**WPNA Meeting Minutes**

**August 11, 2018**

**Memorial United Methodist Church**

**I. Welcome:** Meghan Dougherty called the meeting to order at 10:11 am. We welcomed new members and visitors. Meghan also thanked the newsletter sponsors. We thanked newsletter deliverers. Meghan reminded everyone to become a member, especially today, so that you can be eligible for the $50 Hanks gift card.

**II. Citizen’s Communication:**

A. Vincent Harding: Running for City Council, District 1. Lives in University Hills. Asking for your support.

B. Judi Rockman: Two signs taken from her front yard. Encourage new yard signs to be made for neighborhood.

C. Lee Lever- Pastor of Austin Mennonite Church. Boots, Buckets and Barrows event to support disaster relief in Texas, 7 pm, on August 11, at 5801 Westminster.

D. Martin Luecke: Running for Congress and looking for submissions for Meet Your Neighbor.

**III. Yard of the month:** 1304 Corona, Kelsey & Heath Robinson. Winners of $50 gift card to Shoal Creek. Looking for nominations for Yard of the Month!

**IV. Minutes:** Motion was made to approve July minutes, seconded and all were in favor.

**V. James Withrow, presenting a resolution regarding bus stop along 51st Street.** Motion was made to approve the resolution on the 300 Route between Manor Road and Berkman Drive. We will send the resolution on to Cap Metro.

**VI. Treasurer’s report:** Dan, in Meg Brook’s absence, presented Treasurer’s Report on the back of the agenda.

**VII. Ann Howard, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)**

**\*Ann Howard was unable to attend the meeting. We spent the time in an open discussion about the homeless. Our questions and comments are below. Ann would like to attend a future meeting. Meghan will reach out to the organization with our questions.**

Barrett: shared about a Homeless meal program that is happening in the neighborhood. MICAH 6 program.

Questions on homelessness: Greg Cesar- coalition on working on homelessness. Does this exist? What is the city doing about it?

What is ECHO’s focus on working to end homelessness? What is the root cause? The best way to attack the issue?

Nextdoor conversation about 183 and Cameron: trash & littering and population of homeless.

Volunteer opportunities: what is the best way to volunteer, not just with ECHO, but other organizations? Which organizations are best to support volunteers and where could we find that information?

ECHO needs volunteers during their annual point and time count- homeless census count. How do people get involved?

Where do we stand with group homes? One on Gaston Place is gone. What has happened to the large group of people who have lived there? On Greenbrook- there was a home and everyone just disappeared. There was an effort to communicate with the home owners and no one could find a point of contact.

University Hills and Windsor Park: Joann Barts was a contact for that effort. The neighborhoods tried to understand how group homes were registered and regulated. We tried to find a contact within the city of Austin. Did the real estate market pick up these group homes?

Another good organization: Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Vincent Harding mentioned First UMC downtown from 5-7 am and their program to feeding the homeless. They give haircuts and clothing as well as food. There is a plan where the city is working with city businesses, targeting 30M a year to look at homelessness from a holistic approach. How do we connect with existing organizations and build those connections? Affordability housing bond coming up this fall. With the last housing bond, we obtained a 7:1 leverage ratio. Part of the bond money would be used for land acquisition and constructing affordability housing.

How does Austin compare to other cities in terms of homelessness?

**VIII. Mayoral Candidates: Laura Morrison & Steve Adler**

***Ms. Morrison*** shared some of experiences on City Council. Masters in math, Graduate certificate in Public Health. President of ANC, doubled the number of neighborhood associations that were members of the organization. Partnered with WP to develop Bartholomew Pool. Partnered with Regan and AISD, you can get PE credit while being certified as a life guard. Chair of Community Advisory Committee of Forklifts. 3-fold priorities: affordability, mobility and restoring trust in city hall. Lauraformayor.com

Where has trust been lost in City Hall? CodeNEXT, input was continually invited and then ignored. People aren’t feeling welcome in City Hall. We need to be a city that has civil dialogue.

Do you think tax breaks ever have a place? Yes. I was leery on tax breaks but when I joined council, the tax breaks weren’t transparent (2008). We’re talking about a tax break with the soccer stadium, the amount seems unprecedented.

What would you tell Amazon? You’re welcome to come here, but I wouldn’t incentivize it in any way.

What are your thoughts on protecting small business? There are ways to be able to help small business, in terms of permitting.

***Mayor Adler.*** Discussed accomplishments during his term***.*** Immigration: Austin stepped forward to promote the Sanctuary City issue. We led on Senate Bill 4 in the legislature and the court. LGTBQ: bathroom bill, Austin held in front. Climate control: the 10-1 council has doubled in solar energy, closing a coal plant. Anne Hidalgo, mayor of Paris & President of C-40. Asked Austin to host the international meeting in 2020 for C-40.

Adler’s Focus: affordability and mobility

How do you deal with the different attitudes within neighborhood? CodeNext debate is a good example. Austin Bargain. Developing density on corridors and not inside the neighborhoods. It was apparent when CodeNext came back to the council in June, we needed to find common ground and didn’t feel good deciding the issue on a 6-5 vote. It’s going to take residents stepping forward to say “Let’s talk about the substance of these issues.”

Amazon letter: posted on the website, no secret conversations. Adlerforaustin.com

**IV. Closing:**

Mark Boyden won the $50 gift card at Hanks. Hanks gave 5- $50 gift cards for our block party and we had one left to raffle off!

Come to Contact Team meetings! New projects developing and we need your input.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am.