



Minutes:

September 13, 2025

10:00 - 10:15 | Coffee and Conversation (w/ Talisman coffee) - 15:00 min

30+ in attendance

10:15 - 10:20 | Welcome (Chad Cotton) - 05:00 min

Recognition of volunteers – committees, newsletter delivery

10:20 - 10:35 | Neighbors' Communications (You) - 15:00 min

Meg Brooks – works at appraisal board – hears protests. Is recruiting people for full time seasonal positions on protest review boards. Citizens sit in panels of 3 people, hear protests about property taxes. Applications out this week for Travis Central Appraisal District

Jane – requesting help in her garden, offering to pay a fair wage.

Martin – North Loop Neighborhood Association has a climate committee. They have put together a tour on how-to-electrify your house. Federal rebates and tax credits will end 12/31/25. On 9/14/25, 3-5pm, Jen Kreager (sp?) is providing tours at her house – 5514 Avenue G unit B. She is demonstrating how to electrify your house and reduce the use of natural gas. She is also providing a tour 9/27/25. Changes demonstrated include a heat pump for HVAC, solar, and heat pump dryer. She claims to have reduced her energy usage by 88%.

Amelia Devivo – From Urban Forest Department (city org?), promoting Tree Ambassadors. Recruiting for 10-15 paid positions as ambassadors, \$25/hour. As a tree ambassador, you will

- Promote tree planting and care in your community
- Educate on benefits of a healthy urban forest
- Lead or support local events, workshops, and tree walks
- Connect with neighbors, schools, and city leaders to inspire change
- Earn \$25/hour
- Work up to 10 hours / month



- Commit to six months of service
- Attend five required training sessions

Applications are open until mid-October. Positions start mid-November.

Kelly Overton library updates, include end of summer programming. Approximately 1200 people visited the library over the summer just for programs; 42 programs are active in September.

Highlights of upcoming events:–

- Sr. Social hour every other Wednesday
- Crochet group 9/23, 5:30pm
- Reproductive help 9/25
- Costume swap for Halloween – 9/27
- Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) teens and tweens
- Book club – 2cd Tuesday of month – 10/14

Jeremy Hendrix – President of Windsor Hills Neighborhood Association, running for Texas state house representative for district 50.

Meghan – recruiting for WPNA officers. Currently looking to fill the 2026 vacancy for VP.

Laurel Chesney – update on new neighbor happy hour. It was so well attended it overflowed the allotted space at Hanks. Recognition of happy hour sponsors, including but not limited to Tree Folks, Thinkery, Austin Parks and Recreation, Hanks.

11/1 Eco Fest in Bartholomew Park, 11am-2pm.

11/1 Hope Lutheran Fall Fest – 6414 North Hampton, 11am-2pm.

WPNA is looking for a new Parks Committee chair to replace Jeanette Swenson.

10:35 - 10:40 | Delwood Sports Donation (Chad Cotton) - 05:00 min

Chad – WPNA voted to make donations for repairs – \$1500 from parks fund, \$500 from general fund; another \$150 donation made from Shane Garrett (sp?).

Jason Adame - co president Delwood Sports Complex. Worked with Huston Tillotson to address the storm damage from February and May. Also worked with the city to make the sports complex a historical site. They will restore the bleacher stands with a more modern system with



shade. Have completed renovation for field 2. Will start on field 3 next. They raised over \$45K that will go into the park.

The sports complex is expanding programming – will have 225 kids this season. New opportunities available for girls' athletics, including girls' softball team. The sports complex is partnered with Westlake FC who will run soccer leagues. Westlake FC is helping with negotiations with the city to invest into the fields – also working with the city regarding the homeless situation in the park.

An anonymous donor is enabling flag football.

10:40 - 10:55 | Austin Parks Foundation (Joy Casnovsky) - 15:00 min

Joy Casnovsky with Jacob Summer – providing an update. Austin Parks Foundation (APF) is a thirty-year-old nonprofit with a mission to help folks improve green spaces. They operate through volunteers, capital projects, adopt a park programs, etc.

