**WINDSOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2023**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Recorder: Dan Strub**

Interim President Jeanette Swenson called the meeting to order at 10:15

**Welcome:** to first time attendees to WPNA meetings.

**Thanks to:** newsletter deliverers, newsletter sponsors, and to Keith Edwards who brought muffins.

**Announcements:** we need people to serve as President, and Secretary.

**Public Communication:** Scott Johnson will be having a fundraiser and film screening of film Chasing Coral on the importance of corals for balancing climate. It will be on Mar 22 at 6-9 at Mueller Alamo Drafthouse. Funds go to Jack Goodman’s family to pay for funeral costs; Parks and Libraries Fund to help pay for camp and sports leagues; Homeless Student Fund to help primary and secondary students; and funding for Bull Creek Watershed signs. Kelly Overton from WP library announced a new year-long reading challenge; Asian American storytelling summit on 2/11, including a screening tonight at the Central Library; Black History Month programming; Adult programs including three book clubs; puppet show Wiley and the Hairy Man on 2/28 AM; Money Chicha will be playing ; free tax help at Cepeda and University Hills branches; the library has three free passes to the Thinkery to give out every week starting on Saturday mornings.

Rick Krivoniak spoke about a proposed development at 6305 Berkman that the Planning Commission voted to approve development at a level above what the Contact Team and City Staff recommended. There is a proposal to have a bike/pedestrian access path through the property from Berkman to Hickman. The developer said they would not oppose the path if they were granted a conditional overlay allowing development to 45 feet in height. Asking for more trees and greater width of path is unlikely due to the small size of the property. Tabled until Councilmember Vela will be present.

Nadia Khan spoke with City of Austin transportation who said that on April 1 COA opens for streets to be nominated for traffic studies. 120 are done a year, 60 of which are from citizen nominations.

**Yard of the Month:** Sara Jane Lee presented on the YOM; winners were Will and Coco Robertson of 5209 Robinsdale Ln. They will receive a $50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery.

**January Minutes:**  minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Josh Pitts reported the status of WPNA’s account is good, and there will be a membership push over the next few weeks. At the March meeting, there will be membership drive drawings from people who join between February and the March meeting for $50 gift certificates for Merkaba Massage and HEB. The annual audit was performed and went well. The results will be presented at the March meeting.

Jeanette asked what the NA focus should be this year. She thought that transportation and development should be high priorities due to increased building and traffic. Steve Speir agreed and said that the IH 35 expansion will be a larger impact that we expect.

**Councilmember Chito Vela** presented on the proposed IH 35 redevelopment. He encouraged people to provide written public input to TXDOT by March 7, when it will have to be entered into the public record and responded to. He spoke about encouraging capping I 35 to approximately 53rd St. He spoke about some of the barriers, to capping, including lack of Austin representation on CAMPO to stop the project or make the changes that we need to make. He spoke about crossings being eliminated and the need for crossings between 51st and 290, and Airport and 51st. He stressed the need for better connectivity across the highway on the entire length of the project. The Airport intersection is particularly problematic in its current design. There is a major concern about traffic diverting through WP on Cameron and Berkman when the IH 35 construction begins. The Councilmember encouraged people to testify on 23rd before City Council.

Amanda Rose proposed a motion: **The WPNA rejects the premise that the expansion of I 35 is justified, equitable, or necessary. However, if the project were to continue the WPNA supports Council’s resolution in support of caps and connections on the I35 project.** The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Rick Krivoniak asked what Council needs from us to advocate for a pedestrian pathway at the 6305 Berkman development. Councilmember Vela said that Council is already working to find ways to improve the mid-block connection and that the size of the easement versus the size of the property is problematic. Perhaps a better option would be to route it through the fire station property.

David Butts moved that **the WPNA go on record in favor of supporting the staff recommendations on zoning and density for the proposed development at 6305 Berkman**. Rick Krivoniak seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.

Councilmember Vela said that construction for the new affordable housing development at St John’s and I 35 will begin construction in early 2024.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 12:06