

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
September 4, 2012
Pillow Elementary

Item 1: Call to Order, adoption of agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by President Kenneth Webb.

Motion from Ken Moyer to adopt the agenda. Seconded, carried without objection.

Item 2: First Texas Honda Dealership, proposed sign and dealership

Kenneth directed the members to handouts that included a timeline of events regarding the sign issue as it affected NSCNA, a list of pros and cons drawn up by the Development Committee, and a letter Kenneth sent to the City of Austin Sign Review Board opposing the sign on behalf of NSCNA, based on opinions from the Board of Directors and the Development Committee.

He then turned over the floor to guest speaker Will Hardeman, managing partner of First Texas Honda and the Infiniti dealership on Burnet Road, who shared some photos of a weather balloon at a 60-foot height where the sign would be constructed.

Hardeman said the dealership could build an extension of the First Texas Honda building up to 60 feet in height, for which they would need no variance, but they would rather build a sign instead. The proposed sign would be 14' by 14', flat panel with the broad sides facing north and south. He said First Texas Honda wants to be good neighbors just as Austin Infiniti has been.

Members asked Hardeman questions about sign visibility and locations, comparisons to the nearby Lowe's sign, whether/when it would be lighted, and other issues. In addition, the lawyer working on the sign issue for First Texas Honda, Nikelle Meade with Brown McCarroll, LLP, was also at the meeting and answered questions.

Roger Wines asked if the dealership would be open to a potential compromise, such as a 45-foot sign. Hardeman said they might not need to go up to 60 feet, they would like it to fit in with the skyline.

Hardeman noted that noise pollution would be minimal: The dealership would not have an outdoor PA system on the site, and the only noise would be cars driving around, half of which would be hybrids.

He said the sign that could be attached directly on a tall extension of the building would be fully five times the size of a sign on a 60-foot stand. This would mean more illumination when it is lighted, and also that the neighborhood would see it as much as people on Mopac would.

After the guests finished their presentation, Kenneth pointed out that per the notes in his packet, the neighborhood could take one of three actions: Object to the variance, favor the variance, or recommend approval of a height between 30 and 60 feet. He said the comment sheets from the previous variance hearing would still be there at the next hearing, but that NSCNA might want to reconsider the letter he submitted if we are still opposed. He recommended that the members ratify the letter.

Betsy Todd noted that the discussion about a vote should not take place while the guests were still present.

Motion from Kate Brien to table the discussion until later. Seconded. The guests left, so Kate withdrew her motion.

Motion from Martin Tenney that NSCNA ratify the letter Kenneth sent previously. Seconded.

Kenneth clarified that this ratification would make his letter a matter of record, and would not affect any action the membership might want to take on the matter during the meeting.

Motion carried by majority vote.

Discussion about what members wanted to do regarding the sign.

Kenneth asked that the discussion be tabled temporarily because the bylaws dictate that a Nominating Committee be elected during this meeting.

Motion from Kevin Wier to table the sign discussion so we can elect a Nominating Committee because the bylaws dictate that we do so. Seconded. Motion carried by a majority vote.

Item 3: Approval of minutes of General Membership meeting, May 1, 2012

Motion from Jerry Horn to accept the minutes of the May 1 meeting as submitted. Seconded. Motion carried without opposition.

Item 4: Ratification of the appointment of a Director

Kenneth informed the members that the NSCNA Board of Directors appointed Sherran Williams as a Director in June, and the bylaws require that the membership ratify her appointment.

Motion from Kate Brien to ratify Sherran Williams as a member of the NSCNA Board of Directors. Seconded. Motion carried without opposition.

Item 5: Election of Nominating Committee

Kenneth opened the floor to nominations. Jeri Wines said five people asked to be considered for the committee before the deadline, as per the bylaws: Sherran Williams, John Migl, John Anderson, Jerry Horn and Sharon Justice.

Motion from Marvin Monken to close nominations and accept all five candidates by acclamation. Seconded. Motion carried without opposition.

Kenneth returned to the agenda item regarding the sign.

Item 6 : Revisiting issue of First Texas Honda Dealership, proposed sign and dealership

Kevin Wier took the floor to report on the Development Committee findings. He said the committee had consensus via email recommending that the 30-foot sign was adequate, and no variance was needed. The committee's biggest concern was setting a precedent for sign variances in the neighborhood.

Discussion about the variance continued. Roger Wines suggested negotiating for a shorter sign, perhaps at 45 feet. Betsy Todd said that if we decided to negotiate for a 45-foot sign, NSCNA members should decide what we want in return for the compromise, such as a written agreement for no test drives on Shoal Creek.

Motion by Sherran Williams that NSCNA continue to object to a variance on the 30-foot limit. Seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor, 6 opposed.

Kevin Wier noted that NSCNA already has a friendly relationship with the dealership and that he feels they can still be good neighbors despite the disagreement.

Item 7: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Kenneth Webb at 7:58 pm.

Minutes submitted by Juliette Kernion, Secretary, North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association.

Minutes approved at NSCNA General Meeting, November 13, 2012