

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 23, 2012
Village Christian Apartments

Board members in attendance: Kenneth Webb, Jeri Wines, Juliette Kernion, Ernie Garcia, Alice Kubacak, Sherran Williams

Absent: Donna Eagar, Sal Espinosa

Guests attending: Kevin Wier, Mary Jane Wier

President Kenneth Webb called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.

Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Juliette Kernion to adopt the agenda as submitted. Seconded, adopted unanimously.

Item 2: Appointment of Board Membership

Kenneth said there is a question about whether Sherran Williams, whom the Board approved as a new member in July, should be considered a full-fledged Board member before the general NSCNA membership approves the appointment. He did not see anything in the bylaws that indicated she could not be a voting member. The Board supported his opinion.

Kenneth said he heard from a new NSCNA member who wants to help edit the newsletter. Juliette suggested he talk with the new member about helping with website posts. Sherran suggested the new member could be the newsletter's ad manager. Kenneth agreed to approach her with these options, ad manager in particular.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes from Board Meetings

Kenneth requested minor changes in the May 24 meeting minutes. On page 3, item 5a, the motion should reference the May 1 general membership meeting (not April) and “directed the President” should be changed to “asked the President.”

Kenneth noted that he attended an ANC training session recently with a lawyer who recommended that when a board member votes against a motion in a board meeting, their name should be indicated in the minutes. Juliette said she would include that information in minutes as applicable.

Motion by Ernie Garcia to approve the May 24 minutes with the recommended changes. Seconded, approved unanimously.

Motion by Sherran Williams to approve the July 24 minutes. Seconded, approved unanimously.

Kenneth asked to enter a note as a matter of record regarding the April 19 Board meeting. On page 3, he felt the sentence “Juliette asks about the latest covenant agreement ...” was based on a premise that was not factual. He said a copy of the covenant agreement was distributed at the March 6 general membership meeting.

Motion by Juliette Kernion to strike the sentence in question from the April 19 Board meeting minutes. Kenneth said there must be a motion to reconsider the minutes first.

Motion by Sherran Williams to reconsider the minutes. Seconded, approved unanimously.

Motion from Juliette Kernion to remove the clause on page 3 of the April 19 Board meeting minutes regarding the distribution of the covenant agreement. Seconded.

Kenneth asked Juliette to find out whether the April 19 minutes would need to be noted as amended. Juliette agreed. Motion approved unanimously.

Item 4: Appointment of Committee Chairs

Kenneth said he had no new committee chair recommendations. NSCNA is still lacking some important committee chairs, and he hoped after the next general meeting, more volunteers might appear. He added that he intends to contact Sal via postal mail to find out the status of the Bylaws Committee, which Sal currently chairs.

Item 5: Honda Sign Variance

Kenneth said he sent a letter to the City of Austin Planning and Review Department based on feedback from NSCNA Board members and Development Committee members. Everyone who responded had been in favor of refusing a variance for a 60-foot sign for First Texas Honda on Steck.

First Texas Honda is still trying to seek a code variance so they can erect a 60-foot sign, Kenneth reported.

Motion by Jeri Wines to approve the letter that Kenneth sent, and to present it to the NSCNA membership at the September general meeting. Seconded, approved unanimously.

Kenneth said Kevin Wier, Development Committee chair, received email from the First Texas Honda owner asking that NSCNA work with the dealership on an agreement regarding a sign variance. Kenneth then recapped the Sign Review Board hearing regarding consideration of the variance before it was denied.

Kenneth said he told Kevin he'd like to set up a meeting with the two of them and a representative from First Texas Honda to begin a dialogue regarding the sign as well as other issues, such as test drives through neighborhood streets. Sherran asked if the issue should be raised at the Sept. 4 general meeting and Kenneth said it would. He thought it would be good to post to the website and email list asking NSCNA members how they felt about the sign, and he could present that data at the Sept. 4 meeting.

Item 6: Agenda for the September 4 NSCNA General Meeting

Kenneth attended the last APD Commanders Forum and met the new APD representative for our neighborhood, Taber White, and learned we are now in APD's Adam 1 sector, Region 2. Kenneth invited the rep to the Sept. 4 general meeting to introduce himself and talk about the Neighborhood Watch program. The Board had no objection to putting this on the agenda.

Kenneth also asked the Board about possibly inviting representatives from City Code Enforcement to the November general meeting, and the Board generally favored the idea.

In addition, Capital Metro asked to brief NSCNA members on proposed changes for January, but Kenneth felt there would not be time at the September meeting. He said public meetings are scheduled regarding the changes, one at North Village Library. Kenneth recommended denying Cap Metro's request; the Board did not object.

Austin Beyond Coal also asked to speak to the membership. Kenneth said he'd prefer they send him some material instead, which he could share with the membership if appropriate. The Board agreed.

Kenneth said that he thought some municipal items on the November ballot would be of special interest to the NSCNA membership: the bond election, especially if the Burnet/Lamar improvements were included, and the City Council districting issue. He recommended that information on the election be included in the next NSCNA newsletter issue if it would go out before the election.

In addition, Kenneth said he wanted to promote National Night Out at the September meeting. He just posted information on the citywide event to the NSCNA website. NNO is October 2 this year, and the deadline for submitting an application to the City to request police, etc. to attend is September 14.

Sherran said she and Lois McEvoy were planning a block party for Melshire, Donna Gail and Winding Walk.

Item 7: Committee Reports

7a: Treasurer's Report – Jeri enclosed a financial statement in the packet for Board members to review, as well as a breakdown of 2012 expenses by committee, and a membership report.

The Board reviewed the membership report and discussed possible ways to encourage 2011 members who had not paid dues in 2012 to rejoin.

