



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

**General Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday 3/7/2023 6:30 to 8:30 pm**  
**Pillow Elementary School Library**

**Minutes**

---

**Call to order**

Josh Conrad, president, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Minutes taken by Clarissa Colley, secretary. Welcome and Agenda reviewed.

**Announcements and News**

- The guest speaker at the meeting was Diana Perez, parent support specialist at Pillow Elementary. Her role is to connect Pillow families with basic resources. Diana shared that Pillow is leading in the district at supporting Cuban refugees and that they are helping 13 families, which included 20-32 kids. She extended thanks and appreciation for the donations from the neighborhood and reported an ongoing need for **bedding, kitchenware, gift cards to HEB and Walmart, diapers, furniture, nonperishable food items, and larger sizes of kids clothes**. Additionally, many adults are looking for work such as housekeeping and other jobs. Ms. Perez provided updates on additional services provided to families and encouraged attendees to contact her at [adrianna.perez@austinisd.org](mailto:adrianna.perez@austinisd.org) or cell 512-698-1179 should they want to donate items.
- Josh Conrad requested attendees renew their membership online or at the sign in table after the meeting.
- **The next neighborhood meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.**

**Winter Storm 2023 Discussion -**

- Sharon Justice reported a representative from Austin Energy was invited to talk at today's meeting, but no one was available. In an effort to give an overview of what happened to cause the severity of the blackout, Sharon Justice presented to the attendees a powerpoint by Austin Energy entitled Winter Storm Mara Austin Energy Report, which was presented to the city on February 21, 2023. Sharon Justice reported that the outage for this storm was caused by multiple single outages throughout the system with multiple complex restoration processes with devastation equivalent to a hurricane. See slideshow on the website for details. Austin Energy acknowledged that they also had communication problems with their customers.

- Adam Powell, vice president, led a discussion among the attendees with the goal of collecting feedback and proposed solutions to include in a letter on behalf of NSCNA Board of Directors to Leslie Pool's office with the intention of relaying thoughts, experiences and feedback from residents for consideration in planning for emergency events. Josh Conrad invited comments to be emailed to the Board of Directors at [directors@nscna.org](mailto:directors@nscna.org).
- Adam asked attendees the following questions to gather feedback: 1) How were you affected by the storm? 2) What are your suggestions for Leslie Pool's office about how her committee is steered and for improved communication to residents? and 3) How can NSCNA have a robust community emergency preparedness and response plan?
- Attendees reported the following concerns: 1) challenge around how to communicate with those who don't have emails or cell phones that can receive texts; 2) the slow response from the city to help residents turn off water after pipes burst; 3) the confusing, inaccurate, consistently changing and pushed back updates about the timeline for power restoration, leading to safety concerns for more vulnerable residents, and 4) powering cell phones during outages
- Recommendations:
  - Attendees requested support in coordinating block by block communication with an established block captain to check on neighbors, look out for each other, and relay information about generator power sharing.
  - Attendees requested increased communication from Leslie Poole's office and clearer communication from Austin Energy about restoration prioritization and timelines so residents can make plans about whether to stay in their home or find alternate housing.
  - An attendee suggested reminders about city programs that aim to increase access to emergency preparedness items such as outdoor faucet covers and tools to aid in turning off water supply.
  - An attendee suggested giving additional resources to Pillow Elementary School to support the community with charging and warming in the case of widespread outages.

## Minutes

- **The approval of the January minutes will be postponed** until the next meeting due to them not being printed for today's meeting and an objection from an attendee to approval by acclamation without a review of minutes by attendees.

## Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer John Anderson reported NSCNA has not had a lot of expenses in 2022 and received income primarily from advertising. John outlined the proposed 2023 budget and reported a projected a loss of \$4635 that will be taken out of cash reserves.
  - An attendee reported that their understanding was that the \$25,000 donation from Town North Nissan in 1998 is earmarked for traffic control and calming. Another attendee reported that the donation and interest from the donation are

earmarked differently. Josh Conrad proposed that the board do further research on the status of the donation and interest. Pam suggested that in the future, this information be recorded and passed down from treasurer to treasurer.

#### **Membership Committee Report**

- Adam Powell reported on the last committee meeting in which we discussed how to reach out to the multitude of renters and apartment complexes in the neighborhood.
- The committee is working on planning a roller skating party for the neighborhood at Playland and reported that the event will tentatively take place in late April. Adam invited anyone interested in helping with planning the event to get involved.

#### **Development Committee Report**

- No update at this time.

#### **Media Committee Report**

- Sharon Justice reported that February was busy with postings and updates which can be found on the website.

#### **Social Committee Report**

- Josh Conrad reported on the social committee, co-chaired with Ayesha Badar. They are starting to plan for the April garage sale.

#### **Beautification Committee Report**

- Josh Conrad shared that the first of a series of Riparian Restoration workdays, in collaboration with Shoal Creek Conservancy, is scheduled on Sunday, March 26. To volunteer or join the committee email [beautificationchair@nscna.org](mailto:beautificationchair@nscna.org). The number of volunteers is limited to 10 for this project.

#### **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.

#### **New business**

- Pam suggested that meeting minutes be posted on the website following approval.

- Questions from attendees:
  - An attendee asked if there has been communication with the apartment owners at the new complex by Waterloo Ice House regarding a timeline for project completion and unit occupation. Another member expressed interest in what the original rendering looked like compared to the actual building. Sharon Justice reported that the property's ownership has turned over multiple times.
  - An attendee asked if there are items we can get donated for events or if we could get a shed donated to decrease spending. It was suggested that a list of needed items for the 4th of July event be posted on Nextdoor and Facebook Marketplace. Adam Powell called for volunteers to help with outreach for event sponsorship.
  - An attendee asked why the cost of event insurance is so high, thus making up so much of the July 4th parade and party budget. Sharon Justice reported that the cost has increased and the city requires we have insurance. She reported there may be additional cost this year (reflecting the additional money budgeted for insurance than may be needed).

**Hearing no additional business, Josh Conrad adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.**