

## WPNA Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2018

### Memorial United Methodist Church

**I. Welcome:** Meghan Dougherty began the meeting at 10:08 am. We welcomed new members and visitors. Meghan also thanked newsletter sponsors and thanks newsletter deliverers.

#### **II. Citizen's Communication:**

A. **Ted Gordon campaign fundraiser:** Sunday, Sept 23 from 4-6 pm at 1910 Runningbrook. An ice cream social fundraiser, hosted by Larry Abrahams and others.

B. **Gloria Neunaber:** Gloria is looking for help at capturing WPNA history! Especially needs help with scanning documents. If you are interested, please let her know: [gloneunaber@hotmail.com](mailto:gloneunaber@hotmail.com)

C. **Pancake breakfast** to raise money for the WPNA Scholarship Fund on Oct 6. Hosted by the Austin Mennonite Church.

D. **District 1 Candidate Forum:** Wed Oct 10 from 7-9 pm, at Memorial UMC. Dan Strub is looking for volunteers to help with the event. If interested, please email: [dan@windsorpark.info](mailto:dan@windsorpark.info)

E. **JF on Westmoor** shared that someone has been intentionally damaging campaign signs in his yard, most recently, a sign for Sheryl Cole.

#### **F. Parks Update:**

\*\$5000 grant for poison ivy and other invasive plants removal at Pomerleau Park, Oct 15-19 work will be done. Kyle Girten, thanks for working on proposal for the work.

\*First public meeting for Pommerlau development is Sept 27 from 6-8 pm at Memorial UMC. Please take a look at the park space: 1906 Patton Lane

\*Mark your calendars: Sat, Nov 3- It's My Park Day. Registration opens in October.

\*Kiwanis Butterfly Festival is 10-5 pm on Oct 6 at Mueller Park. Primary beneficiary will be playscape shades!

G. **Mohan Rao** is organizing an effort to drive people to the polls, Mary Aleshire reminded people of the last day to register to vote is October 9.

H. **Vincent Harding's sister** came to promote Vincent's campaign, encouraged resident to go to his website: <https://www.vinceharding.com>

I. **Transportation dept wants feedback:** Sept 24, public meeting on 51<sup>st</sup> St updates at BPAC from 6-7 pm

#### **III. Yard of the Month: Sara Jane Lee**

Don Love and Joellen Wynne- 1200 Cloverleaf Drive.

Bought a duplex 3-4 years ago and they began to renovate the yards. Patterned their yard after their house on Cloverleaf, which was a previous Yard of the Month winner. Casey Border Gardens helped the with the design. Helps residents feel like they aren't on a such a busy corner. Will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. If you are interested in Beautification efforts in our neighborhood, contact Rodney Ahart ([beautification@windsorpark.info](mailto:beautification@windsorpark.info))

**IV. Minutes from August 2018:** Motion to approve as written and seconded. All in favor.

#### **V. Elementary School Principal's Panel:**

**\*Introduce yourself and tell us about your school.**

**Monica Martinez- Principal of Harris.** Dual language program for Pre-K and K. Brighter Bites program where 200 bags of fruits and vegetables to families yesterday. Lines were 1.5 hours long. Enrichment program will focus on robotics and problem-based learning. Focus is reading, writing, arithmetic. Thank you to Memorial UMC who hosted a grandparent's dinner last night.

**Gabriela Soto, Principal of Andrews Elementary.** Came in mid-year last year. Proud of many things at Andrews. SEL team who trained on responsive classrooms. Working with teachers on the way we speak to children and the way we set up classroom environments. In support of family engagement, partnering with Families as Partners. Training parents, population at Andrews is primarily Hispanic, to become paraprofessionals. Partnering with **Suchi** to do outdoor learning with children.

**Dora Molina, Principal of Blanton Elementary.** Has been in the district for 20 years. Focusing on literacy. Three main focuses are on literacy, SEL and increasing parent capacity and encouraging them as leaders in our primary classes with reading.

**Greta Kwedar, Principal of Austin Achieve Elementary.** Opened elementary on August 6 for the first time. K-12. Will have first class of seniors this year. Will have siblings of kids who are graduating this year, teaching families this year is exciting and inspiring. Focusing on laying a foundation in terms of culture and academics. Ensuring kids are excited to be at school and teachers are set up to be successful with kids.

