**WINDSOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**March 11, 2023**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Secretary: Dan Strub**

President Jeanette Swenson called the meeting to order at 10:19

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

**Thanks to:**  newsletter deliverers, newsletter sponsors, and to Brandon Neubig who brought the doughnuts. Thanks to Martin Luecke and Mohan Rao for supplying the equipment that will allow us to return to streaming the meetings beginning in April.

**Announcements:** We will be having a drawing at the end of the meeting for memberships.

**Public Communication:** Judy Rockman said that the Harris Elementary library needs more volunteers. Harris will benefit from the bond election, but the principal, Miss Cardenas wants the neighborhood to provide input on the redevelopment plans. Go to AISDfuture.com to give input. The principal would also like volunteers for the Campus Architectural Team. It is a two year commitment, and the team will follow through the whole process. Nadia Khan said that Harris and Bertha Sadler Means are in the first cohort for modernizations. Northeast is in the second cohort.

Steve Speir said that the Northeast Democrats are reforming. The first meeting will be 3/18 at 11 AM, at Tres Amigos. Sheryl Cole will be the first featured speaker.

Yao Wei shared upcoming library programming. On 3/15 there will be a reptile show. On April 3 there will be voice/guitar/songwriting lessons.

Rick Krivoniak said that he and Martin Luecke were reappointed to the City’s Mueller Commission for its final two years.

Guadalupe Abbud spoke on sustainability and climate change. She is working to offer free home energy audits for those who participate in the creek cleanup, $5 to WPNA for each person who plants a tree, and $25 to WPNA for homeowners who consider installing solar on their home.

Jasmine Ekunwe spoke on AE’s CAP program where people on fixed income or illnesses can get help with their utility bills. Go to the City’s website under customer assistance.

Alice Graulty said that on Earth Day, Harris is going to have a campus beautification day.

**Scholarships update:** Alice gave 2 presentations to students at Northeast. Right now we have 3 complete applications, and the application deadline is March 31. Now is the time to make donations to the fund. The scholarships are open to all AISD students at LBJ, Northeast, or that live in WP. They are looking for volunteers to serve on the review committee.

**Yard of the Month:** Sara Jane Lee said that the March YOM was zapped by the ice storm. The proposed yard was damaged by the storm, so they declined the award. She encouraged people to submit suggested nominees. Send them to: Lee.LeeJane@gmail.com. This June marks the 20th year of the award.

**Minutes:** Rick Krivoniak pointed out that the development at 6305 Berkman was only on a single lot, not three. The minutes were approved as amended.

**Treasurers report:** Josh presented the monthly report. If no further monies come in, we will have an end of year balance of about $1,000. Memberships are at 176, including 61 since the January meeting, representing 289 individuals.

**Financial Audit Report:** Sheryl Cheatham reported on the annual audit. Josh moved the bookkeeping to QuickBooks online from a paper system, with Excel backups. The audit found a difference between the two systems, caused by excluding Harvest Scholarships and the Windsor Village reimbursement from the backups. Recommendations continue from last year for best practices.

All financial records were properly recorded. Thanks to Josh for his hard work.

**Update on resolutions from February meeting:** Jeanette read the resolutions, which were sent to Councilmembers, TXDOT, and the Travis County Commissioners Court. On the I35 resolution, TXDOT public comment closed March 7. Council voted 10-1 in favor of a motion that shared our recommendations.

On 6305 Berkman, City Council did not go with the WPNA recommendation of MF3 zoning, instead confirming the Planning Commission’s MF5 zoning. Vote was 10 in favor, with 1 abstention. Rick Krivoniak, Rodney Ahart, and Scooter Cheatham all spoke against the MF5 zoning at Council. David Butts spoke on how Council seems to be ignoring neighborhood concerns, and that the City has language in their planning documents that recommends minimizing input from outside groups. CM Vela made the motion to grant MF5 zoning at Council, with the addition of removing the height overlay restriction of 40’ that the Planning Commission had placed on their recommendation. Martin Luecke said that he had spoken with CM Vela about the vote, who said that the property next door was smaller but had 25 units, so 6305, as a larger property, should have more units.

