

WPNA Meeting Minutes

Memorial United Methodist Church, April 13, 2019

1. **Welcome:** Dan Strub called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. Dan welcomed new neighbors. We acknowledged newsletter sponsors and recommended that we support those who support our WOW (Window on Windsor). Carousel Lounge and Sterling Events are two new sponsors, please be sure to thank them and returning sponsors for supporting our neighborhood. Thank you to our newsletter deliverers.

2. **Citizen's Communication:**

- A. **Emily Sawyer:** Regarding closure and consolidations progress, programming changes and reinvention of the AISD, Dobie and old Allen Elementary School will be hosting meetings for the public. Online link for the equity officer position that the district is considering. Go and share your opinion: do we need this position? How should the role be structured? For more information, see Emily Sawyer. New middle school meeting is Wednesday, April 24 at Seton's Administrative Offices from 6-7 pm. School is planned to open in August 2022.
- B. **Jeanette Swenson:** Andrews Elementary School press conference last week. Gabriela Soto was dismissed from her position as principal. Multiple grievances were filed against her. Request for a complete investigation and removal of Ms. Soto from her position, public apology by the President of the School Board, etc.
Please sign the card for Andrews at the back table to show your support.

Tips for handling ICE: Don't need to open your door, remain silent, don't give any info or sign anything, report and record and fight back by reporting ICE to appropriate personnel.

- C. **Amanda Rose:** May 4 is the 13th Annual Austin Botanical Herb Day. 6200 Manor. Please attend this event, starts in the morning and continues throughout the afternoon.
- D. **Jeanette Swenson:** Parks will be at the Block Party. Plenty of opportunities to sign up and get involved. Monday, April 22 from 5:30-7, final park planning party at Pomerleau Park. Following this session, the plan will go to PARD. Potluck party bring a chair or blanket.

Bartholomew Park: April 27 from 9-12pm, mulch will need to be moved and repainting the Learning Trail. Please come, volunteer.

- E. **Rick Krivoniak:** Owner of the property on 6203-5-7 Berkman is looking for local partner to develop business at that location. The owner has moved out of state.
- F. **Selwyn Polit:** Extinction Rebellion is planning event soon, info on FB page.
- G. **David Butts:** Trump administration is eliminating penalties for accidental killings of migratory birds. Let your congress people know you're concerned, contact the oil industry in Texas and ask what they are doing regarding this situation.
- H. **Block Party** has been postponed until Sunday from 1-5 pm.

3. **Yard of the Month: Sara Jane Lee**

Yard of the Month goes to Sue Koon on Mapleleaf. Sue receives a \$50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. Been in their home for 52 years. They were the second winner of Yard of the Month over 15 years ago. Daisies, roses, and iris are blooming.

4. **Approval of Minutes, March 2019:** Motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. All in favor.

5. **Treasurer's Report: Meg Brooks**

Thank you, Meghan Dougherty, for getting sponsorships, especially for the Block Party. Treasurer's report is on the back of the agenda. Meg is looking to retire from her position as Treasurer for next year. Looking for volunteers who would be interested in this role.

6. Bruce Elfant: Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector

Collects property taxes, motor vehicle registration, and renewals. Why do property taxes, motor vehicle registration, and voter registration go together? Answer: All three functions are revenue producing. Spoke about the Secretary of State request to look at illegal voters in Texas. Bruce has called for an outside investigation about what happened with DPS, Secretary of State. Only 12 out of 254 counties sent out letters to those on the list who were said to be illegal voters. Secretary of State cannot require the counties to do something, only can provide guidance.

40 states allow their voters to register online and we're one of the states that don't. Online registration is more cost-effective and data is much more accurate. VDR (Volunteer Deputy Registrars) program (5800 volunteers) who registered over 100,000 voters. 62% voter turnout in our last election. If you want to help register voters, there are several trainings coming up.

2020 will be the first time we won't have straight ticket voting. Bruce is concerned about people being educated on who they are voting for with this change. Vote early in the 2020 election. Predicting 600,000 votes being cast in Travis County. Wait time map on their website. Vote first weekend of early voting is the best time to go.

7. AISD Schools Resolution & Andrews Elementary Update: Meghan Dougherty

AISD is facing a budget shortfall. Looking at our neighborhood schools and how disadvantaged our schools can be, we wanted to issue a statement encouraging AISD to be thoughtful during the school closure process. Brian Graham moved that we adopt the resolution on the floor. Gloria Neunaber seconded. Discussion on the resolution began.

Emily Sawyer suggested we revise 3C and 3C(i) by bringing them together. Motion to amend by adding a fifth bullet point, "Whereas 52.4% of AISD students are concerned economically disadvantaged and school consolidation and reassigning has a negative effect on the students and their families; Add to point 2, "...Equity should be the first consideration.... and no more than 52.4% of students experiencing school consolidation or closure should be economically disadvantaged." Motion to move the previous question. Seconded. Motion failed. 7 in favor, 7 opposed. Dan Strub broke tie and discussion continued. Point 3: Edit to read, "Enrollment as a percentage of capacity. Change word criteria to criterion."

Motion

to allow editorial authority to Schools Committee was made and seconded and passed.

8. WPNA Climate Change stance: Martin Luecke

Brian Graham asked to strike reference to "Green New Deal"

Barrett Sundberg provided an amendment to the strike. **This amendment can be viewed in current version of the resolution. Link is below.**

Jackie Brooks requested that we spend more time discussing the points in the resolution before voting to

adopt it. Amendment at end of the first bullet from David (last name) to read following *sprawl*, add "Slow" the rate of reform the land use code, taking in the consideration of neighborhoods and the effect of density." Motion made by Jackie Brooks to table discussion on this topic until the May meeting.

Motion

was seconded. Motion carried 13 to 7. The discussion will be held at the start of the meeting in May.
To see the resolution where it currently stands, use [this link](#)

9. Closing: Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting ended at 12:18 pm.