

**North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 66443 Austin, Texas 78766-0443**

**General Membership Meeting  
6:30 p.m. on May 3, 2022  
Pillow Elementary School Library**

- I. CALL TO ORDER (6:38 p.m.)**  
Association president Josh Conrad conducted the meeting. Minutes recorded by Iain Cox (the association secretary was unable to attend).  
NSCNA Officers and Members of the Board attending were Josh Conrad (NSCNA President), Sharon Justice (NSCNA Treasurer), Kenneth Webb (Bylaws Committee Chair), Tomás Rodríguez (Traffic Committee Chair), John Randall (Safety Committee Chair), and Iain Cox (Membership Committee Chair).  
Total attendance, including the aforementioned, was 21 (16 members, 5 non-members).
- II. INTRODUCTIONS (6:40 p.m.)**  
Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and say when they moved to the neighborhood.
- III. REVIEW OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY AND MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS (6:45 p.m.)**  
Josh Conrad asked that attendees review minutes for January and March general membership meetings. Printouts were provided by Sharon. No changes to the minutes were put forward, so Josh declared the minutes approved.
- IV. PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION (6:49 p.m.)**  
Josh announced or spoke about the following topics:

  - a. Forthcoming garage sale
  - b. The updated NSCNA website; informed members that they can find more detail about NSCNA business on the site
  - c. Requested help from members regarding updates to the history of the neighborhood section of the website
  - d. There is a new opening on the NSCNA Board due to director, Wes Hansen, recently stepping down. Josh asked that any members interested should contact the Board via email, and he briefly outlined meeting schedule a director could expect.
  - e. Nominating Committee will be a forthcoming point of discussion at the Fall General Members Meeting, for those interested
- V. TREASURER'S REPORT (6:53 p.m.)**  
Sharon Justice presented the Jan.–Apr. profit & loss statement and the balance sheet as of 04/30/2022.

  - a. The NSCNA membership was up to 102 dues paid, 5 of which had been newly paid as the members arrived at tonight's meeting.
  - b. Cost of association's PO box has risen to \$212 per year.
  - c. NSCNA had paid \$50 subscription to renew its membership of the Austin Neighborhood Council.
  - d. NSCNA balance is currently \$39,766. This large balance is mainly due to donation from Nissan in late 1990s.
- VI. MEDIA COMMITTEE UPDATE (6:55 p.m.)**  
Sharon Justice briefly explained Media Committee's role in communicating NSCNA business.

  - a. Advised members they can use the NSCNA website to join the NSCNA and that the blog now stands in for the discontinued print newsletter—the website has a subscribe button for the blog.
  - b. Sharon also explained the NSCNA is looking into setting up online advertising to replace advertising revenue that came from the print newsletter (ad revenue helps fund association events).

**VII. UPDATE ON STECK AVE. CONSTRUCTION (6:58 p.m.)**

In response to a member's question about works scheduled for Steck Avenue:

- a. Josh explained that work is scheduled for mid-May to the end of June: the current plan—according to Joe Bland Construction—is that construction will be on westbound lane of Steck from Rockwood to Daleview, westbound traffic will be pushed to the center lane, and Rockwood will be closed to through traffic from mid-June to the end of July.
- b. Josh also mentioned the role of committees in keeping residents informed about projects like this and encouraged association members to sign up to committee mailing lists.

**VIII. SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:00 p.m.)**

John Randall had no new developments to report.

- a. John raised the idea of initiating a program with Judicial Watch, a program like the Neighborhood Watch program but organized through the Sheriff's office rather than with the Austin Police Dept. The JW program would incur some expense for signage, but the program otherwise relies on volunteers from the neighborhood to regularly patrol the neighborhood (it was suggested by car).
- b. John said he would investigate whether comparable neighborhoods in north Austin had started the Judicial Watch program and if it had improved overall safety for the neighborhood.

