**WINDSOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**April 8, 2023**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Secretary: Dan Strub**

President Jeanette 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 donuts. Thanks to Martin Leucke and Mohan Rao for supplying the equipment to allow the meeting to be streamed online. Thanks to new neighborhood business Talisman Coffee who donated coffee.

**Public Communication:** Kelly Overton with the WP library said that the library is celebrating Saturday poetry month with an open mic performance at the library on 4/15; on Earth Day (4/22) there will be a picnic and celebration of gardening and nature, please make it plastic-free for Earth Day.

Melanie Haupt, District 4 rep on the Library Commission will have a listening session TBD (maybe on 4/22) on what we want to see from the library system. They have a new strategic plan that they are looking for input on, as well as a new effort to obtain ebooks. If you support an increase in the ebook budget, please contact Councilmember Vela. There is a subcommittee that is tracking library bills in the Legislature. None so far pertain to City libraries, but they have asked Council to take measures to protect library staff from outside physical threats.

Guadalupe Abbud said that we are sponsoring the creek cleanup on 4/22. It will be a fundraiser for WPNA and the scholarship fund.

**Yard of the Month:**  Lora and Tom of 1408 Yorkshire Dr was honored for yard of the month. This is the third time the yard has won in 20 years; they will be receiving a $50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery.

**Re-Think 35:** Adam Greenfield spoke on TXDOT’s work on expanding I35. The comment period for the central section closed on March 7. In August, TXDOT will announce their revised plans for the central section. Re-Think 35 is pushing for alternatives such as using existing highways like 130 for interstate travel and redeveloping the I35 urban corridor for automobile alternatives like rail and buses. Part of the aim is a cultural change away from widening highways as a default traffic remedy. He encouraged people to show support by putting out yard signs from Re-Think 35. They also have an online petition to oppose the I35 expansion. Adam pointed out that TXDOT’s study estimate of 82% of I35 traffic being local is flawed and should not be given much consideration.

Martin Luecke said that Councilmember Vela is working on getting the Tannehill Branch Creek bridge and trail put in. However, the bridge is problematic due to difficulties of locating the bridge footings and private ownership of the property where it would go.

Alex Phillips of Austin Transportation and Public Works Department said that he will be returning to the WPNA May 13 meeting to answer our transportation questions and further explain the Strategic Mobility Plan. He will be a department contact for neighborhood outreach. The Walk Bike Roll initiative is updating the 2014 bicycle, urban trails and sidewalks plans, and the comment period is open. These plans feed into the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan. There are amendments to change the levels of some streets within the neighborhood, including Broadmoor. “ASMP Austin” is the best way to search for the strategic mobility plan webpage, where you can submit public comments through April 25.

Is the ASMP going to address unsignalized crossings at Berkman, where crossing is difficult because cars do not stop? Alex said street crossings are going to be addressed, through transportation mode planning to provide guidelines and requirements. The future congestion of Berkman due to new multifamily development was pointed out to be a major coming issue. Alex thanked us for alerting him to the issue.

**May 6 City Proposition Election:** Jeanette Swenson pointed out that we reached out to Proposition B supporters to invite them to present, but got no response. Cathy Mitchell spoke about Propositions A and B to explain the background of the propositions and their roots in civilian oversight over APD. A decision that the office of police oversight could no longer review documents about police behavior severely limited the office’s ability to function. Citizens drafted Prop A to stand back up the oversight committee, add transparency, and to codify oversight separately from the police contract so it would not change with every new contract. Proposition B was designed to look identical to Prop A but removes the ability to have civilian oversight completely. If both props pass, it is not entirely clear which would be enacted, resulting in court fights or negotiations in the next police contract. More info is available at YesonANoonB.com

It was asked if WPNA could take an official stand, and Jeanette said that we may not take a position due to our non-profit status. Mary Aleshire suggested putting the issue on the Facebook page for discussion with a disclaimer that WPNA is not taking a position.

**Inter-Neighborhood outreach update:** Keith Edwards said that he has started to work with neighboring neighborhood groups to rebuild those relationships. In meeting with University Hills NA, he said that there were opportunities for common political forums, Project Connect, the Austin Neighborhood Council, and fig

hting development. Brian Graham objected to reaching out to ANC to rejoin. Keith said that this is an exploration of potential for aligning interests and information gathering. Jeanette said we would not rejoin the ANC without a WPNA vote. Brian reminded us of the reasons why WPNA left the ANCs: phantom organizations, and ANC not following their own membership guidelines.

**Approval of March 11 minutes**: minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jeanette presented in place of Josh who was not able to attend. The fund for the playscape shade is no longer a feasible project, and said that at the May meeting we will be voting to make those funds available for other parks development projects, perhaps even including the Belfast link bridge over Tannehill Branch Creek. The current fund balance is $5,218.

For the May meeting, we will announce the scholarship winners.

The Climate Committee is organizing two events in May. On May 24 at 7 PM there will be a livestream discussion about rebates for homeowners to electrify their houses via solar. Congressman Doggett’s assistant on taxes and a representative from Austin Energy will participate. On May 27 there will be an Eco-Extravaganza at Selwyn Polit’s home, which is outfitted with solar panels. There will be environmental organizations present and an electric lawnmower will be given away at the event.

Jeanette said that several neighbors walked with a representative from the city’s Watershed Protection department to look at the creek in Bartholomew Park.