

WPNA meeting minutes, September 9, 2017

Memorial United Methodist Church, 10 am

- I. **Coffee Chat:** Coffee and donuts available- feel free to bring snacks to share
- II. **Welcome:** Meghan Dougherty called the meeting to order at 10:11 am. Meghan welcomed new neighbors. We thanked newsletter sponsors and donors. Meghan also acknowledged our newsletter deliverers. With 16,000 residents within our boundaries, there is much ground to cover. Thank you also to WP members. Remember- membership does give you voting privileges.
- III. **Citizen's Communication:**

Upcoming events: Please come support the Oct 7 pancake breakfast from 8-11 am at the Austin Mennonite Church. Proceeds benefit the WP Scholarship Fund. Social bike ride, hosted by the WP Social Committee, on Oct 7 is happening at 10:30 am. Departure from the Austin Mennonite Church. 5:30 pm happy hour on Sept. 12 at Cenote. Hosted by the Revitalization Committee and the Social Committee.

Greg Hitt: 459th New District Court. Running for judge. General/civil jurisdiction court.

Mary Aleshire: Mary spoke about a sidewalk concern at Briarcliff and Berkman. Meghan encouraged Mary to email the transportation committee and call 311.

Rick Krivoniak: Sept 14 Aldrich Street opening, 7-9 pm

Brian Graham: Voiced a concern about the Memorial Methodist Church and a relationship with the city regarding traffic flow.
- IV. **Minutes from August:** Change Chito Rivero to Chito Velo. Motion was made to approve minutes. Minutes were approved.
- V. **Yard of the Month:** 1311 North Ridge Drive; Michael & Laura Alley. A gift certificate to Shoal Creek Nursery for \$50 will be presented. Please support Shoal Creek Nursery!
- VI. **Caring for herbs and native plants:** Becky Engel, Wildflower Center & Jenny Perez, American Botanical Council
Becky encouraged the neighborhood to schedule a group tour to the Wildflower Center. Monarch migration is happening! Monarchs will be here in October. Becky described some of the native plants you can grow in your own backyard. Texas Milkweed and Gregg's Mistflower are both great flowers to attract butterflies. October and late September is the best time to put the bluebonnets in. Don't plant them among other plants. They can be blooming right now! Plant for sequence! Rock Rose will bloom now. Pride of Barbados and Esperanza are blooming now too. Yaupons are great for winter time. They have berries and great white bark.

Jenny Perez, also encouraged the neighborhood to come tour the facility. They are known for the journal called the *Herbalgram*, published four times a year. First Saturday of spring that have an annual herb sale. They are open to the public Monday-Friday. They have demonstration gardens. Each plant has a story about being a food or medicine. They have an internship program for students at UT. Self-care through diet, gardening, and plants. Members is 70 countries. They don't do primary research at the council. They also offer tours for elementary schools. Scratch and sniff tours. Mesquite bean tree makes flour! Two good resources if you want to know more: "Grow it, Heal it" & "Growing 101 Herbs that Heal".

Q&A: Parasites on monarchs- something to be concerned about? Becky didn't think so. We referenced an article in the WOW newsletter.

What's happening to the house next to the ABC? Mark Blumenthal's son-in-law is the official owner and this property is currently being rented. If you have further questions please don't hesitate to contact Jenny or Mark Blumenthal.

Tours of the American Botanical Gardens need to be scheduled, guided tours for groups of seven or more. Wildflower Center will have a fall plant sale. They also have courses offered to the community, like Yard Maintenance and Pest Management. See their website for more information.

Events for families at the Wildflower Center? The family garden is amazing! It's not a "do-not-touch" garden. Plenty of plants to touch, things to climb, caves, etc.

Windsor Park Community Garden: Seven beds are available for rent. Discounted rate of \$30 for the remainder of this year. Garden beds are located behind the Mennonite Church. They also need help in getting water to their garden. If anyone has ideas, please connect with Larry Abraham.

VII. **AISD Bond Resolution:** Juan Pablo Martinez

The School Committee is asking that the neighborhood express support for the bond. We discussed the proposed resolution. Juan Pablo will make a few revisions and the resolution will be voted on at next meeting and posted on the WP website for review. Included in the revisions should be language that we support the bond, but we believe AISD still has much more to do to ensure equity, especially in east Austin schools.

VIII. **Bylaw Changes:** Dan Strub

Highlights: Deleting voting membership limitations, Article 3, Section 2.A; adopting differing dues for regular members, students, family memberships, etc. Article 3, Section 3.D; Officials-deleting ANC from Article IV, Section 3.A and adding "One or more intra-neighborhood organizations delegates; Article V, Section 1: Adding "A budget for the upcoming year shall be voted on by the membership no later than the regular November regular meeting"; Article VIII: delete additional standing committees.

All proposed changes can be seen on the Bylaws document which was distributed at the meeting. Those in attendance discussed the proposed changes. Proposal to change inter instead of intra on page 3; Article IV, Section 3 and throughout the document. Motion to accept the changes with the amendment of changing inter to intra. Motion passed. No opposed and none abstaining.

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

Two of the scholarship checks have cleared. Newsletter was 1265.00 this month, the most we have spent on a newsletter. We added an extra page to this month's newsletter. We still need a sponsorship coordinator. Please let Meg know if you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer. Meg reported 350 members.

X. **Committee Reports:** No committee chairs were present, aside from Juan Pablo Martinez, who presented earlier in the meeting.

XI. **Nominating Committee:** Meghan Dougherty

Nominating committee was presented: Rick Krivoniak, Alana and Jeanette Swenson. The nominating committee was voted on unanimously by membership. They will present a slate of candidates for office to the WPNA.

XII. **ANC Bylaws:** Brian Graham

Brian reported on proposed changes to the bylaws.

Significant change: in order to clarify that there is no such thing as automatic admission for membership, the language for that has been struck. This means that no one is considered for admission by anyone but the executive committee. Brian is requesting that we discuss, debate and vote on this proposed change. Mark made a motion that the WPNA oppose the change and support a set of requirements that would let any neighborhood association be a member. Dan seconded the proposal. 1 opposed; all others in favor. Motion passed.

XIII. **Closing:**

Brian Graham reminded people about the Contact Team meeting on September 11 at 6:30 at the library.

Letter to AHA! follow up:

Meg Brooks reported that Friends of Briarcliff is working on a letter that they will send themselves.

Motion was made to adjourn at 11:41 am.