



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

**Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday 2/16/2023
Virtual meeting (Zoom)**

Minutes

President Josh Conrad started the meeting at 6:33pm

Announcements and News

- Josh Conrad, president, introduced the agenda and asked for additional items. There were no additional items.
- The next general membership meeting is March 7th, 2023
- Next board meeting is on March 16, 2023. Josh Conrad proposed to postpone this meeting until after Spring Break, but with input on NSCNA meeting schedule history from Sharon Justice, the group decided the meeting will be held on March 16th..

Minutes

- Pam Tucker emailed in edits for the January 19th, 2023 board meeting minutes which were included in the minutes presented to the board for approval today.
- Sharon Justice requested an additional edit for the minutes to reflect the clarification on her recommendation to drop down to a lower price for NSCNA's current ad: "Sharon suggested dropping the price for the larger advertisement from \$60 to \$50 due to the size not being worth the additional cost."
- **The minutes were approved by unanimous consent with above edits.**

Treasurer's Report

- John Anderson, treasurer, reported that there is a \$3535 budget deficit in the proposed 2023 budget. Additionally, he reported a current balance of \$35,000 in NSCNA's money market account. John reported that it is his understanding that this sum has been in the NSCNA bank account for some time and while spending it would involve passing a deficit budget, we should at some point plan on using it once a project(s) have been identified and agreed upon. John suggested NSCNA consider determining a target amount to be held in reserve (such as 2-4 years worth of expenses), while allowing for spending on special projects as needed.
- John Anderson suggested NSCNA consider a change in dues to account for inflation. He offered NSCNA consider a \$20 increase or making a smaller increase such as \$17 or \$18.

- John raised that NSCNA may want to address the issue of lost income when dues are paid online, as a member pays \$16, but NSCNA only receives \$14.95 after PayPal's fee is subtracted. He suggested we consider changing more for online payments to cover this fee. Josh Conrad suggested we continue to discuss membership fees this year to agree upon recommended fees to be proposed for 2024.
- Comments from board members about the Treasurer's Report:
 - Adam Powell was in favor of increasing the annual membership fee particularly considering the current affordable rate. He was also in favor of passing the deficit budget due to typical lean spending and one-time cost projects, such as the purchase of a storage shed to house NSCNA's supplies.
 - Pam Tucker was in favor of passing the deficit budget due to faith in the experience of the treasurer and past treasurer, but generally suggests caution about passing deficit budgets. She was also in favor of waiting until next year to increase membership dues.
 - Sharon Justice reported the budget is very conservative and the odds of going over the budget are low, as are the odds of coming in over budget.
 - Lyrica Johnson suggested that the cost budgeted for the shed may not be a realistic amount based on her research for a personal project. **Josh proposed to raise the budget for the shed from \$1000 to \$2000. This was seconded by Lyrica. The proposal passed unanimously.**
 - Lyrica inquired if NSCNA spends money on garage sale events and Josh reported that in 2022 the only advertising for the event was online and this incurred no cost.
 - **Josh proposed to increase the Operating Supplies budget line from \$50 to \$150** for the purpose of investing in new yard signs for the garage sale and other events. **John Anderson seconded this. The proposal passed unanimously.**
 - The group discussed the higher cost of the July 4th event in 2022 compared to that of the last event. Sharon and Lyrica reported that the higher cost was a result of having received donations of \$500 from Sandy Perkins, realtor and \$200 from Austin Telco. These donations were spent on popsicles and Tiff's Treats for the event, which is reflected in the increased cost for this event.
- **Adam Powell motioned to approve the budget. John Anderson seconded this motion. The 2023 NSCNA budget was passed unanimously.**

Ongoing Activities and Issues

- Ice storm:
 - Sharon has been compiling a list of comments and concerns about the ice storm from Next Door and reported on her findings that she plans to share at the upcoming NSCNA general meeting to including:
 - Sharon Justice provided the following history: In the 1990s there was a movement among many Neighborhood Associations in older neighborhoods in Austin with large trees pushing for more say in how the City decided to trim trees. This led to a decreased amount of space left between the power lines and trees.

Not everyone was in agreement and the issue was likely last addressed in 2019. In retrospect, Sharon reported this was likely not a wise decision on the part of the city and Sharon reported this was pointed out in many of the comments. For the general membership meeting, Sharon recommended we focus on what can be learned about what happened in NSC, where problems occurred, proposed solutions, and thoughts on what can be done to minimize problems in the future. Sharon reported that the NSCNA should be driven by current and not past membership perspectives about what is best for the neighborhood at present.

- Josh Conrad suggested including additional information about past and current policies, actual causes of blackouts in NSC, and additional research and fact finding.
- Ayesha suggested NSCNA provide a 311 resource in the next newsletter to the COA's program providing free tree trimming near power lines on homeowner property.
- Adam Powell suggested the following agenda items for the general membership meeting in March:
 - To invite NSCNA members to share context and information about their experiences during the storm to potentially inform a letter to Leslie Pool's office in which we also ask for guidance on best practices in emergency preparedness from city council. Leslie Pool is the chair of the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee and thus may be in a good position to affect change.
 - To point out that the leadership team had different members in the past, thus we should invite members to focus on how to address this issue currently and moving forward with the goal of establishing a plan in the next year for general emergency preparedness and increased communication to NSCNA members before, during, and after future storms.
- Maggie suggested NSCNA may want to consider sending a community email via the newsletter listserv during emergencies to communicate board information and inquire if people need support.
- Ayesha suggested another way to communicate to the community might be to communicate via Facebook or other platforms that people can opt into during emergencies. Ayesha will help Sharon with managing the NSCNA Facebook account. Another option would be to inquire if community members with power would be willing to open up their home to those without power for charging electronics and other needs.
- Oral history project: Adam reported the current interview plan is to next record Kenneth Webb and then Donna and Ernie, who will conduct their interview together. He has sent out coordinating emails to those involved and is working on solidifying the dates.

Membership Committee Report

- Maggie Kingsbury, membership committee chair, reported Iain forwarded an email with details on how the Membership Committee has run in the past. Josh reported having additional details to add about how we add and subtract people from the membership list.
- Maggie reported we have had 2-3 inquiries from potential new members wanting to join in the last two weeks.
- Maggie reported that first gathering of committee is on 2/25 at 10am at Maggie's house to discuss logistics, brainstorm and connect

Development Committee Report

- No updates at this time.

Media Committee Report

- No updates at this time

Social Committee Report

- Josh reported he and Ayesha will meet soon to review all the events held by NSCNA and make a plan for 2023.
- Lyrica inquired about the date for the Spring Garage Sale. Josh suggested it could coincide with bulk pick up days in the Spring. Sharon Justice reported that in the past, it has been held in late April or early May. This will be an ongoing discussion.

Beautification Committee Report

- Josh Conrad reported he is still waiting to hear from Shoal Creek Conservancy on a date for their planting and seeding date.

Garden Committee Report

- No update at this time

Traffic Committee Report

- No update at this time

Safety Committee Report

- No update at this time

By-laws Committee Report

- No update at this time

Hearing no further business, Josh adjourned the meeting at 7:39pm.

Attendance

Directors

x	Josh Conrad (President)
x	Adam Powell (Vice-President)
x	Clarissa Colley (Secretary)
x	John Anderson (Treasurer)
	Tomas Rodriguez
x	Maggie Kingsbury
	Justin Altman
	Deborah Glast
x	Lyrice Johnson
x	Ayesha Badar
x	Pam Tucker

Other attendees

Sharon Justice