**Anya Blessum, Principal of Winn Elementary.** 12<sup>th</sup> year as an educator, third year at Winn. Only Montessorischool in the whole AISD. Winn has diversity. SEL is a priority this year to help kids understand how to communicate with one another. Raising children who are independent thinkers and able to relate to one another.

**\*How can the community help?**

**Harris:** Brighter Bites. Every Friday, 7:45-10 am, we will need volunteers to help us bag groceries. Teachers also receive a bag to explain nutrition to their students. Distribution from 3-4 pm on Friday and volunteers needed for that. Reading to Kindergarten. Mentoring to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders over lunch bunch from 10:15-12:30 pm, Monday-Friday. Need volunteers to help TA's work on their English proficiency

**Andrews:** Has received many donations from community partners. Has a full PTA this year. Need volunteers for outdoor learning, construction on campus, need help during recess.

**Blanton:** Need volunteers for Kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> readers. They have Championed edicated for Spanish and English literacy. From 10 min- 30 min every day of the week. Participating at BooFest and in Beautification programs. Looking for mentors for 3-5 graders. You can register through AISD website and follow the link or contact Blanton directly. Can be whenever you are available.

**Austin Achieve:** Mentors to partner with on- campus social worker for kids who need extra support, Lunch and Learns: community members who come in and share what they do with kids and students can come in share and eat with kids. After school skills you'd like to share with our students?

**Winn:** Need help with garden club, received a grant for monarch butterflies and need help with that. New Parent Support Specialist who needs help. Montessori classrooms we need volunteers for family-style lunch with cleaning and set up. Material making for Montessori program- sewing or craft skills. Any events that are coming up, we need help. A costume dance coming up, Fall Fest.

**\*What are the takeaways from the recent ratings that were given to the schools?**

Rating are based on the STARR tests: One picture based on one moment in time. When kids come into our rooms, we teach them for life. Focus on literacy, math and good writers. The enrichment programs help our kids, not just academically, but socially. Vida programs help kids. We're trying to put these programs in place. Making websites more accessible to community too. Vida clinics serve families and faculty. Striving to not teach to a test because it's not lifelong learning. However, at the end of the day, the test does matter.

**\*Teacher turnover rates:**

**Harris-** Little teacher turnover. Needs bilingual librarians, average years of experience for teachers, 16 years.

**Winn-** Teachers have to be Montessori certified and State certified. If they don't want to obtain both certifications, they can leave.

**Achieve-** TFA teachers, a few first-year teachers, probably 5 years of experience, MS and HS campuses are retaining most of their teachers

**\*Turnover of students:**

**Harris-**150 kids have stayed from Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year had 40% mobility rate, many immigrant families. Must stay in one area for 24 months and then can move on. Lost about 60 children, 35 families. Many have moved to Elgin, Bastrop and Pflugerville because they can't afford Austin.

**VI. Nomination Committee:** If interested in running for an officer position, please let the nominating committee know. Nominating committee: Rick, Jeanette and Alana.

**VII. Treasurer's report:** Printed on the back of the agenda.

Compiling budget recommendations for 2019 in the next month. If you have requests or considerations, please let Meg know.

**VIII. WPNA status in ANC:** We heard opinions from residents about our membership in the ANC.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

Motion to rescind our automatic membership renewal in the ANC and we will decide as early as January to take an affirmative vote to renew our membership. The Executive Committee will empower a group of people to draft and send a letter with an explanation as to why the ANC is not in our best interest.

1 opposed, the rest in favor, 0 abstaining.

Residents encouraged an invitation to the new president of the ANC to come visit the WPNA to speak to the members in January and hear our views. Also encouraged us to share our views with the nearby neighborhood associations an abomination letter.

**IX. Final Announcements:**

**Amina Haji- Karisha Community.** Karisha represents a **new culture of health care**, delivered in a nurturing space where patients receive care provided by a broad range of professionals who love their

work. In time it will serve as a vehicle to **transform health care** in Central Texas and the US. Flyers were available in the back following the meeting.

**Motion to adjourn at 12:03 pm.**