- They sponsor It's My Park Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in Nov and March.
- They have projects in 100 of approximately 400 parks in Austin.
- Volunteer led activities include munching, planting trees, and cleanup.
- They provide grants to community initiated projects
- Currently working with the roller derby community in Bartholomew Park to determine the feasibility of a shade structure over the roller derby area – about \$500k cost.
- Partnering with Delwood Sports Complex
- Pomerleau Pocket Park – APF worked with city and WPNA to fund and build the park
  - Asking for support to manage park,
  - Example – irrigation was inadvertently turned off, lost some trees –
  - Asking for someone to check items regularly
  - Homeless situations at park also cause challenges

Rick Krivoniak provided a suggestion to address the irrigation challenge in the park. Reach out to Bond Advisory Task Force – possibly propose extending reclaimed water to park, Northeast High School, Nelson Field, etc.

10:55 - 11:20 | Austin Parks and Recreation Board (Kathryn Flowers) - 25:00 min



Austin Parks and Recreation Board (APRB) is appointed by the Austin city council to advise the council.

APRB meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday except in December

Working on Gus Garcia Senior Center to address overcrowding problem; this is an example of citizen engagement

Bartholomew and Pomerleau parks - homelessness issues.

The park mowing schedule is a 21-28 day cycle.

Pomerleau Pocket Park – immediate issues include drug material on the playground.

Abandoned apartment complexes are the crux of the issue.

Chito – provided an update on apartment complexes.

- There are two complexes on Patton Lane, both have the same owner.
- The owner is tagged in July for code violations – fines accruing at the rate of \$100k per month.
- The owner also owns 35 other properties.
- Banks are in the process of foreclosure on the properties.
- Boarding up on properties is by the city.
- Ultimately court will take property and auction it – owner is uncooperative
- Owner is in federal bankruptcy proceedings

November – tax rate election – will authorize additional money for additional services – the vast majority of money will go to parks. We are funding maintenance at 2016 level, maintenance is lagging demand.

Mary Aleshire - no lockers at Dottie Jordan for swimming

Park bench program – formerly operated by the Parks Department. Related to benches / plaques honoring people. The program was discontinued due to lack of staff.

Kathryn Flowers - There was not a process and staff to manage plaques  
Program moved to cemeteries department

The fence in Pomerleau Pocket Park – in the back, keeps getting cut.

- Chito – suggests we put a gate or opening since it is near apartments
- Jeanette- would the Austin Parks Foundation fund the fence? Homeowners with property lines bordering the park want it maintained



- Chito – need path through fence – other parks in city are not fenced

11:20 - 11:35 | Vote to support a letter encouraging Improved Street Designs (Chad Cotton) - 15:00 min

American Institute of Architects (AIA) mobility group put together an alternative proposal for interfacing I35 with adjacent neighborhoods. The intent of the alternative proposal is to improve the interfacing areas for pedestrian and bike traffic by requesting more trees, better bike lanes, and better pedestrian paths.

Motion made to vote for WPNA to be signatory on AIA mobility group proposal.

In favor- 21

Opposed – 0

Abstentions - 0

11:35 - 11:45 | Climate Committee (Martin Luecke) - 10:00 min

Eco Fest will be held 11/1, Bartholomew Park, 11am-2pm.

- Eco Fest will give away 500 trees - shade trees and medium trees available
- Shade brigade training session today after WPNA general meeting
- Lloyd Doggett and Greg Casar will make appearances
- Last year through Eco Fest put out just under 1000 trees
- Urban Forest Department provided \$3K grant this year

11:45 - 11:50 | Yard of the Month (Sara Jane Lee) - 05:00 min

1301 Berkshire - has a profusion of flowers including milk weed. The winner received a \$50 gift card from Shoal Creek Nursery.

11:50 - 11:55 | Treasurers Report (Laurel Chesky) - 05:00 min

Chad read a summary from Sam Searle. No major changes, did receive new sponsorships. Sitting on \$15K unencumbered funds, we only need \$10K for the rest of the year (\$4K expenses, \$6K carry-over). Sam suggests donating to local schools' PTA.



11:55 - 12:00 | Minutes Approval (Chad Cotton) - 05:00 min

Minutes approved

12:00 - 12:00 | Adjourn (Chad Cotton) - 00:00 min