**IX. TRAFFIC COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:04 p.m.)**

Tomás Rodríguez reported on committee activities:

- a. The committee had contacted Cllr. Pool's office with regard to the new building developments (in progress and planned) along the Burnet corridor. Cllr. Pool's office had responded saying it had elevated these concerns via the Community Assistance Forum to the Austin Transport Department, which had acknowledged receipt. Tomás provided copies of the email correspondence so attendees could see examples of developments that give concern.
- b. Member Donna Eager raised the fact that the Subaru dealership on Ashdale Dr. had received approval from the City of Austin to build a connecting bridge across the creek bordering the dealership that would allow traffic from the dealership to reach Steck without using smaller residential streets from Ashdale—however, to date, the bridge has not been built, and traffic from Subaru continues to make heavy use of Ashdale, including car transporters that block much of the road and parked vehicles blocking sightlines for people exiting neighboring condominiums.
- c. Tomás said the committee planned to survey neighbors' opinions on measures that they think would improve traffic safety in North Shoal Creek.
- d. Josh added that he and Tomás are working together to create lasting relationships with traffic engineers in the transport dept. to improve communications on traffic matters.
- e. Tomás had posted up a printout of city workers in the transport dept. that could be contacted and encouraged attendees to make a note of them.

**X. SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:10 p.m.)**

Josh Conrad presented on behalf of Social Committee:

- a. Announced the forthcoming garage sale on Saturday, May 7 as part of the Social Committee's activities.
- b. Announced that the committee hopes to host the Fourth of July event, which has not taken place since 2019, and asked for volunteers to help identify what needs to be done to make this event happen.

**XI. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:14 p.m.)**

Iain Cox presented:

- a. Iain noted that membership was much improved compared with 2020 and encouraged members to spread the word about the NSCNA to their neighborhood friends and acquaintances, especially when they hear residents commenting on issues affecting them, e.g., traffic, safety, community events.

- b. Josh added that the Membership and Social Committees were planning a mailing flyer to try to drive up membership, and hoped to also focus on including multi-family dwellings that are part of the neighborhood.

**XII. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:17 p.m.)**

Josh Conrad presented:

- a. Explained the history of the plan to establish a park on the green space situated on the south side of Steck Ave. next to the bridge, a plan initiated by Kevin Weir, a former NSCNA president. Shoal Creek Conservancy are on board and since Josh, Adam Powell (NSCNA Vice-president), and Kevin have reopened the plan, the Conservancy has stated ideas for approaching landowners and for habitat restoration in the planned park area. Adam is currently taking the lead for this project.

**XIII. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:20 p.m.)**

Josh stated on behalf of the committee (no representative was present) that there were no new developments to report.

**XIV. SCHEDULED BUILDING IN AREA & HISTORY OF NSC NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN – Development Committee (7:21 p.m.)**

Kenneth Webb brought the conversation back to the Development Committee:

- a. Kenneth pointed out that there are at least seven major residential or mixed commercial/residential building works planned in several areas that border North Shoal Creek. These works will inevitably have an impact on the neighborhood during and after their construction given their size.
- b. Tomás Rodríguez cited a recent *Community Impact* article that stated more than 1,300 residential units (1 bed and 2 bed) will be added in the next few years along the stretch of Burnet Road bordering NSC and nearby neighborhoods.
- c. Sharon Justice outlined the history of the neighborhood plan that the NSCNA formulated several years ago in an effort to work with the City of Austin’s planned rezoning initiatives. The NSCNA plan that was agreed with the City essentially accepted the development of multi-family and commercial developments (“MU” zoning) on the edges of NSC that border high-density transport corridors, but was designed to leave the core of the neighborhood as single-family dwellings. However, the introduction of the “MU2” zoning means that such developments may still be a concern for residents next to them, because MU2 buildings can be up to 90 feet high.
- d. Sharon encouraged members to look up the NSCNA neighborhood plan online, and Josh mentioned he hoped to eventually have it also available on the NSCNA’s own website.

