

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting
August 9, 2010
North Village Branch Library, 2505 Steck Ave.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Attendance: Chip Rosenthal (President), Ken Moyer (Vice President), Kate Brien (Secretary), Lois McEvoy (Treasurer), Andreas Guenin, Cheri Hartman, Alyssa Hedge (left at 7:45), Don Jones, Sherran Williams, and Mary Jane Wier

Also in attendance: Sharron Justice

Excused absence: Vicki McFadden

Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Alyssa to adopt the agenda. The agenda was adopted by consent.

Approve the April 12, 2010 and June 14, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

For the April 12th board meeting minutes, Don motioned to accept the minutes, and the minutes were accepted by consent.

For the June 14th board meeting minutes, Alyssa motioned to accept the minutes, and the minutes were accepted by consent.

After adopting the minutes, there was a discussion regarding the proper method for distributing the draft minutes prior to the meeting. It was decided that the secretary should send the minutes directly to the board members when the minutes are ready.

Treasurer's Report

Lois presented the NSCNA income statement. The following information was discussed while reviewing the income statement:

There are currently 135 members. The NSCNA spent \$765 on the Independence Day celebration; \$350 of the \$756 was for event insurance. The newsletter information is based on expenditures and income to-date (no expected). Part of the \$2,000 under the newsletter is for ads that will run in the next 3 newsletters. The PayPal information is listed as a negative income because the NSCNA has to pay the merchant fees. Ads on PayPal can be paid for via credit cards.

Alyssa motioned to accept the treasurer's report, and the report was accepted by consent.

Committee Reports

Beautification Committee - Urban Forestry Grant

Sharon Justice presented information about the Urban Forestry Grant. The grant is through the City of Austin. The grant was designed to combat the urban heat island effect. As part of the grant, the city provides trees that have to be within 15 feet of the street right-away. The street has

a 10 foot right-away, so trees basically need to be within 25 feet of the street. As part of the grant, NSCNA is asking for money to buy and plant trees as well as money to hire an arborist. The arborist would survey the entire neighborhood. Based on the findings, the arborist help suggest where to plant the trees and which types of trees to plant. Project members estimate that the arborist will cost roughly \$2,400 of the grant money. There was a suggestion to ask the arborist for a discount in exchange for an ad in the newsletter.

There will be an informational handout regarding tree care for the people who receive a tree. There was discussion over asking homeowners who receive a tree to sign an agreement to take care of the tree. Homeowners and the NSCNA would each receive a copy of the agreement. There was discussion over if it is possible to distinguish between neglect or other reasons the tree may die and the consequences of not taking care of the tree. It was decided that since the grant is asking the tree vendor to plant the tree, the vendor could come and check on the trees that did not survive. Most tree planting services have a 1-year guarantee, so they could determine if the tree died due to neglect or other reasons.

It was requested to have the Urban Forestry Grant information posted on the website by the time the next newsletter comes out.

Lois motioned to bring the decision to file for the Urban Forestry Grant to the general membership at the September 7th meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

NPP Special Committee

Kate presented information on the NPP (Neighborhood Partner Program) special committee meeting held yesterday (Aug 8). The committee will create a survey to send to NSCNA members to gauge members' willingness to participate in the NPP program and which project(s) members want to prioritize. The NPP would like to call a special membership meeting on Oct. 19th to discuss the results of the survey.

Cheri motioned to call a special membership meeting on Oct 19th where the primary topic will be the Neighborhood Partner Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Chip will follow-up with the availability of Pillow Elementary for the meeting.

Media Committee

The one-year review of the Yahoo Group guidelines was just completed. There are 4 proposed changes to the guidelines:

1. Change "Yahoo Group" to "e-mail list"
2. Excerpted and forwarded messages must meet guidelines
3. Include "content warnings"
4. Rephrase language for moderated status

There was discussion over modifying "e-mail list" to "e-mail discussion list," updating "group" to "discussion list" throughout the document, and changing "sometimes called" to "previously called." There was also discussion over the process of joining the discussion list and updating the guidelines to include this process. The process is to submit a request to join the discussion list and then the request is approved.

