Martin spoke to how valuable and effective advertising has been through WOW for his business. Our WPNA retreat next month is going to be focused on fundraising. Consider promoting ads through our Facebook page. Profile businesses in our WOW, similar to the "Meet Your Neighbors" article.

10. Closing: Jeanette Swenson suggested we add to the duties of the VP to include involvement in sponsorships and to be a liaison to the contact team. Dan recommended we do this on an ad hoc basis. Brian Graham moved that the Vice President serve as a liaison to the contact team, on an ad hoc basis. Motion was seconded. 1 person opposed.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.