**XV. PLANS FOR NSCNA STORAGE SHED – Beautification Committee (7:29 p.m.)**

Member Amelia Cobb, who has worked with the NSCNA for many years in various roles on and off the board, asked about storage for supplies relating to NSCNA activities.

- a. This would be a central storage repository so that individual members do not have to store an excessive amount of materials.
- b. Josh replied that the Board had approved a budget item for such a storage shed, but location is yet to be determined.

**XVI. GARDEN COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:30 p.m.)**

Michelle Shirley and Joseph Shirley are Garden Committee Co-chairs:

- a. Co-chairs said there are currently 22 plots in the community garden located next to Pillow Elementary.
- b. There may be a need for expanding the number of plots, which the committee is investigating. The neighboring land is zoned differently, so it may not be possible to simply make new plots adjacent to the existing ones.
- c. Other ways of expanding could be differently sized plots or planting of fruit trees.

**XVII. BYLAWS COMMITTEE UPDATE (7:32 p.m.)**

Kenneth Webb presented:

- a. Kenneth said the committee is looking into possible amendments to the bylaws that would be put forward in the coming Fall 2022.

- b. Kenneth reminded members the current bylaws are available to download from the NSCNA website and to contact him via email if they have any questions about the bylaws.

**XVIII. NORTH SHOAL CREEK CONTACT TEAM (7:33 p.m.)**

Kenneth Webb announced on behalf of Contact Team, which he sits on:

- a. Kenneth mentioned the next NSC Contact Team meeting is to be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 12 and is scheduled from 6:30–8:00 p.m.
- b. Kenneth briefly explained that the Contact Team grew out of NSCNA Development Committee working with the City of Austin.
- c. Iain Cox stated that NSCNA members should understand that the NSCNA and the Contact Team are entirely separate organizations—being a member of one does not automatically make you a member of the other and does not mean you will automatically be part of the Contact Team’s deliberations or motions.
- d. Iain encouraged NSCNA members interested in city planning and developments that will affect North Shoal Creek to also join the Contact Team as an important liaison with the City.

**XIX. CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS (7:36 p.m.)**

Josh Conrad made a call for new business:

- a. Member Coleen Flannagan said that the City’s code enforcement office seems uninterested in complaints and that guidelines now only seem to be available for commercial interests, not private residents. Josh said the association would look into this issue and offered a possible solution to obtain guidelines for residents and post them on the NSCNA website.
- b. John Randall asked if a liaison team could be formed that can help communications between NSC residents and commercial property owners. This could also explore mutually beneficial arrangements with the NSCNA and its activities (e.g., online advertising, Fourth of July event prizes, liaise with Subaru dealership owners). Josh added this to the agenda for the May meeting of the NSCNA Board of Directors.
- c. More engagement with Pillow Elementary was raised by several attendees. This has historically been the case, especially relating to events like Fourth of July and the Luminaria.
- d. Sharon pointed out that Pillow Elementary’s intake boundary extends all the way up north along Metric Blvd and reaches Parmer Ln.—North Shoal Creek is in the far south of Pillow’s intake area.
- e. Many pupils attending Pillow are from low-income families and refugee families. Sharon asked that if any members had foreign language skills to investigate whether Pillow/AISD could use their help.
- f. The NSCNA has in the past donated to Pillow’s free-books program that provides such families with books the children can take home to keep.
- g. During 2020/21 period, Pillow Elementary seemed less interested in the community garden when most teaching was from home; however, according to Michelle Shirley and Joseph Shirley, the school’s interest is picking up again now that COVID restrictions are currently more relaxed.
- h. John Randall suggested, as cost-saving measures, either the NSCNA could source the materials for the NSCNA storage shed and member volunteers could build it, or the NSCNA could purchase a second-hand shed.

**XX. THANKS AND MEETING ADJOURNMENT (7:49 p.m.)**

- a. Josh Conrad thanked attendees for coming and the Board for its help.
- b. Josh adjourned the meeting at **7:50 p.m.**
- c. Attendees were encouraged to stay a short while and chat, since the library had been booked until 8:30 p.m.