Lois motioned to accept the guidelines with the suggested changes (including the original 4 edits, changing “e-mail list” to “e-mail discussion list”, and changing “sometimes called” to “previously called”). The motion passed with a vote of 7 for and 1 against.

The media committee asked for a member of the e-mail discussion list to be placed on extended moderation status until the person first agrees to follow the guidelines and then refrains from further infractions for six months. This person is currently on moderation status. As part of moderation status, if a message does not meet guidelines, the message is not posted, and the person is notified as to which guideline was not met. The person can edit the section that does not meet the guidelines and re-submit the edited e-mail. The dates and categories of this person’s violations were presented to the board. Some board members requested to see the actual infractions (with names removed from the e-mails) to gain a better understanding of the violations. The media committee did not have the emails present at the meeting.

Lois motioned to place the person on extended moderation status until the person agrees to follow guidelines and refrains from further infractions for six months. The motion passed with a vote of 6 for, 0 against, and 2 abstaining.

The August/September newsletter will be 12 pages long.

Social Committee

Ken presented the Independence Day Parade wrap-up. The parade was well attended and under budget. The games and face painters were very popular. Sonic, Dairy Queen, and Schlotzsky’s donated prizes for the event. Thank you to Narder for helping with writing the liability insurance policy. Ken is completing a write-up of what went well, what could be improved, and a suggested time for next year’s planner(s) to use. There was a suggestion to have a “no car” zone for kids with electric cars or to have a safety officer.

Chip will follow-up with the fire department to determine why the fire truck did not arrive. There will also be a follow-up regarding the use of the canopy area in the event of rain next year.

Alyssa presented several additional upcoming events organized by the social committee. The events include Bowling at Highland Lanes in Aug, hazardous waste collection in Sept, outdoor lawn games in Oct, supply drive for Pillow in Nov, and a holiday light walk in Dec.

Cheri motioned to accept the proposed events, and they were approved unanimously.

Safety Committee

National Night Out will be Oct 5th. Instead of the NSCNA hosting a specific party, the NSCNA is encouraging neighbors to host parties. This will be placed on the website and newsletter calendars. Andreas will be the NCSNA contact for National Night out.

Cheri motioned for the NSCNA to support National Night Out neighborhood block parties. The motion was adopted by consent.

Bylaws Inconsistency Issue

There are some inconsistencies in the bylaws such as under article IV regarding when dues are and article III regarding the dates for notice and selection of the nomination committee members. There was discussion over changing the selection of the Nominating Committee from October to November since we missed this requirement the last two years. There was discussion of whether there should be a standing bylaws committee. Sherran, Lois, and Kevin W. are willing to work on the bylaws committee.

Sherran motioned for the bylaws committee to be set-up to address inconsistencies in the bylaws. The motion was accepted by consent.

According to the bylaws, the board selects members of standing committees. Lois motioned to have Sherran, Lois, and Kevin Weir to be on the 2010 bylaws committee. The motion was accepted by consent.

Items for September General Membership Meeting

The following topics will be discussed at the September general membership meeting: NPP, Urban Forestry Grant, Study regarding the Steck re-striping (the City wants to report the findings from the study), and announce that the Nominating Committee will be selected at the November general meeting. Chip will send out a proposed agenda before the meeting.

Request for Committee Membership Lists

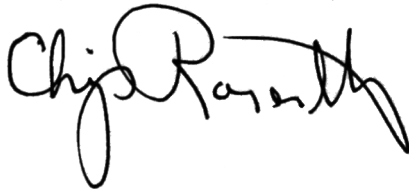
There was a discussion over acquiring current lists of committee members. The list will be used to determine if additional committee members are needed, recognize for volunteers for their efforts, and build a sense of community. Chip will ask committee chairs to send him a list of current committee members.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by: Kate Brien, 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
December 14, 2010