August 8, 2015

WPNA Meeting

Ward Davison called the meeting to order.

**Announcements** – Drive a Senior – Laurel Wilson requested more volunteers to drive. You can sign up online as well.

**Newsletter** – recognized deliverers and sponsors

New neighbors introduced themselves.

**Listserv Moderator** - Brett Spangler has volunteered to be the new listserv moderator. We are very excited to have him join us.

**Yard of the Month** – Sara Lee – 1400 Cloverleaf Drive, Sally Partridge and Chris

**Proposal on Bond for Courthouse** - Genevieve Van Cleve Civil and Family Courthouse. The docket is growing, and the current courthouse on 11th and Lavaca is overcrowded. The victims are too often finding themselves sitting next to their perpetrators.

November 3 – bond election.

This will cost $3.50 a month ($42 a year). This is a 20-year bond. There is a higher homestead exemption for seniors and taxes dropped by 6% this fiscal year to try and make room for this project. It will be on the south side of Republic Park. It’s currently a parking lot, owned by the government.

It will take about 4 years to build this building. It will be 14 stories tall. They are working closely with the park board to make sure that it won’t block the sunlight in the park. There will be four levels of parking under the building. They plan on charging for the parking on evenings and weekends. They like this location because it is central and easy to get to. The original courthouse will be restored and continue to be used even after this new building is built.

Motion to place the issue on the agenda.

**Minutes** – minutes from July were approved as written.

**Bike Austin** – Miller Nuttle Community street safety forum in District 1. Councilmember Houston has asked that they get community input. They’ve heard that there is a need for a conversation in East Austin about how streets are utilized. They are getting input from neighborhoods, and looking for neighborhood support to hold a forum.

They’ve gotten a grant from TXDoT to educate bicyclists on safe riding. They’re also working to include more education for motorists through the DMV.

Motion to support the forum as an organization, none opposed. Motion passed.

**ANC Resolutions** – Complaint that the executive committee needs to listen to the general meeting regarding ANC resolutions. Motion to add the charter school resolution to today’s agenda. Passed.

There was a concern that the executive committee is taking away the decision making from the general membership. It was explained that the executive committee was trying to simplifying the resolution process, but not remove the power of the organization to vote on the ANC resolutions.

There was a question about Friends of Austin Neighborhoods – concern about their procedures, whether the executive committee is being influenced by this new organization.

Some people do not want information communicated through electronic communication solely.

Concern that the executive committee is trying to avoid conflict. Some see Friends of Austin Neighborhoods as pushing toward progress, and anti- ANC, so there are concerns that the executive committee is too closely aligned with this newer organization.

Ward stated that it appears we need more transparency. We can bring the resolutions to the general meeting and take a public vote. It was not a calculated move.

Motion to make it a policy to bring the ANC resolutions to every general meeting.

There was a suggestion that when resolutions come out of ANC, place on listserv right away so we have an opportunity to review the resolution.

Sheryl Cheatham also said that she would put resolutions on the listserv when she was the ANC representative. It has always been difficult to bring the resolutions in a timely manner, because of the timing of the meetings.

Resolution on Charter Schools – Scooter Cheatham explained the resolution. Charter schools can circumvent a lot of the development codes. The resolution states that all charter schools must abide by local codes and zoning.

There was a concern that the president of the WPNA is negotiating with the Austin Achieve school, without involving the immediate neighbors.

Discussing concerns about the devaluation of the properties around Austin Achieve, the increased traffic. Some people are saying that the organization is trying to buy them out so the school can expand.

Motion to pass the resolution. Seconded.

Ashley read the motion.

Motion to vote. All in favor, none opposed.

Motion that a bylaw be prepared to be submitted to the general meeting, requiring that all ANC resolutions must be brought before the body of the general meeting to be voted on.

Concern that sometimes there are time constraints with bringing everything to the general committee.

There is a lack of trust of some members of the executive committee by many members of the body. If the feeling of trust is re-established, then perhaps this will not be necessary. Request that there be a presentation on the Friends of Austin Neighborhoods and that the executive committee take the suggestions of the general membership in regards to speakers and topics.

Motion withdrawn.

Budget – suggestion we donate $1000 to scholarship to the local high school.

It will be coming from sponsorships to the newsletter. Is it conditional upon an increase in income? Clarification, we are not decreasing spending in other areas. We have 12 pages consistently in the newsletter. We have generous and consistent sponsorships and additional sponsors coming in. Are we notifying sponsors about the good things that their money is going towards.

How many members do we have? Ward believed we have about 250 active members. It’s increased. This is presentation for future action.

Newsletters – Dottie Hecht who picks up the boxes of newsletters is stepping down, and needs a replacement to divide them up to the various deliverers. Usually the newsletter is picked up in the last week of the month. The printer is on Tipton, just north of 51st in the neighborhood. Please let Amanda Rose know if you’re interested in taking on this role.

Friends of Tannehill Branch Creek clean up – Broadmoor to Bartholomew next Saturday, August 15. Meeting on Broadmoor at 9. Dress with long pants and long sleeved shirts.

Reagan 50th Anniversary Committee – Creating a new website: reaganraiders.org and they have a Facebook page. Celebrating the 50th anniversary. Homecoming will be 18th of September. They will be having a tailgating party. Alumni – they will be having a party at Tres Amigos after the game around 9:30 pm. They are going to hold a gala in May. Event to raise money.

Travis County Constable – Tax free weekend – do not park in disabled parking places – it’s a $500 fine. They have 75 volunteers helping enforce the law. Please remember not to leave kids or pets. Pop a lock will also get kids out of cars for free.

Requested the executive committee to revisit ways to publicize the resolutions for the ANC. One possible solution could be to post resolutions at the library for those who are not able to check on line.

Berkman Drive Survey – we have a deadline of August 15th to get all the responses in. Rodney will present results at an upcoming meeting. There’s also a folder with the surveys at the library.

Question as to why the committees were not reporting out at the general meetings. Comment that perhaps we need to rethink structure of the meetings.

Meeting adjourned.