

WPNA Minutes

10 am, Memorial United Methodist Church

April 8, 2017

I. **Welcome:**

Meeting was called to order at 10:09 am by President Meghan Dougherty. New members and attendees were welcomed. Newsletter deliverers were acknowledged. Sponsors were thanked and acknowledged. Donors to the scholarship fund were thanked. The scholarship winners will be announced next month. Meghan encouraged all attendees to sign the thank you cards in the back of the room for each of the schools in our neighborhood. Remember that Teacher Appreciation week is the first week in May. Let's show our support to the amazing teachers who work with our neighborhood children.

II. **Minutes:** Brian Graham moved to adopt the minutes from March. Dan Strub seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. **Yard of the Month:** The winner this month, Lacey, works for the National Wildlife Foundation. Purchases plants at the Lady Bird Wildlife Plant Center. Lacey received a \$50 gift certificate at Shoal Creek. Sara Jane Lee reminded the WPNA that May 6 is the Inside Austin Gardens Tour and a home on Ridgemont is going to be featured.

IV. **Homelessness in East Austin:** Greg Casar, Councilmember from District 4, came to speak about homelessness and answer questions from the WPA.

What to do if you see someone in distress/homeless on the street?

How does medical care work for homeless people?

Does the city help the homeless understand their rights as veterans? Help with Medicaid or Medicare?

What are current programs sponsored by the city to help the homeless?

If you have additional question for Councilman Casar, please email him.

V. **Immigration Issues:** Karen Crawford, attorney and former WP resident

What is different now? Enforcement priorities don't exist anymore- convicted felons and regular residents are being sought out. Anyone seeking asylum will be detained. There are several detention centers located outside of Austin. Bonds have increased and many families are unable to come up with that money. 51 people were detained recently in Austin and 28 of those were non-criminals.

Karen left fliers at the meeting with numbers to call if you know someone who needs help.

Get information before you have trouble with immigration. There are immigration forums and legal consultations happening around town. These forums can give you information on how to stay in the country and see a judge.

How can we help? Karen encouraged residents to record and report anything they see.

Please tell representatives not to vote for SB4. Who is funding the detentions? Federal funded. Chito Velo will be at the block party if you have any additional questions about immigration.

VI. **Treasurer's Report:** Meg Brooks reported that \$110 was spent on the brochure. Newsletter was 14 pages this week and cost \$1100. Memberships are way up and we hope to get more membership at the block party.

VII. **President's Update:** Strategies for WPNA for 2017 were in the monthly newsletter for April. Please give us feedback on these strategies and your ideas. How do we engage with the entire neighborhood?

VIII. **Committee Reports:**

Sidewalks: Margaret Dahl

Resolutions can be found on page 7 of your newsletter (WOW)

How were the streets chosen? A survey and then a workshop and a follow up survey.

Priorities were based on city regulations.

An amendment to the resolution was proposed. It was to remove Sweeney Lane from the proposed resolution: 24 for the amendment, 0 opposed, 7 abstained. Amendment passed.

Resolution is passed as amended and will be sent on the city of Austin.

Parks: Jeanette Swenson

Jeanette will be at the Block Party to answer questions about parks.

Funds in treasury for the shadescape project: \$3600 from first fundraising mission

We need to raise: \$20,000 to cover large playscape

Cover swings: \$14,000

Cover swings and playscape: \$37,500

Do we declare the project complete without finishing?

Brian made a motion to cover swings and playscape and fundraise for the next year and see where we are at. Designate time, funds and resources to cover swings and playscape with a shade at \$37,500. Prioritize shade for playscape and swings is the second priority in fundraising and reevaluate funds in a one year. All were in favor, none opposed and no abstained.

IX. **ANC resolutions: Brian Graham**

Two resolutions for the neighborhood association to consider

1. Ask Highway Dept. to remove signs from the cities highways (the signs that say where fast food restaurants are located). The resolution was not voted on.
2. DNA Lab: Ask them to do something immediately regarding the backlog of 2,500 DNA assessments.

Motion to support the second amendment on DNA lab.

This resolution criticizes the way the city has handled this matter and requests that the city take immediate steps and communicate with us as to what's being done.

Motion was passed, none opposed or abstained

CODE NEXT maps come out on April 18. Zilker Park newsletter has info on Code Next.

Brian brought copies of the Zilker newsletter to share. The map will be online soon.

X. **Announcements & closing:**

Safety committee: Elaine Bohls reminded everyone to fill out survey if you haven't already. It is available online. <http://goo.gl/forms/AirNugB6NBd5xTbw1>

Elaine Bohls left information at the back table on how to report burglaries, our district reps, crime prevention information, tips on handling solicitors, giving suspect descriptions, calling 911. The next safety committee meeting is April 13 at 6:30 at the WP library.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 11:39 am. Meeting adjourned. Come to the Block Party!

