**WPNA Meeting**

**April 11, 2015**

President Karen Pagani called the meeting to order.

New neighbors introduced themselves.

Karen recognized newsletter sponsors and deliverers.

Karen passed around revised listserv guidelines and made announcements.

There will be a meeting on public transportation issues hosted by Greg Casar on April 13 at 7 pm at Gethsemane Lutheran Church at 200 W. Anderson Lane.

**Yard of the Month** – Sara Lee presented 5106 Ravensdale Lane. The Freburgs used a lot of drought-tolerant natives. They were unable to attend the meeting, but they will receive a $50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery.

**Minutes** – Minutes from the March meeting were approved, with amendments to name spellings.

**Ad Hoc Committees** – President called for authorization of continuation of our various committees (Parks, Schools, Yard of the Month, Safety, Transportation). Motion was passed, none opposed.

**Meet Your Neighbor** – Charters Wynn spoke on behalf of Martin Leucke – please nominate people who deserve a spotlight in the newsletter. This month our feature is Laurel Wilson.

**Austin Energy** – Carlos Cordova spoke.

New initiative: Community Solar Project – people who rent or live in apartments will be able to subscribe to solar power. Their partner is Tesla.

He presented the guiding principles for Austin Energy “Austin Energy resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2025”.

Austin Energy has said they will close the Decker Power Plant by 2018. They can only do it if they build a more efficient natural power plant. He contends that the plan was created by balancing all the needs of people in Austin. This neighborhood is low income.

He implied that they are focused on keeping energy costs down because affordability is an issue in Austin. Austin averages 918 kw hours of electricity use each month, much lower than surrounding communities.

He also mentioned that deregulation is not as efficient and that some of the deals that appear attractive initially could become more expensive. He contends that Austin Energy is accountable to the public in ways that deregulated energy companies are not.

The Fayette Power Plant – Austin Energy will retire its share. There is no money to decommission these plants.

**Austin Achieve School** - John Armbrust presented along with two parents and the principal.

It’s a public charter school. They have been adding one grade per year, they currently serve 6-8, and eventually will serve 6-12. They have data showing that students are outperforming students at other neighborhood schools, and they are helping to close reading gaps.

Class sizes are capped at 25. They emphasize safety as students are dismissed from the school, including staff monitoring on all the nearby streets and crossing guards.

One parent explained why she chose the school. The change of the neighborhood schools to a single sex was one reason she selected Austin Achieve because the boys’ school is so far away. She finds that it is a close-knit school. Another parent mentioned that she didn’t feel comfortable sending her children to her local school in Del Valle ISD. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions.

Charter schools don’t work with as many resources. Mr. Armbrust states that they had to break ground on the school faster than anticipated, which is one reason why he was not able to make contact with the community as quickly as he wanted.

He assured everyone that they are working on traffic issues quickly, and whenever a concern is brought to his attention he will fix it as fast as possible. He has shared his cell number with neighbors so they can contact him directly.

There was a concern from neighbors on Sweeney that these issues continue to happen and they are wondering why the leadership of the school is not making employees accountable.

A neighbor asked a question about the fact that there are sex offenders housed close to the school. Mr. Armbrust has communicated with Ora Houston about advocating with the state to move the sex offenders. Many neighbors communicated that the halfway house has been there for decades, and so the school should have known. He asked that the neighborhood and the school could work together to get the sex offenders moved. Another question about the plan for parking spaces? They have partnership with Region 13, and a church, to move construction parking.

Where do students come from? Most of the students are otherwise zoned to other AISD schools, which are schools that have been historically academically unacceptable.

Suggestion that the school needs to invite neighbors from Sweeney and create a plan together.

There was a question about whether the transportation loop could be revised, but Mr. Armbrust mentioned that they didn’t think it would be feasible.

**Listserv – Mark Boyden and Karen Pagani**

Two parts of the guidelines were posted on the listi in the last week – Part I was clarifications and reorganization. It included do’s and don’ts for list etiquette.

The second part is a revision to the guidelines as proposed by the executive committee. We explored what the moderation duties should include. Mark does not typically take postings down. We are exploring whether there are times that postings should be removed. There are times when individuals ask that a posting get taken down because it includes information shared by a third party, and the person felt attacked or shamed.

Comments from attendees: freedom of expression is an issue. People need to take responsibility for their posts, so to what extent does the moderator have to control conversations? Mark is authorized to remove postings.

Moderation usually takes very little time, unless there’s a flare up.

One point – the emails still go out before anything can be deleted, so they are not actually being censored. People will still be receiving these emails, and if needed they will be removed from the archives.

One suggestion – to remove postings if requested by the poster or the person named in the post if there’s a problem with the post (rude, defamatory, etc).

Mark currently gives private feedback whenever someone violates list guidelines.

Motion proposed to give the moderator discretion on moderation duties.

One proposal: to close the list so it can’t be searched on Google.

Some gray areas – a review of a business with whom you had a poor experience. Would this be something that should be moderated? A problem house where they are selling cars parked on the lawn? Identifying group homes?

Greg Casar spoke briefly about transportation and repeated the information about his meeting on Monday.

**51st Street Vision Plan** – Thursday April 23 at 6:30 pm at Maronite Catholic Church on 51st the City will be hosting a meeting. It will help make the street prettier, easier to navigate, and more pedestrian and bike friendly.

The money in the bond is not actually enough money for the whole cost.

Motion approved to give moderator power to make moderation decisions.

Meeting adjourned.