WPNA General Meeting

October 10, 2015

Karen Pagani called the meeting to order.

New neighbors introduced themselves.

Karen recognized newsletter deliverers and sponsors. She asked deliverers to avoid putting the newsletters in the mailboxes, as this is a federal offense.

**Announcements -** $650 were raised by the Austin Mennonite church from a pancake breakfast fundraiser in September. The money will go to the scholarship fund for Reagan HS students.

Christmas party will be held a little later – possibly from 12-2.

Call for volunteers – They will be holding ESL classes for adults starting in January through Manos de Cristo. They need volunteer teachers. You can call the church if you’re interested in volunteering. Classes will probably be in the mornings. $40 fee for the class.

**Minutes** – Minutes were approved.

**Greg Casar** – Passed the budget. They allocated money to address the five most dangerous intersections in Austin and some money for pedestrian improvements. They will be installing 5 speed humps on Corona Drive. There will be a park north of Rundberg. There will be a committee meeting – Planning and Neighborhoods starting at 4 – discussing public schools. Analyzing data on the intersection of Cameron and 51st after the removal of the right turn lane.

**Nominating Committee –** Meg Brooks, Jane Churchill and Sheryl Cheatham. You can nominate today or on election day in November. We will vote for officers in November.

* Karen Pagani – volunteered to remain president.
* Charters Wynn – volunteered to remain vice president.
* Ward is stepping down – we need nominations for treasurer.
* Michael Tzaperas – has volunteered to run for secretary.
* Brian – volunteered to remain ANC rep.

Only members can vote. You must be a member for at least 30 days in order to vote.

**Yard of the Month** – Sara Jane Lee presented – The home is 2310 Rogge Lane. A very xeric yard. He will receive $50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery.

**Workers Defense Project** – Jessica Castilleja presented. They are a non profit located on Manor. They advocate for better working conditions, with a primary focus on the construction industry. It is a dangerous industry, but most workers don’t have health insurance. Texas doesn’t require workers compensation, so many who are injured have no way to pay for health care. Require living wage, OSHA safety training, workers’ comp. They have benefited about 8500 workers since they were founded. They are visiting the WPNA because communities have a lot of power. They are seeking our support by endorsing developers who want to sign better builder agreements and advocating with the city council. She asked us to share our vision for our neighborhood’s future. They’re in the process of tracking different projects across the city. If the neighborhood is alerted to mixed-use, large-scale development going on, ask the developers to sign on to the better builder agreements and get in touch with the Workers Defense Project. They are funded through various donors, foundations, and they provide fees for service for on-site monitoring. They are working with the city of Austin for permit reform, so developers who sign on to these agreements can be expedited through the process. If you’re interested in learning more, contact Jessica@workersdefense.org

**Elementary Schools** – Dora Molina, principal Blanton Elementary – she has most recently been at Burnet. She came back to Blanton this year. She requested some community members to join the CAC, next one October 22, and the meetings begin at 3:15. The Boo Fest will be on October 30. They will continue the 2-way dual language initiative. Enrollment is down by 58 students, which she ascribed to the lure of charter schools. Some students’ families are moving north for more affordable housing options.

Saleem Blevins, principal Andrews Elementary – He feels that they’ve received a lot of support from our neighborhood. He’s been at Andrews for 8 years as teacher and principal. They’ve been receiving facilities improvements under the bond program. There’s a technology initiative underway, 3 to 1 devices. They are focusing on literacy – they had a literacy night last week.

Monica Martinez, Harris Early College Prep – This is her 2nd year as principal. They’ve received many upgrades through the bond program. They are expecting an additional 250 new computers, the old computers will be moved to their parent room. They have 9 Google teachers who are using new technology applications in the classroom. They are always looking for volunteers. They have ESL classes on their campus in January and could use volunteers.

Blanton, Andrews, and Harris are all part of the LBJ vertical team (even though many of their students eventually go to Reagan).

Charter schools – enrollment is down 64 students at Andrews. They have 585 right now. Harris has 643 students right now. They usually see an influx from charters in November of students who return.

About 25% of Andrews students who didn’t re-enroll went to charter schools. The rest moved out of the district. Harris has a high transient population of migrants. Parents at Harris are opting to stay to continue to Sadler Means or Garcia.

They have both met standards.

Andrews CAC – first Wednesday of each month at 3:30. Harris – 2nd Tuesdays at 3:15.

Harvest Festival – November 19th at LBJ

**Budget** – Vote on the next year’s budget. One correction - we give $300 to the Methodist church as a donation. Meg Brooks will help Ward finish out the year.

Budget was approved.

**Transportation survey results** – Someone from the transportation committee will come to a future meeting.

**ANC** – Brian Graham presented. Sheryl Cheatham has been nominated as treasurer for the ANC. Our new region 3 delegate is Sammy Easterland and lives in Coronado Hills.

CodeNext is redrafting the city’s development standards. There will be a major conference starting November 16. Brian is recommending a special committee to be involved in CodeNext, perhaps a joint committee with the contact team.

There’s a new program called Swim 512 – asking the city what kinds of aquatics programs to offer, and they’re calling for input.

The City Council will be hearing about short term rentals and driver services like Uber next week.

We will try to get a CodeNext representative at one of the upcoming Windsor Park Neighborhoods.

**North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition** – There are about 18 neighborhoods total involved in this organization. Rick presented a resolution asking TXDOT for a plan regarding the upper decks, which includes an analysis of benefits of removing of the upper decks. The neighborhood accepted the proposal, so WPNA will draft a letter to support the resolution.

Milkweed planting – we’re trying to get a representative from the Wildflower Center to attend an upcoming meeting to inform us how we can do more planting for milkweed a larval host for monarch butterflies.

Meeting adjourned.