

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting

June 14, 2010

North Village Branch Library, 2505 Steck Ave.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

Board Members Attending: Chip Rosenthal (President), Ken Moyer (Vice President), Lois McEvoy (Treasurer), Andreas Guenin, Cheri Hartman, Alyssa Hedge, Mary Jane Wier, and Sherran Williams, (Acting Secretary). **Excused Absences:** Kate Brien (Secretary), Don Jones, and Vicki McFadden.

Guests: Mary Arnett, Mickie Bellah, Maria Flaniken, Sharon Justice, Juliette Kernion, Tomas Rodriguez, Linda Wilson.

Agenda: Chip passed out the proposed agenda with attachments and asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. Alyssa made the *motion* and it was seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes, Feb. 8, 2010, BOD Meeting: A draft of these minutes has been posted on the website. Cheri made the *motion* which was seconded that one correction be made before final approval of the minutes, i. e. Under New Business, Membership Committee, third paragraph, first sentence should read: "Vicki McFadden, Sherran Williams, Barbara Gaston, and **Lois McEvoy** volunteered to be co-chairs of the Membership Committee." Motion carried and minutes were approved with changes.

Minutes, April 12, 2010, BOD Meeting: The Board discussed the sequence of events at the beginning of the April 12 meeting. There was agreement that the April 12 meeting had been called to order before a visitor asked for a topic to be added to the agenda. The visitor was asked to present her issue to the Traffic Committee before presentation to the board. It was agreed that recordation of that interaction should be included in the minutes. The Secretary's draft has the correct information and that recordation should be added. Due to the board not having sufficient time to review the minutes, Lois made the *motion* and it was seconded that the approval of the April 12 Minutes be delayed until the August Board Meeting. The motion carried. Board members agreed to review the minutes and forward their corrections to Kate.

Treasurer's Report: Lois presented the reconciled financial reports for the month ending May 31, 2010. Income booked to date represented 121 household members, \$1,565.00 in advertising revenue, and \$140.03 in dividend income. Chip requested that the total expenses be printed with budget numbers for comparison. To date, no committee has exceeded their budgeted amounts. Ken made the *motion* which was seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.

Sidewalk Maintenance Issues: Mary Arnett gave a presentation on the condition of sidewalks in the NSC neighborhood and possible actions to repair and/or add sidewalks. Several of our neighbors have been

injured when tripping on sidewalks in need of repair. In October of 2009, the city evaluated some of NSC sidewalks. Mary worked with representatives from the City of Austin to evaluate the condition of existing and missing sidewalks. She did an inventory of the sidewalks and categorized the different sidewalk problems and possible solutions. Some sidewalks in our neighborhood have been repaired by the city, but many more are in need of repair. Sometimes the city will repair with asphalt and then not be able to finish the repair with the final concrete layer due to funding and other priorities. Sidewalks near creeks (eg. Crosscreek, Daleview, and Milway) are in the worst condition. Rockwood south of Steck is missing some sidewalks. Sidewalks could be added near the Allandale Estate sign on Daleview.

Mary also noted that a substantial number of North Shoal Creek residents are considered senior citizens, and are, therefore at much greater risk of serious injuries due to falls from tripping hazards. Some of the sidewalk areas have connectivity gaps that should be addressed. Filling of the missing sidewalk segments will enhance the walkability of our neighborhood and the overall appearance and appeal of our neighborhood.

The City of Austin established a Neighborhood Partnering Program in April whereby neighborhood associations could provide part of the funding and the city would provide part of the funding to make neighborhood improvements. Neighborhoods can share in projects by providing \$\$, labor, and/or supplies. If the amount of the improvement is below \$75,000, the neighborhood would have to provide 40% of the cost. If the amount is above \$75,000 to \$150,000, the neighborhood would have to provide 25% of the cost. The Program requires a "letter of intent" from the neighborhood. Mary said she would be glad to assist with determining the eligibility requirement of this program and in writing the "letter of intent."

