

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 66443
Austin, Texas 78766-0443
Board of Directors Meeting
June 21, 2016, 6:30 pm
First Texas Honda, 3400 Steck Ave

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Amelia Cobb conducted the meeting and Secretary Barbara Gaston recorded the proceedings. Those present were Vice-President Sarah Brandon, Treasurer Donna Eagar; Board Members Lauren Werchan, Sharon Justice, Mike Yetter, Conner Finnigan; and Member Randy Alexis.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5/17/16 BOARD MEETING

Donna Eagar (Sharon Justice) moved that the minutes be approved as read. Motion carried.

III. NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

Sharon Justice reported that Mike Walters will be working with the NSCNA survey. Jeff Engstrom sent a survey to a select few electric utility users' email addresses. No one was notified that this pilot study would occur. There were a number of problems with this survey. The title, "Complete Community," does not identify it as the neighborhood survey and it does not announce the purpose of the survey. The FROM line is not clear (it went into some recipients' SPAM folders and they deleted it). It is not user friendly. Respondents cannot go back to review their answers. Some of the questions are very directive, make assumptions, and severely limit respondents' input, forcing respondents to give the surveyor the answers that the surveyor wants. A Spanish response appears at the completion of the English version.

Amelia Cobb said that she hopes to confirm Pillow School as a meeting site for planning meetings. She introduced Randy Alexis who discussed the planning process and answered questions from members of the board. NSCNA representatives need to be sure that zoning corresponds to the types of facilities that are actually on site. We can expect a focus on density and affordability. City staff should be made aware that we already have a lot of low income rental housing in the neighborhood. NSCNA should not agree to development that we do not want.

General discussion ensued and the board determined that our goal would be a balance between growth and the character of the neighborhood. We want to retain the character of our neighborhood, its "quirkiness and eclectic aspects." In order to prepare for the planning process, board members need to talk to other neighborhood association leaders for guidance. We can look at other neighborhood plans in order to get an idea as to how we would like to create ours. Crestwood neighborhood association would be a good reference because they have an effective neighborhood plan. We can GOOGLE "new urbanism" and learn about it.

Connor Flannigan will ask Allandale neighborhood representatives why they plan to wait until after Code Next is completed before their association puts forth their neighborhood plan.

Amelia Cobb and Sarah Brandon will attend the Austin Neighborhood Council meeting on June 22.

IV. NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

This item was deferred to the July Board Meeting.

V. FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION CHECK LIST

Set-up will begin at 7:30 am and clean-up should be completed by 12 noon.
Lots of sponsors have donated prizes for the raffles.
Jeri Wines will bring NSCNA workers breakfast tacos.

VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. TREASURER

Donna Eagar presented the financial report. She said that we need 31 new member households to match our budget.

Connor Flannigan said that he would work on setting up an automatic email reminder system (to renew association membership) for former NSCNA members.

B. TRAFFIC

Mike Yetter said that he and Amelia Cobb had met with the manager of Town North Nissan about dealership cars driving through our neighborhood and the unloading of cars from haulers on McCann. The manager said that trucks cannot unload on their property. Some of the curb access on McCann is designated with signs to be commercial loading 7a-7p, Mon-Sat. There should be no car hauler traffic after 6p. Town North does not have any test drive guidelines other than safety and no speeding. They recommend that customers do not drive through our neighborhood, but they cannot intervene if the customer does it anyway. (Some customers are not comfortable with entering Hwy 183/Research immediately from the dealership.) Service cars are not supposed to go through our neighborhood. The streets are public and accessible to everyone, however. The management wants to know about any speeding, unauthorized vehicles, rude or obscene behavior, and other instances of unsafe driving. Complaints should go first to Mike Yetter, and he will notify Town North management.

C. BEAUTIFICATION

Amelia Cobb reported that the committee is looking at plans for a community garden on Pillow property. Perhaps a partnership can be arranged with Pillow students.

D. BY-LAWS

Amelia Cobb reported that the committee has met, but there is no other information.

VII. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS to maximize member attendance and participation

Amelia Cobb said that the next meeting will be on July 12.

Discussion followed as to location of the meetings. It was suggested that First Honda's meeting room is more suited to larger groups of people (the board). Town North Nissan is more suited to smaller groups (committees).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 8 PM.