

MINUTES

Highland Park West Balcones Area NA Board Meeting
Old Quarry Branch Library, March 6, 2017; 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Ty Allen, Wallis Goodman, Dawn Lewis, Jason Lindenschmidt, Piet Sybesma, Rebecca Spratlin, Noel Stout, George Zwicker

Absent: Chereen Fisher

Minutes: The minutes for January 2017 were reviewed. George Zwicker moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Ty Allen. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Neighbor Communications: Kurt Cadena-Mitchell, aide to City Council Member Alison Alter. Mr. Cadena-Mitchell informed the meeting attendees of two other staff persons that could be of service: Alba Sereno (policy) and Austin DeGroot (constituent relations). He asked that if Council Member Alter's constituents have concerns and have been working with a member of the City staff, to let her office know whom they have been working with so their concerns can be more easily addressed. The email address is district10@austintexas.gov. Board members George Zwicker and Noel Stout others expressed their concerns that the city staff will not enforce plat restrictions and is not responsive to property owners on this issue. Board member Wallis Goodman wanted to make sure that Alison's office focus on environmental concerns. Kurt Cadena-Mitchell will be the lead on Code Next. Mr. Cadena-Mitchell also noted that will be a link sent out where interested neighbors can receive the District 10 newsletter.

Easter Egg Hunt: Board member Rebecca Spratlin announced the Easter Egg Hunt will be on the 14th of April, the Saturday before Easter. Volunteers are needed to assist.

Earth 350: Board member Wallis Goodman reminded neighbors about the importance of being aware of the issues that are brought about by climate change and it is one of those areas that we need to think globally, and act locally. In our neighborhood Goodman noted that we have trouble with invasive species, which is impacted by climate change. He is involved with an organization www.350.org that is working on this issue in the Austin area.

CodeNEXT: Board member Dawn Lewis noted that there is continual concern among neighborhoods about the upcoming CodeNEXT and the resulting changes in land development that will impact our neighborhood. The proposed code is over 1000 pages long and will take a while to decipher. After the maps are released in mid-April, we will have a clearer perspective on what the impact will be to our neighborhood.

Used Electronics Collection: Board member Rebecca Spratlin brought up the idea of the neighborhood sponsoring a used electronics collection to collect electronic materials that will be hazardous in the landfill and dispose of them properly. The board agreed that it was a good idea and Ms. Spratlin will do further research into this idea.

Treasurer report: George Zwicker reported that the HPWBANA currently has \$9,603.47 in funds. We have gained twenty new members in 2017 at this time. We had anticipated a higher number at this time.

Communications/Newsletter: Articles are due to Tammy Starling by March 10th for the April newsletter.

Membership: Board member Jason Lindenschmidt noted that the membership letters for business and residential members will go out this week.

Traffic and Safety: President Piet Sybesma noted that Balcones was designed as a traffic calming street, but as Board Member Ty Allen confirmed, traffic is getting busier on Balcones. The Constable works 1-2 days a week.

Meeting with developer—maybe a duplex; wanted to have an urban farmhouse. 3308 Hancock; across the street from Russell's.

Beautification: New sculptures are in the Perry Art Park and the dedication ceremony will be held soon. Wallis Goodman will be working on providing information to spectators so they can learn about the art sculptures.

Proposed School Zone: Board member George Zwicker reported that he has found two schools that don't comply with the requirements that were sent to him, on the location of school zones, Bryker Woods School, and Rosedale School. He is continuing to work on this issue.

Status of Neighborhood Development Projects:

President Piet Sybesma reported that he met with the developer who will be building a structure on 3308 Hancock, across the street from Russell's. The developer wanted to build a duplex or an urban farmhouse.

The 5021 W. Frances property is where the developer wants to subdivide the lot. There will be a public hearing on March 14th.

The builders at 3203 Hancock Drive continue to be in violation and are not building up to code/standards. The framing of the home was not done according to standard. Even though they have received communications to redo the framing, they have continued on with the building.

There was a prolonged discussion about the problem with the lack of accountability and enforcement by the city staff.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Lewis, Secretary