WPNA General Meeting

Sept 12, 2015

Karen Pagani, president, called the meeting to order

Recognized newsletter sponsors and deliverers.

Announcements – executive committee meetings will happen in November. Creating a nominating committee – Meg Brooks, Rick Krivoniak will serve as alternate, and Jane Churchill.

Pastor Lee – is offering to do a pancake fundraiser at the Austin Mennonite Church, Sat Sept 26 8-11, proceeds will go to the scholarship fund.

13 of the civil commitment residents have been removed from Burke’s Assisted Living recently.

**Austin Achieve** – the school has suggested a restrictive covenant to sign with the WPNA – the school could only ever be used as a school, non profit or park, whenever the school is sold in the future. According to the neighborhood plan, it is supposed to be higher density single family residential, so there might need to be changes made to the neighborhood plan. Suggestion for a special meeting called to have the discussion on the impacts and decision to creating a restrictive covenant.

**Monarch butterfly flyway** – runs along I-35. Jane Churchill suggested we plant milkweed in bare spots. Jane is calling for donations of small pots and soil.

**Yard of the Month** – Sara Jane Lee presented – 1406 Larkwood, Thomas Cleveland.

This yard was inspiration for another yard of the month, the Murphy’s, a few months ago. It’s a xeric landscaping. He will receive a $50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery.

Yard of the Month Committee needs a new photographer. Paul Licce is moving out of the neighborhood. Please volunteer!

**Open Positions** – We need a new safety chair and ANC representative. The ANC rep goes to the Neighborhoods Council once a month to tell us about resolutions. Brian volunteered to be ANC rep. Motion to elect Brian Graham as interim ANC rep. He was voted by the members, none opposed.

Safety Chair has a lot of leeway. They can organize neighborhood watches and follow up on safety issues. Promote National Night Out.

**Minutes** – minutes amended and approved as amended.

**Courthouse bond** – Motion to endorse the bond as a neighborhood, motion passed, none opposed. Brian made a request that the WPNA send a letter to the county judge and county commissioner.

**Speaker** – West Hansen – documentary maker.

Led a National Geographic Expedition to be the first to paddle down the Amazon from its newly found source. They started out at over 14,000 feet altitude, Montaro River. They went through several areas controlled by drug runners or pirates. They were supported in many places by the Peruvian or Brazilian militaries. They chronicled some of the illegal logging and burning as they paddled down the river.

Their documentary is currently being screened at several film fests in a variety of states. They got $35,000 from a grant from National Geographic, which was about 1/3 of the cost of the expedition.

We will try to do a screening locally of the documentary. Most of the people involved in the documentary are from Windsor Park. The website is at [www.theamazonexpress.org](http://www.theamazonexpress.org)

**Budget** – Ward Davison is absent, so we will not take a vote on it today.

**Mueller Update** – Friday Sept 18, public art showing located at Robert Browning. There will be family activities. 6:30-8:30

Strut your Mutt event – pet contests at Lake Park

Mueller Greenways Garden Tour – free. Tour demonstration gardens. Local garden experts will be there.

Oct 2 and 9 – Movies at the outdoor amphitheater.

National Night Out – Tuesday Oct 6. Saturday Oct 3 – event at the Mueller Hangar.

New Businesses – Halal Corner opened at the former Boneheads location. Gino’s Vino will be located in the Residence Inn Marriott. Loca de Oro – Italian restaurant moving in soon. Two new apartment complexes have just been announced, one will be 55 and older. There are currently no more lights planned for 51st street. The speed limit in Mueller is 30 mph, but there are some people going faster.

The 2nd swimming pool has been delayed, owned by Mueller’s Property Association. It will be open to the public.

Question about the trees in Mueller – several trees are dying/dead. Request that the Mueller Commission look into replacing dead trees. They will be replanting trees along the greenway. Within Mueller, the property owner’s association should be replacing the trees. People can call the Catellus office if they notice trees. Streets will get deeded back to the City of Austin, so the city will be responsible for caring for trees along some streets.

**Schools Update** – We have people on every CAC within our local public schools. We are also attending the monthly meetings led by Ted Gordon. Gordon is forming a subcommittee to look at inequities in LBJ and LASA.

**Eastside Trails** – Rodney Ahart reported on Eastlink, a proposal for a trail from Bartholomew Park running 4.7 miles. There are existing trails, but they need upgrading. They want it to be ADA compliant and multiuse (bikes, pedestrians).

They are currently conducting a feasibility study. Austin Parks Foundation will hopefully be able to secure some funding, along with PARD. People can vist [www.Eastlink.com](http://www.Eastlink.com) to learn more about the project. We could invite someone from Eastlink to present at our neighborhood meeting.

**Transportation Committee** – Rodney will present some of the responses from the survey. They had 272 responses which is a good representation of the neighborhood. Councilman Casar is gathering information on the transportation issues in the neighborhood. Rodney will present on the results at a later meeting.

**Contact Team** – Steve Speirs announced a meeting Monday, 6:30 Austin Library regarding upzoning for Harvard Square Apartments (Manor Road and 51st). They plan to develop upscale condos – 58 units. If you’re interested in learning more, please attend the meeting.

Concern about newer developments in the neighborhood, and a question whether we can hear more about these developments during neighborhood meetings. Karen requested that people contact her whenever they hear about new developments. Contact team only gets involved when there’s a change to the neighborhood plan.

Motion to authorize the executive committee to work on the restrictive covenant with Austin Achieve. Motion passed.

Early voting coming up for election day.

Sheryl Cheatham also volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

Austin Cornerstone church is offering a 10-week course on finances.

New neighbors introduced themselves.

Meeting adjourned.