



**NORTH SHOAL CREEK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 66443 Austin, Texas 78766-0443
nscna.org

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday 1/10/2023 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Pillow Elementary School Library**

Minutes

Call to order

Josh Conrad, president, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Minutes taken by Clarissa Colley, secretary. Welcome and Agenda reviewed.

Presentation by Shoal Creek Conservancy

Sierra DaSilva shares opportunities to get involved with the Shoal Creek Conservancy

- Sierra presented an overview of their website at shoalcreekconservancy.org
- We will have an opportunity to help plant and seed a riparian zone at Shoal Creek at Steck Ave in Spring 2023
- Questions were taken from the audience about planting project
- For more information contact: sierra@shoalcreekconservancy.org

Announcements

- The next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday March 7th.

Minutes approval

- No comments were provided on the 12-14-22 general membership meeting notes
- **Minutes approved by unanimous consent.**

Director elections

- Josh Conrad, president extended thanks to the efforts of the nominating committee chaired by Sharon Justice and then opened the floor to additional nominations for the Board of Directors and explained that the vote would be held by acclamation.
- Josh explained the function and activities of the Board of Directors as the body for building community and sharing concerns, in addition to being a point of contact for the neighborhood.
- Introductions were provided from the following nominees:
 - Josh Conrad (President)
 - Adam Powell (Vice President)

- Clarissa Colley (Secretary)
- John Anderson (Treasurer)
- Justin Altman
- Ayesha Badar
- Deborah Glast (via Zoom)
- Lyrica Johnson (absent due to illness)
- Maggie Kingsbury Hansen (absent)
- Tomas Rodriguez
- Pam Tucker
- Josh requested other nominations and none were offered.
- **The board of directors slate for 2023 was elected by acclamation.**
- For the purposes of managing all NSCNA financial accounts: President Josh Conrad and Treasurer John Anderson are the only two authorized signatories. Previous Treasurer Sharon Justice is no longer an authorized signatory.

Committee reports

- Josh Conrad, president, provided an overview of NSCNA committees and projects and invited those interested in helping with any committees to email directors@nscna.org with their interests.

Treasurer's Report

- Sharon Justice, outgoing treasurer, reported that NSCNA overspent by \$511 in 2022 and had a remaining balance of \$38,862.
- Sharon reports that the majority of the remaining balance was donated in 1998 by the Nissan dealership and that NSCNA is fortunate to have this sum to rely on.

Media Committee Report

- Sharon Justice reported that the media committee's primary product is a newsletter which is now distributed online 1x per month. The newsletter is also posted on Nextdoor.com and Sharon encouraged attendees to join to connect with neighbors and neighborhood issues.
- Sharon shared information on the role of the media chair, who is responsible for overseeing the Facebook page and posting occasional blog posts on the website. Josh Conrad reported he plans to write neighborhood histories for the newsletter in the future.
- Josh Conrad shared the following new features and updates on the website:
 - The ability to join online and subscribe to the blog.
 - Opportunities for sidebar advertising by neighborhood businesses.
 - Layout reorganization and repair of pages and broken links.
 - Updates to the history page with photos and old ads for the neighborhood.
- Josh Conrad shared that he is currently working to migrate the membership committee email list from Dreamhost to Google Groups due to receiving messages from Dreamhost

related to email errors as the service is not designed to be used for emailing more than 10 addresses at a time.

Membership Committee Report

- Iain Cox shared an overview of the membership committee and explained that the committee chair corresponds with the treasurer to keep track of active members and to track membership trends for outreach purposes to help maintain membership. Iain reports that membership committee activities include outreach to current members for engagement, brainstorming ways to reach new neighbors, making decisions about outreach email frequency and content and assisting other committees in outreach. Iain reports it is not a very busy committee.
- Josh Conrad, president, shared his vision for the board to plan campaigns to increase outreach to the apartment complexes in the neighborhood, as they make up the majority of the residents of the neighborhood. Josh reported NSCNA has contact information for most of the apartment complex front offices, information on where to post fliers, and for some complexes may be willing to email PDFs to residents.
- Josh called on attendees to renew their membership for 2023 and provided information on renewing in person or online through the website, in addition to requesting members indicate any committees in which they may be interested in participating.
- Josh explained that there is one membership payment per household, but households can have multiple members that can be added to the online form. Tomas Rodriguez shared that each member of a household can vote if they are over the age of 18.
- Josh closed by sharing that members of the membership committee help to run the check in table at the general meetings and help with sending welcome emails to new members.

