



Agenda:

March 8, 2025

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

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

10:20 – 10:30 | Neighbors' Communications (You) – 10:00 min

Marge – lives on Broadmoor – project where people have left notes and messages, goal to bring community together, National Pi Day March 14, they'll have miniature pies and beverages, a time to gather, they'll be there 5-10 pm and probably thereafter. In the newsletter and on Facebook page.

Steve – 40 year resident – [NE County Democrats] – meeting at Tres Amigos restaurant. Brigid Shea and Darryl S 12:00 noon [today] state chair of Public Citizen and leader of Ukrainian resistance will be speaking. No charge "food is pretty average but the conversation is fantastic."

Carole [Kent] resuscitated the puzzle library. Every day someone has come by. She can tell because there's another puzzle. She's learned that seniors like the 300 large piece puzzles - 6406 Linda Ln.

10:30 – 10:35 | Announcements (Kelly Overton) – 05:00 min

3/29 National Piano Day at the Windsor Park library. 10-12:30

10:35 – 10:40 | Enlivenment Committee: Free Cafe @ Pomerleau (Elizabeth Kubala) – 05:00 min

4/19 Free Café by Enlivenment Committee. Pomerleau Pocket Park 10-11am. Baked goods and coffee. Bring your kids.

Chad announcements

Windsor Park Contact Team meets 3/10.

WPNA. home page – a calendar has events.

The website is improving so send suggested posts to: webmaster@windsorpark.info.

10:40 – 10:45 | Yard of the Month (Sara Jane Lee) – 05:00 min

2011 Oakleaf Circle, close to Blanton, and survived the big freeze well.

Announcement by Bob F., Hyde Park

Disc Golf came out of nowhere and became popular during COVID.

At one time, Bartholomew's disc golf course was the worst in town, and they fixed it up.

Built in 1982. It's the oldest disc golf course in the state of Texas. Went from 9 to 18 holes, then they took 3 holes for the pool which is why it declined in popularity. They created 20 holes for the 40th year birthday party and raised enough money from the tournament to be able to improve the water crossings, improve the turf, etc. Now has 18 all-new baskets and is now in the top 40 courses of the state, which has hundreds now.

**10:45 – 11:15 | Watershed Protection project in Bartholomew Park
(Austin Watershed Protection) – 30:00 min**

Clayton West - Watershed Protection City of Austin.

Tannehill Branch Creek Project presentation. Currently at 60% design completion.

Multiple city departments are working on the project, including public works.

The mission of the Watershed Protection Department is to reduce pollution, flooding, erosion, and protect water quality, which includes controlling algae. We are called "Flash Flood Alley". A recent major water quality issue is toxic algae, related to urban development.

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a river. Urbanization creates runoff that carries pollutants. Urbanization increases the percentage of water runoff. As land is developed, impervious surfaces increase and change the effect of rainfall which runs off, along with pollutants. 40% of rural rainfall evaporates and 50% soaks into the ground; only 10% runs off. Urban landscape: 25% evaporation, 32% soaks in, and 43% runs off.

Tannehill Branch watershed has bad erosion and pollution issues resulting from development and has been prioritized, as the work is on city-owned property.

Clayton showed an overhead map of the Tannehill branch watershed in 1940 vs. now. In 1940 there was more farmland. In 2025 there is much more impervious cover. Nutrients, sediments, erosion, lack of native vegetation – all are issues identified by the department.

The objective of the project is to remove water pollution. The project will build a new structure near the existing flood control dam in the park. A goal is to increase the amount of rain that soaks into the ground. This is accomplished by maintaining low flow.

Much of the park is in the 100 year flood plain. A new trail will go from 51st St. to Shady Brook. Will connect sidewalks near basketball park to pool parking lot. Maintenance access will be added to facilitate cleanup/removal of trash.

Main feature of new construction is a weir that will help hold water and create a permanently ponded area. The dam for flood control, installed in the 1990s, will be supplemented by an extended retention structure to allow pollutants to settle. Will allow water after significant rainfall to release over 3 days. Main benefit is to improve the water quality of the creek downstream.

Other planned improvements: increase permeability of land to reduce creek flow, plantings along the channel, trail connections including widening the path along top of dam, a creek crossing, and a parking lot sidewalk connection so there's more of a trail loop.

Will be building stepping stone creek crossing, rustic, natural looking. Will also be making parking lot improvements, adding a sidewalk.

The Morris Williams project has similar objectives to the Bartholomew Park project. Build wet ponds, facilities upgrades, wastewater pipeline improvements. Adding 2 permanent wet ponds, wetland, golf cart bridges, maintenance access driveways.