Lois made the ***motion*** which was seconded that the Board create a special committee to make recommendations by June 30 for the "letter of intent" to participate in the Neighborhood Partnering Program. The motion carried. Kate Brien has agreed to chair the committee and Tomas Rodriguez agreed to be on the committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic – Chip continues to work with the Roller Derby management regarding the traffic/parking on McCann and Thrushwood caused by the Roller Derby activities. Lois said she would send Chip the Current Membership list which will include email addresses of members who live on Thrushwood.

Chip explained that the City of Austin has a "gap" list and that our neighborhood sidewalks and the Anderson Trail are not priorities on the gap list. The Sustainable Neighborhood Organization is working the Anderson Trail issue. The city has proposed an \$84.8 million transportation bond proposal for the November election to be evenly split between road projects (\$42 million), and about \$42 million on pedestrian, bicycle, and trail improvements. He also informed the board that there is an open house June 17, 4-8 pm, at City Hall to discuss the city's Proposed Mobility Bond Package. This open house is an opportunity for citizens to learn about transportation projects and share their ideas and concerns.

Beautification – Sharon Justice, member of the Beautification Committee, gave a presentation on the City of Austin’s Urban Forest Grant Program. She said there are two reasons our neighborhood should be working to increase the number of trees in our area and to upgrade the quality of those trees.

Reason 1: Heavy traffic, concrete and asphalt combined with commercial buildings, large parking lots, minimal landscaping and few trees yield a large heat island effect. **Reason 2:** Most trees in our neighborhood were planted in the late 1960’s when the homes were constructed. Many were Arizona Ash and these, and other trees planted have a shorter life span and need to be replaced now with trees with longer life spans (like oaks).

The City of Austin’s Urban Forest Grant Program offers grants of up to \$15,000 for tree planting projects. Planting native species trees in our neighborhood to replace aging, problem prone trees would meet the grant’s standards. The grant has several requirements: trees should be selected from the 63 eligible species and be planted in front yards within 15’ of streets. The list of eligible trees and program requirements can be found at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/ufgp.htm>. Recipients of trees must agree to a two year watering plan. Funds can also be requested for a certified arborist to assess the neighborhood needs.

Lois made the **motion** which was seconded that the Beautification Committee complete the application for the Urban Forest Grant and submit to the board for approval by the end of August. Motion carried. The committee was also asked to explore the possibility of submitting multiple grants for the various sub divisions within the NSCN, i.e Allandale Estates, Northwest Terrace, etc.

Tree Trimming by the City of Austin – Mary Jane reported that Austin Energy is in the process of pruning and removing trees from near electric lines in our neighborhood. Austin Energy’s current clearance requirement is 4 feet for slower growing trees and 8 feet for faster growing trees. Before Austin Energy actually performs any work on the trees, they are required to contact each property owner who has the trees that could be affected by the work. Austin Energy will evaluate each property to determine proposed work and notify the property owner with a door hanger at the residence that explains details of the proposed work. Owners must be notified and have certain rights, such as to have a meeting with a contractor representative to review the proposed tree work; deny removal of trees from your property; that you be present when work is performed, etc. This information is in the June NSCNA Newsletter and gives the website http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/preserve_code.htm that explains the process and lists Chip as a contact.

Need for Additional Trash Receptacle at Pillow School – Chip said he had asked the Beautification chairperson to contact the city to see if they could provide another trash receptacle.

Membership : Sherran reported that for the year 2010 we currently have 127 household members of NSCNA. She also distributed copies of the results of the Membership Surveys conducted at the May 4th General Membership Meeting and a subsequent hand delivered survey to a random sample of 50% of the members who were not surveyed at the May 4th General Meeting. There were 15 responses from

those 30 attendees at the May 4th General Membership Meeting. There were 30 responses from the 48 random sample of members responding by mail. Summary of survey results follows:

Top Three Member Priorities **Safety; Traffic; Development**

High Member Priority: **NSCNA Newsletter**

Low Member Priority: **NSCNA website; Yahoo Website; Beautification**

Among the top ten Member Priorities: **Expenditure of \$25,000 Nissan Funds; Sidewalk Repair**

Block Captains #6 priority in the surveys submitted by members at the May 4th General Meeting and **#11 priority** from those who responded by mail to the hand delivered surveys.