Kenneth said he reviewed Robert's Rules and discovered that periodic treasurer's reports do not need to be approved by the Board.

7b: Media Committee – Kenneth reported that the latest NSCNA newsletter had been distributed. There was a problem with the print resolution on some ads, which he hopes to have resolved in future issues. Claudia Perez, the newsletter editor, prepared a schedule for the rest of 2012 and early 2013, which the Board reviewed. Juliette noted that the schedule did not have room for an edition to go out right before the January meeting in which elections take place. Kenneth said he would talk with Claudia about either bumping up the schedule of the winter issue, or putting out a special flyer.

7c: Development Committee – Kenneth asked that this item be postponed briefly until Kevin Wier would join the meeting.

7d: Bylaws Committee – Kenneth said a bylaws issue he'd like to see addressed is to define when the Nominating Committee is dismissed. Juliette noted the President traditionally dismisses the committee after their recommendations are presented at the January meeting. But Kenneth said the bylaws don't specify how long the committee should serve. Alice said she feels the committee should stand year-round and fill any vacant positions as needed.

7e: Membership – NSCNA membership is increasing. Sherran offered to call 2011 members who had not renewed and ask them to join; Kenneth agreed it was a good idea. Membership flyers were given out at the Independence Day parade and even put in the goodie/prize bags.

The Board discussed the possibility of restructuring the dues by individual instead of household. Kenneth said he wanted to analyze the dues paid in the past year or two to see how many are from single-member households and how many are multi-member households, and what the financial effect would be if the Board instituted a dues restructuring.

7f: Other Committees – Juliette asked if anyone had contacted Jeri about being interested in joining the Nominating Committee. Jeri said five members have expressed their interest in serving.

Item 8: Approval of Expenditures

Motion from Juliette that the Board approve a \$50 expense to the State Comptroller's office related to the annual report. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Kenneth asked to return to an issue in item 7f that had not yet been addressed.

7f: Other Committees – The website had a Movie Night scheduled in October from the Social Committee, which Claudia then included in the newsletter. No one was sure how the event ended up on the website. The Board discussed the possibility of a movie event, either outdoors or at Alamo Draffhouse Village, but no action was taken.

Kevin and Mary Jane Wier joined the meeting, so Kenneth suggested rearranging agenda items so they could present their issues. The Board agreed.

Item 11: New Business

Kevin and Mary Jane Wier gave a presentation about the National Neighborhood Association website at www.mynna.com, in which neighborhood associations can participate. It is a free website where NAs can form groups and share information that is only available to their members, as well as collaborative subgroups that can include members from other neighborhood associations. They noted that the website helps centralize communication and organize to-do lists for committees and events. Individuals have profiles that allow “Facebook-style” social networking but in a closed environment.

Kenneth asked how much technical knowledge a member would need to sign up and use the site. Mary Jane said it was pretty easy and didn't require much technical know-how.

Juliette asked who would own the content – do NAs own whatever they post, do individuals own the photos they post, etc. Kevin said he would review the user agreement but he felt individuals would own their own content.

The Board discussed the presentation but no action was taken.

7c: Development Committee – Kevin said he was checking to confirm the status of the 8100 Burnet development, which he believed had not been funded, and would update the Board.

Kevin also talked with the First Texas Honda dealership owner, and agreed to neutrally present the dealership's side in requesting a sign variance. The owner told Kevin they put up weather balloons on a 65-foot string where the sign would be, and checked their visibility – the balloons were visible from Mopac but not homes in North Shoal Creek. He wants to put the sign near the railroad tracks and as far from the residential part of the neighborhood as possible.

The FTH owner told Kevin he wants to be a good neighbor, wants to help with the Anderson Urban Trail project and other improvements. Kenneth said he will let the neighborhood know about the issue and present it at the general meeting on September 4. Kenneth said he supports the sign ordinance and is concerned that a variance would set a bad precedent. Kevin agreed.

Kenneth discussed the Sustainable Neighborhood Association's work regarding Burnet Road and Lamar corridor improvements. He said he's worked with Steve Zettner at SNA and other neighborhood association representatives to set priorities for the project. Steve has asked the relevant neighborhood associations to each consider the plans so they can be set by December. Kenneth will send the SNA documents to Kevin, and asked that the Development Committee meet before September 4 and consider/recommend what to do with the plans. Kevin said he would schedule a meeting.

Item 9: Schedule of Future Board Meetings

Kenneth reminded the Board that upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 13, October 18, November 8 and December 13. Juliette asked if the November 8 meeting was necessary since it was so close to October. Kenneth recommended keeping the dates tentatively and making a decision about November at a future meeting.

Item 10: Tree Planting (SNA)

Kenneth said Sustainable Neighborhoods Association is asking neighborhood associations for contributions to defer some of SNA's expenses in the Burnet Road tree-planting project. SNA plans to plant 35 trees in September and 30 in October. Kenneth included a map of the tree planting in the Board members' packet.

The Board discussed the issue. Kenneth polled the group informally and the majority were uninterested in NSCNA supporting the project. Juliette asked Kenneth to mention the project at the next general meeting so interested neighbors could volunteer or support it financially if they wanted.

Item 11: New Business

The Board received in their packets a draft plan that SNA worked on with the neighborhoods regarding the Burnet-Lamar corridor. Kenneth said September would be too soon for NSCNA members to vote on it, but November might be a good time. He asked the Board to read the documents in order to discuss them during the September Board meeting, with the idea of perhaps making a recommendation for the membership.

Sherran suggested that NSCNA members be informed about the plan. Kenneth said he would do so at the September meeting.

Item 12: Adjournment

Motion by Jeri Wines to adjourn. Seconded, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Minutes submitted by Juliette Kernion, Secretary, North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Approved by NSCNA Board of Directors, 9/18/12