

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting
November 08, 2010
North Village Branch Library, 2505 Steck Ave.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

Attendance: Chip Rosenthal (President), Ken Moyer (Vice President), Kate Brien (Secretary) left at 8:45, Lois McEvoy (Treasurer), Andreas Guenin, Cheri Hartman, Don Jones, Vicki McFadden, Sherran Williams, and Mary Jane Wier

Also in attendance: Kevin Wier

Excused Absence: Alyssa Hedge

Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda

There was a discussion over adding "Celebrating Volunteers" to the agenda. This was added as 5.2. There was also a discussion over creating an election committee. This was added as 5.3. The amended agenda was adopted unanimously.

Approve the October 11, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

There was discussion over amending the minutes. The president submitted 5 proposed amendments to the minutes. The first proposed amendment was considering changing "Neighbors are curious why we are holding the funds." to "There was discussion on the balance of funds remaining from last year's fundraiser." Motion by Lois to make the proposed change. The vote regarding the change was 3 in favor of changing and 4 against changing. This amendment will not be incorporated.

The second proposed amendment was considering modifying the 2nd paragraph under "Media" to "Randolph Books has been a newsletter sponsor in prior years. They have indicated interest in doing so again. They are interested in receiving both newsletter advertising space and a graphic on the website. The sponsorship situation would not be exclusive, but to date no other suitable organizations have expressed an interest in this level of support." Motion by Kate to add this paragraph after the current paragraph. The vote regarding the change was 3 in favor and 3 against changing. The tie was broken by the president's vote in favor of the change. This amendment will be incorporated.

The third proposed amendment was to amend the second sentence of the 4th paragraph under NPP Special Committee to read "hire a parliamentarian" instead of "spend money on a parliamentarian." Motion by Kate to make the change. The vote regarding the change was 5 in favor of changing and 3 against changing.

The fourth proposed amendment was to strike the sentence "Chip has agreed to facilitate the meeting." Motion by Lois to strike the sentence. The vote regarding the change was 5 in favor of changing and 1 against changing. This amendment will be incorporated.

The fifth proposed amendment was to change "officers met without notice" to "There was a discussion of parliamentary procedures." After discussion, the proposed amendment was modified to "There was concern that the officers met without notice to the other

board members.” The vote regarding the change was 7 in favor of changing and 0 against changing. This amendment will be incorporated. The amended minutes were adopted by consent.

Treasurer’s Report

Motion by Cheri to accept the treasurer’s report. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports

Development (Kevin Weir)

Mobil Loaves and Fishes, a non-profit organization, is proposing a mobile home site for the homeless. There are 1,000 people or less who are homeless in Austin. The group Mobil Loaves and Fishes will raise money for about 100 trailers. The homeless population that will be at the site will not include children. This will be for mentally disabled, physically disabled, or former drug users. There will be no registered sex offenders allowed at the trailer park. The population should be FBI screened.

The site is being looked at as a long-term solution to chronic homelessness. The Mobil Loaves and Fishes Council member Mike Martinez stated that they have tried this before and that if it doesn’t work at the Dell Valley site they will not move forward, but this has since changed. The original site was out by the airport, and the Dell Valley neighborhood communicated concerns regarding this location.

Kevin has attended 2 of 3 meetings and read information in newspapers. The first meeting was with Gracy Woods neighborhood, and the second meeting was with North Burnet Neighborhood. There are no single-family houses in the North Burnet Neighborhood.

At the first meeting, the City said they were open about leasing the land for \$1 a year, and at the second meeting, the City said maybe more than a dollar. Technically, the City does not need to re-zone the area because the trailers will not be multifamily, it will be light industrial. The Howard Lazarus letter was written to the City Council from the person hired to look into the issue.

There are several people in Gracy Woods in favor of the project because they feel like it will reduce crime. There were strong opinions expressed at the second meeting: There are 2 daycare centers near the proposed north site, and there is also concern about panhandling. The second meeting also pointed out the Palms RV Park off of Airport includes 50 Mobil Loaves and Fishes RVs, but the rest of the RVs are part of an RV park. At the second meeting, the North Burnet association voted that they are not in favor of the project, and then, the city PR person spoke and tried to sell people on the idea. It was at this time that the meeting became more contentious.

In the second meeting, the City stated that they view this as a long-term plan to address the homeless population and housing issues in Austin. The city is not in a rush to move forward.

The best way to influence (whether supporting or no supporting) is to contact your council members. The NSCNA board discussed taking a stand as a neighborhood association (this is not a political stance). There is concern over waiting to take a stance in case “the horse is out of the barn” similar to what happened with Walmart. There is also concern that the city is trying to circumnavigate the zoning issues. The consensus of the board is to get information to members and to stay engaged in the project. There was discussion over placing information in the newsletter to let residents know the general information and let them know we will provide more information as it develops. The city has not published any information to address any hearsay or conjectures. We need to make sure we provide facts when information is provided to the membership.