Accessibility to Board Members & July 4th Celebrations are of high interest to those members who attend General Membership Meetings and of lower interest to those responding by mail to the hand delivered surveys.

The survey results are an indicator of where members would like time and emphasis from the board.

Development – Chip said he met with the Wooten Neighborhood Association and the developers of the shopping center where Olive Garden is located, Burnet and 183. The developer wants to add a 4th LED sign which could cause safety issues by distracting drivers. Latest information is that the developer will not use animation in the sign and that any light/movement transitions would not be distracting.

Social – Independence Day Celebration, July 3rd - Ken reported that plans are underway: Face Painters; Balloon Artist; Snow Cones; drinks; Music; Games; Prizes; and maybe even a visit from Austin's Finest in their big red truck with ladders and hoses!

Garage Sale – May 22nd – Juliette Kernion reported that 39 neighbors registered for the garage sale, the most participation ever. Several who registered decided late to cancel. Ten more neighbors held sales, but did not participate in the advertising. Fees collected: \$69.00. Expenses: \$90.12.

Hazardous Waste Pick-Up – June 5th – This was a great service for our neighborhood. 22 neighbors took advantage of this opportunity to dispose of their hazardous waste products. The board thanked the volunteers who helped load the trucks; Alyssa for organizing the event; and the drivers, Jerry Horn, Dallas Mayham, and Chip, who offered their vehicles and time to transport the waste products to the city's Hazardous Waste Facility. Lois made a **motion** which was seconded to reimburse volunteer drivers \$.50/mile for driving to and from the Facility. The motion carried. Lois said she would contact the drivers and offer them reimbursement.

Upcoming Events – Alyssa said that all neighbors are invited to “meet and eat” at Hill-Berts Burgers, June 23rd, 6 pm. Hill-Berts, 7211 Burnet Road, advertises in our newsletter. Check the April newsletter for the 2 for 1 burger coupon. Another “dine and visit” is scheduled for July 28th at Alborz Persian Restaurant, 3300 Anderson Lane. Alborz will offer NSC neighbors 20% off their meals that evening and will reserve an area of the restaurant for us.

Media – Yahoo Group – Juliete informed the board that the Guidelines for Posting on Yahoo have been very effective. The Yahoo task force plans to meet to review and update the guidelines. That meeting date and time will be posted on the website and Yahoo Group. There are 174 current NSCNA Yahoo Group members. 40 of this total have joined since June of 2009. Only 16 members have left the group since 2008. The Yahoo Group is a good source for neighborhood information.

Newsletter – Cheri reported that the June issue of the newsletter will be 8 pages and is scheduled for delivery prior to the Independence Day Celebration. The August issue may expand to 12 pages. Ad sales are up from 10 in the April newsletter to 14 in the June newsletter. An ad coordinator is still needed and more help with ad sales is always appreciated.

Safety - Chip said that Don Jones had resigned his position as Safety Chair. Don will remain on the Board. Chip will be the interim Safety Chairperson. He asked the board to help him find volunteers to serve on the Safety Committee. Chip referred to handouts he had prepared showing crime trends in the NSC neighborhood which included Burglary of Residences; Residential Theft; Burglary of Vehicles; and Auto Theft. Crime declined in May. Most of the crime in our neighborhood involves automobiles. We should always lock our cars and not leave any valuables inside the car, not even visible loose change.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Sherran Williams, acting Secretary

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Rosenthal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and "R".

Chip Rosenthal, President
August 9, 2010