**WPNA Meeting Minutes**

**Memorial United Methodist Church**

**6/9/18**

**I. Welcome:** Meeting was called to order at 10:14 am. We welcomed new neighbors, thanked newsletter deliverers and sponsors. Please don’t forget to renew your membership for 2018. Please mention to the businesses that you frequent that you saw them in WOW. It makes a difference!

**II. Citizen’s Communication:**

***Mount Sinai church***: Will be moving in the next year to Cameron Road and Rutland.

***Martin Luecke:*** Looking for suggestions for WOW neighbor interviews. Martin is running for Congress as an independent candidate. He’ll be hosting an event at Nomad from 2-6 pm next Saturday for signatures. Please consider attending!

***Jeanette Swenson:*** June 1 we were awarded Master Plan grant for Pomerleau Park. Without the Master Plan, it would be hard to develop the park. Thanks to Jordan for all her work! This will be an 8-10 month process with opportunities for public comment. August 9, the bond will be finalized. Any advocacy you can do on behalf of the park is appreciated.

**III. Yard of the Month:** Sara Lee presented Yard of the Month. Jeanette Burke on Larkwood has been in her house for 21 years. Every year she has replaced more of the grass with xeriscape. Most of the plants were given to her by neighbors and friends, very few were purchased. She shovels up plants for neighbors who walk by and compliment the yard. Gardening is form of meditation for her. Some of her plants remind her of New England. She will receive a $50 gift card from Shoal Creek Nursery. Thank you to Gary Lockhart who does our YOM photos- see them on the website.

**IV. Minutes from May:** Motion made to approve minutes as amended. All in favor.

Amendments: Check with Conor on Chicon being listed under CodeNext discussion. Why was Chicon listed? Add names of scholarship winners under item II.

**V. Priorities for the City of Austin: Spencer Cronk, City Manager**

Mr. Cronk’s background: Grew up in Minnesota, Madison Wisconsin for undergrad, worked at National Community Development Institute in California, then moved to NY and worked in the public sector. Worked for Department of Small Business Services. Met his husband and then moved back to Minnesota and began work for Governor of Minnesota. Mayor of Minneapolis called and asked him to become City Manager for Minneapolis for four years. Brian Manley was appointed Police Chief yesterday. CodeNext, police contracts and the budget are all areas he is going to be working on.

Three questions for the community:

1. What do you want to retain about your community? What do you see that needs to change?
2. What gives you hope about Austin?
3. General advice?

***Discussion:***

\*Retaining small businesses poses challenges (example: Gus’ Garage, a hot rod shop. This business is unique and important to our neighborhood. )

\*Business owners: please communicate your direct challenges with the Mr. Cronk

\*APD six shooting of the year, overly aggressive attitude, steps being taken to change that culture? Manley is working on five key areas- one of them includes training of officers. Will there be a change in officer recruitment? Short answer, yes.

\*New growth, plus strain on previous development. Our fire station is one of the busiest in the city.

\*Dispersing money from bonds took about 7 years for our neighborhood pool. Once money has been dispersed, costs for the projects have increased and the money allocated is not enough.

\*High property taxes, concerns from residents about being able to stay in their house because of taxes.

\*Being ahead of what we need to be doing- what are we going to be doing about our infrastructure? Sewage could be an issue. Consider the idea of using water twice? How can we improve the system we have, not just maintain it?

\*We value diversity in this neighborhood. We value the sense that “it’s our city.” Lots of tension between the volunteer community and the staff at the Animal Center, for example. Want a welcoming spirit in this city.

\*51st St bond passed in 2012, and that project hasn’t been done yet.

\*Stewardship of our resources, uniqueness of the people, our vibrant neighborhood, unprecedented growth. As development happens, pockets are taxed, please make sure that all of this pays for itself. Developments should be able to pay for themselves. How do we reinvest in ourselves before we invest in others?

**VI. ANC Q&A: Jeff Jack, president of ANC**

JJ: We are interested in making sure that you have a voice in your future. All neighborhoods are different. The ANC is here to help you do it.

What is the most valuable thing that the ANC provides to people? Experience. Because if it hasn’t happened in your neighborhood, it’s happened in someone else's. We can learn from one another.

We took time for Q & A and membership voiced concerns about recent happenings in the ANC, specifically around the exclusion of specific neighborhood associations. We decided to table discussion on the matter of remaining in the ANC until September.

**VII. Diane Dee, developments at the convenience store at Westminster**

New convenience store wanting to sell beer and wine.

Clients will be putting in potted plants to make the area more aesthetically pleasing

Employees: 5-6, Hours will likely be until 10 pm. They will still open if they don’t get their license for wine and beer. Clients are Rayan International, Inc., name is Alvin Mommin. They own Lakeway Market.

What percentage of sales will be alcohol? (30-40%) Will there be a license to prohibit the sale of individual alcohol consumption?

If you have additional questions: please call 512-669-2860, Diane Dee. They will apply for the zoning change very soon. This zoning change will be attached to the property, so when the property is sold, the license will go to the next buyer.

Motion made to oppose the zoning change and the TABC permit to allow alcohol at that location: 1 abstaining and 1 opposed, the rest of the voting members were in favor.

Emily V will write up the motion and send it to our council members this week.

**VIII. Treasurer’s Report: Meg Brooks**

Treasurer’s report was printed at the meeting. Nothing new to report.

**IX. Closing**

Brian Graham made a motion to postpone discussion on ANC to September. 2 were opposed, no abstaining and all rest in favor.

Motion was made to adjourn at 12:13 pm.