

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF
NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 2, 2008

A general meeting of North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association (NSCNA) was called to order at 6:36 p.m. on September 2, 2008, at Pillow School cafeteria, President Jeff Russell presiding.

With no objection, the agenda for the meeting was adopted and debate was limited to 2 minutes per person.

Main Program

The main program featured guest speakers. Jennifer Herber from the City of Austin Solid Waste Services Department described the new single-stream recycling program that goes into effect on October 6. Plastics 1-7, newspaper, cardboard and box board (like cereal boxes) will be accepted. Plastic grocery bags and Styrofoam are NOT accepted. It may take until December for every household to receive a new 90 gallon cart. Note that special services are available to those households that cannot move the garbage/recycling can to the curb. Call 311 for more information.

Erica Hendry and Sandy Boots described the Partners in Education program, a nonprofit organization that connects people in the community to the classrooms. The mentor program and study group programs were described. Mentors meet with a student once a week in an unstructured environment. The volunteers for study groups help 3-4 students during a class session with the teacher present. Volunteers can choose to help based on location, subject, student age, and other factors, and volunteers are only sent to classrooms that request help. The organization website has more information: <http://www.austinpartners.org/>.

Announcements

Next general meeting: October 14, 2008.

A bylaws revision will be considered at the October 14, 2008 meeting. (See the Bylaws Committee report for more information.)

Anyone who expresses an interest in running for an NSCNA office by Oct. 14 will be listed in the next newsletter.

Austin Energy will be trimming trees along the high-voltage power lines in the neighborhood.

The site plan for 8611 Mopac was administratively approved and the development permit was issued.

Approval of Minutes:

With no objection, the minutes of the May 6 meeting were approved as corrected.

Officer's and Committee Reports:

President Jeff Russell reported on NSCNA participation in the Neighborhood Ombudsman Town Hall Meeting held July 9, 2007. This position in city staff is being funded to help neighborhood associations deal with appropriate city issues. The city staff held small group discussions on the qualifications, issues, and training needed to properly serve neighborhood associations.

Treasurer Helene Maham reported there are currently 157 members. The July 4th event was under budget. A donation from Randolph-Brooks Credit Union allowed the purchase of re-usable, neighborhood signs, to announce the event.

Bylaws Committee: Dallas Maham, chairperson, on behalf of committee members Jerry Horn, Chris Jones, Vicki McFadden, and Julia Menegay, announced that a proposed Bylaws Revision will be considered at the October 14 general meeting. A copy of the proposal was distributed to members in attendance, and the remainder of the membership will receive a copy via mail. (The cover letter distributed to members is attached to these minutes.) Members are invited to ask questions and provide feedback at any of the three open houses: Thursday September 11 from 6:30-7:50pm and Tuesday September 16 from 6:30-7:30pm at the Pillow Elementary cafeteria, and Sunday September 21 from 2-4pm at the Village Christian Apartments central room.

Development committee: Jeff Hartmann, chairperson, announced the restricted covenant agreement with the Village is complete and will go to Council on Thursday, September 4. The VMU Opt-In density bonuses will be given to this property.

The committee is working on a process to standardize the response to proposed projects, based on the experience with the 8611 Mopac property.

Marvin Monken suggested the committee track the property of the now closed Tien Hong restaurant. It was announced that the development committee registered with the city to receive public hearing notices.

In general, several members voiced concern that committees provide better notice of their activities and meetings to the general membership.

Traffic committee: It is anticipated that the Steck re-striping will occur in September.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Submitted by,



Jeff Russell, President

Approved: January 11, 2009

NSCNA

NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 66443, Austin, TX 78766-0443 www.nscna.org

September 2, 2008

To: NSCNA Members

The Bylaws committee has worked diligently over the past six months to improve the bylaws of the Association. We have studied State Law, Robert Rules and many other Neighborhood Association bylaws to determine what changes should be made to the NSCNA bylaws. We did not keep track of the number of committee meetings (best guess is 12 to 15; about 2 hours each). It is difficult to quantify how much time and effort the committee members spent outside meetings, but it was very significant.

The committee's first business was to determine which version of the NSCNA bylaws was current. The only ratified bylaws in the permanent record are dated September 22, 1998. This version of the bylaws can be found on the NSCNA website. Other versions of the bylaws were found with a number of proposed changes, but these changes were never ratified at a general membership meeting.

The primary goal of the Bylaws committee was to clarify parts of the bylaws that had been points of disagreement over the past few years. As we sought to clarify these points, it became clear that many other issues needed to be resolved. The committee's finished product is more of a rewrite than a simple change of wording.

At our last committee meeting, August 5, 2008, all committee members agreed that the finished product is a great improvement. Is it perfect? Probably not. This was not the easiest job to complete but the committee is very happy with the final results and look forward to presenting it to the membership with pride.

You will find the proposed bylaws on pages 3-8. Any substantial wording changes made are underlined for clarity. Spelling, grammar or punctuation changes are not underlined.

We will distribute the proposal to all NSCNA member households in attendance as well as mail a copy to all member households not in attendance. We will hold three Open Houses during the month of September for members to come and discuss the proposed changes and ask any questions they may have to understand the committee's reasoning for specific changes. The dates for these Open Houses have been scheduled as follows: Pillow Elementary Cafeteria on Thursday Sept. 11th at 6:30 to 7:50 p.m., Pillow Elementary Cafeteria on Tuesday, Sept. 16th at 6:30-7:50 pm and Village Christian Apartments on Sunday Sept. 21st from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

A General Meeting has been called by NSCNA BOD at Pillow October 14, 2008, 6:30 pm. at which meeting we will ask the members to ratify these changes.

NSCNA Bylaws Committee:

Dallas Maham, *Chair*, Jerry Horn, Chris Jones, Vicki McFadden, and Julia Menegay