Timeline/budget - \$2.5 million Bartholomew, \$9 million + \$9 million Morris Williams. Schedule dependent on finding money. All funding is through the department capital improvement budget. No federal funding is involved.

Audience members expressed concerns that by slowing down the water, the creek will collect more trash.

Allan Raynes civil engineer and designer for the project explains they use hydraulic and hydrologic models to calculate drainage and delineate flood plains, to project flood events but they don't work so well for pollution. A swim model manages the hydrology but can also model pollutant transport and removal. They used this to create a data set 2004 to 2018, and run different types of improvements and effects. Modeled pollutant transport to optimized improvement based on a 13 year data set. Obtain total cost over 25 yr planning horizon. Cost of the project is meant to optimize the amount of pollution reduced in relation to price. This project is moving forward as it's more cost effective than others.

Jesse Newman of the Parks Department will come to future meetings to discuss new trees to be planted in Bartholomew park.

**11:15 – 11:35 | Letters of Support for I-35 Infrastructure Funding
(Brendan Wittstruck) – 20:00 min**

Brendan W from Hyde Park NA, also head of North Central I35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC) – amplifying concerns about the I-35 expansion. Windsor Park was one of 12 charter neighborhoods, now 10 due to mergers of 4 associations.

As of this week, the City Council vote on funding commitment is delayed until May, and Brendan's request is to support the funding of caps. There is urgency about funding for cap projects. Brendan is asking for WPNA support. The proposed "cap and stitch" near WP is from 38 ½ St. to Airport Blvd. This is not part of the TxDOT I-35 expansion which is already approved and has begun. Austin's "cap and stitch" plan is about 30 acres of developed land over I-35.

The north central caps were not in TxDOT's design, but the neighborhood associations have been pushing for them. The cap is a full block and a stitch is a mini block.

Current cost estimate for cap + buildout is \$1.3 billion.

Roadway elements require Austin to pay for the structural support. Roadway improvement to support the north-central caps would cost \$120 million but could provide amenities including connectivity and concealment of the highway.

The City of Austin was awarded \$105 million federal funding for the cap from Cesar Chavez to 4th St. This funding is now at risk.

Council concerns: a lot of money and not assured of federal government commitments.

Cherrywood has requested a design assistance team to do a weeklong charrette holistically for the potential for development in the area.

Main point of the presentation: there needs to be more coordination, but if successful, the caps would be an amenity.

3 asks of WPNA:

1. Support to fully fund roadway elements for caps to be built at cost of \$120 million.
2. Don't support reducing cap size to under 800 feet for cost cutting.
3. Support street trees and safe street designs for frontage roads.

Mueller, Cherrywood, and Delwood II have already voted on this. Hyde Park, Hancock, and North Loop votes are pending.

NCINC was chartered to connect neighborhoods and amplify their voices because TxDOT was not facilitating coordination. NCINC doesn't tell neighborhoods what position to take. They want to know what the neighborhoods want and amplify those positions.

Rethink I-35 is engaging with Save our Springs in lawsuit against TXDOT to stop the expansion.

Brendan's view is that widening I-35 is a bad idea but it can't be stopped.

A goal of this effort is to future proof north central austin.

WPNA will vote on support at the April meeting.

11:35 – 11:45 | Membership Drawing (Sam Searle) – 10:00 min

Membership Drawing and Treasurers Report – Sam Searle

7 donations from local businesses for gift cards. Mum, Quality Seafood, Homeslice, Batch, Pampered Platypus mobile massage, Creative Reuse.

11:45 – 11:50 | Treasurers Report (Sam Searle) – 05:00 min

Almost 100 new or renewed memberships in February. Total membership at 212. We have a sizable increase in funds from new members. We received a \$5K donation to the scholarship fund, which is currently at \$20k.

Josh - Audit Committee meeting. Reported on audit of financials. Books in good order. Receipts for cash and checks have improved.

Meg has donated the subscription to Quickbooks.

Recommendation - provide Chad access to funds when Sam not available

11:50 – 11:55 | Nov Minutes (Keith Edwards) – 05:00 min

Minutes approved.

11:55 – 12:00 | Adjourn (Chad Cotton) – 00:00 min

Climate Committee – 5 of 6 trees near Blanton now have people who have agreed to water trees for 2 years. Looking for 1 more volunteer to adopt the remaining tree, a Monterrey Oak.

Jeanette – had red cards to hand out to people at risk for deportation. Hand them to ICE, don't need to say anything. Jeanette has them to give out to attendees to hand out to people they know who are at risk.

A Community Advisory Group and the WP Contact Team will have a joint meeting 3/12/25 at the WP library. They are working on a mobility plan for our neighborhood and adjacent neighborhoods that can be quickly implemented.