**Affirmation for current Executive Committee:** The current acting slate of WPNA officers, Jeanette Swenson as President, David Butts as Vice President, and Dan Strub as Secretary were affirmed unanimously to serve in their posts.

**Committees:**

**Climate Committee:** Martin Luecke detailed the YouTube livestream conversations that the committee has been streaming online, including a recent focus on geothermal energy. They will be meeting soon with the Sierra Club to support legislation to combat climate change.

**Enlivenment Committee:** Mohan Rao spoke on the core activities of the committee: creative placemaking, community building/community engagement, outreach, enhancing local economies, and land stewardship and neighborhood health. The email is enlivenment@windsorpark.info. They are also open to volunteers to work on specific projects. Elizabeth Kubala said that they are going to have an Earth Day garden party on at 4PM 4/22 at the Windsor Park Community Gardens. Hosting events to get neighbors to know each other improves neighborhood resiliency.

Steve Speir said that he could not chair the Safety Committee but is interested in taking part in it. He spoke about repeated shooting incidents recently in the neighborhood, and said that we could ask that the shopping centers post the numbers prominently of their security companies. He also asked that we have Tracy Mackenzie, the Capital Plaza property manager come speak. Sheryl Cheatham promoted the National Night Out on the second week of October as a good way to meet your neighbors.

**Schools Committee:**  Emily Vitris asked for more members. She noted that the committee runs the scholarship program, which awarded 19 scholarships last year. They are also working to get AISD to improve the feeder patterns for WP schools, particularly with the new Marshall Middle School. The committee meets by zoom on the second Wednesday of the month.

**Parks Committee:** Jeanette Swenson said that WPD is working on a big project on Little Tannehill Branch down through Morris Williams. Clayton West with Watershed Protection will be leading a walk though upstream of Bartholomew Park at 10:30 on 3/30. Little Pomerleau Park will be opening in May. Jeanette would like to commemorate with a procession between the parks to highlight the need for better bike and pedestrian links between and within the parks. Bartholomew has a one page future vision plan, which is severely lacking especially compared with plans for other parks in Austin. It was suggested that the Parks Committee work with the Safety Committee to improve safety of Bartholomew Park. There is a park cleanup on April 15 at Bartholomew through Keep Austin Beautiful.

**Yard of the Month Committee:** Sara Jane Lee said that any residential yard in Windsor Park is eligible. They are featured in Window on Windsor and they receive a $50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. They always welcome new members.

**Transportation Committee:** Hector Martell said that the committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. They are working to make sure that WP gets the opportunity to provide input and that it is heard for large transportation projects, such as I35. They cover not just auto traffic, but mobility as a whole. The email is Transportation@windsorpark.info. Austin Transportation Department will be opening an input window on April 1 to add suggestions from the community to be evaluated for future transportation need studies.

**Nominating Committee:** Needs volunteers to assist in recruiting leadership for WPNA officials.

Mark Boyden moved to affirm all committees and their leadership through the end of the current fiscal year. David Butts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Brainstorming on transportation and development:** Mark Boyden said that the WPNA once had a development committee that looked at each development from a holistic standpoint that could be advocated for at the Commission and with new developers. It used a template built by the ANC and set forth principles that the WPNA supports for all developments. This would be in addition to the work of the Contact Team. Nadia Khan said that there is a document that does define what the WPNA wants to see in new developments that is available to developers. Rick Krivoniak said he would look for it. He also said that the City seems to have abandoned the Neighborhood Plans and has stopped developing or renewing plans. He also encouraged people to serve on Boards and Commissions, and that CM Vela is looking for a volunteer to serve on the Board of Adjustment. Jeanette Swenson suggested that we put together a plan for development and transportation with our vision, principles, and solutions for problems that we could take to CM Vela. David Butts said that it would be great to have a transportation designer to look at the current and future traffic on Berkman. Nadia Khan recommended encouraging members calling in complaints to 311 as a means to bring it to the city’s attention.

**Membership drawing:**  Josh awarded $50 HEB gift cards to Rachel Castignoli and Agnes Varnum. $50 Merkaba gift cards went to Carolyn Altuna, Jeff Coffey, Shanda Sansing, and Lyle Zurik.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23.