The awareness of the situation has increased, but it does not seem like the City’s time line has changed. The North Austin Coalition of Neighborhoods has already created a task-force to research this issue. The issue can be brought to the membership to vote, but it should be decided by the board.

Vicki motioned that Kevin provide a brief presentation regarding this information at the Nov 9th general membership meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership

For 2009, there were 78 households. Our goal was 86 household members in 2010. For 2010, there are actually 235 individual members, 52 single member households, and 142 total households. Sixteen households joined through PayPal. Six households have paid through 2011. There was discussion over what will happen if someone joins at tomorrow’s general meeting. Based on the Bylaws, if someone pays tomorrow and are a brand-new member, they will be paying for the end of this year and all of next year. If someone pays tomorrow and has been a member, they are only paying for the next 3 months.

Social

The Social Committee is planing a luminary walk at Pillow Elementary on December 21. Amelia Cobb is heading this effort. The walk will go around the Pillow track and will include hot chocolate under the court covering. The event will be announced in the November newsletter and possibly the December newsletter.

The lawn game event was cancelled.

Media

The November newsletter is currently at the printers.

Ben Brumfield and Juliette Kernion will be stepping up as discussion group moderators and Cheri and Alyssa will be stepping down.

There was discussion over allowing Randolph Brooks to be a sponsor on the website and include 6 advertisements (2 in 2010 and 4 in 2011). The sponsorship will be for \$1,200 which would be more than the amount paid for individual ads. There was a motion by Cheri to renew our sponsorship relationship with Randolph Brooks. Exclusivity is not part of the motion nor the agreement with Randolph Brooks. If a sponsor approached

NSCNA, the Board could discuss whether or not to allow another sponsor. The motion passed 7 for and 1 abstain. Chip will discuss the sponsorship details with Randolph Brooks.

NPP

Sidewalk maintenance was not part of the recently passed City bond-package. We may receive money for the ADA (American Disabilities Act) for sidewalks in Burnet. Kate is awaiting word from the city regarding whether or not the NSCNA will be invited to participate in the program.

Bylaws

The amendments were mailed to NSCNA members. The edits are proposed amendments suggested by the Bylaws committee. The president expressed the following concerns: 1) the amendments were mailed to the general membership before being discussed by the board; 2) there were no meetings with the general membership to discuss the changes; and 3) the process followed by the Bylaws committee does not build consensus. The members of the Bylaws committee responded to these issues with the following comments: 1) there was not enough time to call a meeting of the board to discuss the amendments because the Bylaws Committee was not created until late in the year. The committee finished the draft amendments in time to mail the amendments to the general membership about ten days prior to the November 9th general membership meeting at which the Bylaws would be discussed and voted on. Prior to the general membership mailing of the Bylaws amendments, each board member received an e-mail with the attached amendments; 2) Notice that the Bylaws would be discussed at the November 9th meeting was given in a memo dated October 11 and mailed to the general membership with information on the Neighborhood Partnering Program. There was not time to have meetings of the general membership to discuss the amendments because the Bylaws Committee did not have time to have those meetings. Neither the Bylaws nor the state law requires that these meetings be held; 3) In 2008, the Bylaws committee was selected early in the year and worked many hours on the revisions to the Bylaws. They held three 2-hour meetings for the general membership to discuss the Bylaws. Those meetings were attended by two NSCNA members. When asked, the President stated that he would officiate the general meeting without raising any of the above concerns.

The amendments will be line-item votes. Some of the changes look extensive because defining information in one section trickles down to other sections. Lois will bring extra copies of the amendments and go line-by-line regarding the amendments. There is an option of suspending the rules and taking an up and down vote on the amendments instead of going line-by-line.

There is concern that the change in membership year may be controversial. Changing the membership year will make it match the fiscal year. It was changed to the current dates in 2008. If the amendment is accepted this year, members will have to vote on when the membership timeline is changed.

New Business

Items for Nov 9th general membership meeting

The items for the Nov 9th meeting are:

Approve 2 general meeting minutes

Treasurer's Report

MLF Homeless Park - Kevin will present on Mobil Loaves and Fishes

Nominating Committee - Lois has the nominating committee ballots printed

Bylaws Amendments

The membership list includes a space to write how many people in that household are at the meeting to vote

There was discussion over the sequence of topics at the meeting. There is concern regarding the available time to discuss the Bylaws Amendments. Vicki motioned to change the order of the agenda to adopt minutes, Nominating Committee, Bylaws, MLF Homeless Park, and Treasurer's report. The vote regarding the change was 8 in favor of changing and 1 against changing.

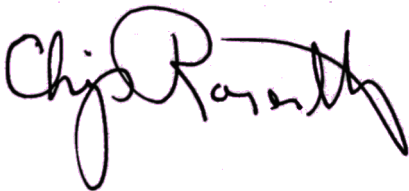
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by: Kate Brien, Secretary

Approved by action of the NSCNA Board of Directors on January 23, 2011.

Attested:

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

Chip Rosenthal, President
February 13, 2011