Social Committee Report

- Josh Conrad shared information about the social committee which is co-chaired with Maggie Kingsbury.
- Josh Conrad, president and Adam Powell, vice-president, encouraged volunteers to support in future event planning, to join and participate in committees and to suggest new projects.
- Josh Conrad provided an overview of the social events in 2022 that were revived following a pause during the pandemic. These included the following events:
 - Spring garage sale
 - Fall garage sale (partially rained out)
 - 4th of July parade and party
 - Luminaria event
- Josh Conrad introduced the NSCNA Oral History project and explained that the project would aim to capture the oral history of longtime residents of the neighborhood and

would be championed by Adam Powell, vice president. Adam has a background in conducting oral histories and researched equipment to purchase for the project. The oral histories will be made available on the website.

- Darlene suggested the NSCNA consider having block captains and block events. Josh Conrad reports this used to happen within the Safety Committee. A member made the suggestion to possibly combine this with National Night Out.
- An attendee asked a question about how we might track new residents moving into the neighborhood with the suggestion that we could offer welcome baskets including coupons from local businesses.

Development Committee Report

- Josh Conrad reported that the current chair of Contact Team, Jon Menegay, is also chair of the development committee. The neighborhood contact team (a group of 8) is a body of the City of Austin created simultaneously with the adoption of the neighborhood plan. They function as a development committee and discuss development and negotiate with developers. Information on the neighborhood plan and contact for the team will be added to the NSCNA website.
- Josh Conrad is a member of contact team and shared that there are many apartment complexes being built and proposed at this time and that affordable housing is being advocated for and included in new development
- Sharon Justice shared that NSC was the last neighborhood to have a neighborhood plan and they are still honored by the city, as once city council approved the neighborhood plan, they made it a municipal ordinance. Sharon reported that as the city develops new policies, they may conflict with our plan, but technically the neighborhood plan protects us, though municipal authority always has power over it.
- Adam Powell, vice president, shared that developers often seek approval from the contact team.
- Josh Conrad provided an update on the development where Slick Willie's is located. The developer is proposing an apartment complex and trying to negotiate the size. The contact team is concerned that it abuts the Woodchase apartments and it has proposed we reach out to apartment residents about feedback on proposals to increase the height of the complex. It is part of a plan to reach out to apartments to increase engagement of renters.

Beautification Committee Report

- Josh Conrad, president, is going to take over the chair for this year to continue the work of Mary Jane Wier, former chair. He reported that previous projects included:
 - The Steck bridge mosaic project
 - The creation of the NSC Community Garden
 - Bulb outs on Rockwood

- Josh shared that the committee is working on a Shoal Creek green belt project with Shoal Creek Conservancy that will activate the space and show property owners on the street that we are organized and interested in collaborating.
- New project ideas included: Creek clean ups, general neighborhood clean ups, Pillow Park area clean (suggested by Darlene)
- Darlene called for volunteers to work with Pillow Elementary to continue to strengthen our relationship with the school. Additionally, Darlene is interested in learning who is responsible for maintaining the landscaping installed over the last 2 years. Sharon Justice shared they worked with Westcave Conservancy from a St. David's Foundation grant.
- It was also mentioned that there is possible interest in additional neighborhood murals.

Safety Committee Report

- Tomas Rodriguez, chair, put out a request for additional volunteers

Garden Committee Report

- Josh Conrad introduced himself as the new chair and reported that the garden is a special committee of the NSCNA which requires separate annual dues. Additionally Josh shared that the garden has special plots dedicated to Pillow in addition to 5 plots behind the school which are overseen by Darlene

New business

- Closing comments from Sharon Justice: Sharon reflected that the NSCNA organization reflects us, its members and it is what the residents make it. She called for members to power the organization to get things done.
- A member had a question about who takes care of bulb outs on Rockwood and raised an idea to seed/beautify bulbouts and traffic strips in front of Rockwood and Pillow.
- A member shared that the city is reviewing bike paths and they are aware the bulb outs are a bike hazard.

Hearing no further business, Josh Conrad adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm