

WNA Annual Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2012
Will Hampton Library 7:00 pm

In attendance: Board members Chris Shexnayder, Jan Boswell, Jennifer Voss, Barbara Huffman, and Trudy Hasan, plus about 40 Westcreek neighbors and guests

1. WNA President Chris Shexnayder opened the meeting and welcomed the large group.
2. Treasurer's Report (Jan): we have 148 paid members. Bank balances provided (\$14,583.09 total). The CD matures in September 2012.
3. Nominations/Elections: Chris recognized retiring board members Gary Bunevick, Chris Morris, and Jan Boswell and thanked them for their service. Nominees introduced: Jennifer Voss for Vice President, Kurt Honigschmidt for Treasurer, and John Mendenhall for Member-at-Large #1. No other nominations were made. Voted – all ayes, no nays.
4. Chris welcomed the new board members. Member -at-Large #3 remains vacant for now. Chris also welcomed our new Webmaster Jeff Olmeda. We are still looking for a newsletter editor.
5. No Parking Ordinance: Chris explained that Westcreek has to “opt in” to continue the ban on no parking in the front yard. The motion passed. It will continue to be illegal to park in your front yard in Westcreek.
6. Guest Speaker Officer Richard Paez: Officer Paez is our new District Representative. He has been with APD for 20 years, 11 of those in southwest Austin. He became our District Representative about 8 months ago, taking Officer LaHood's place. Officer Paez encouraged us to get involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program. APD is about 400 officers short, so they really rely on us to be the eyes and ears for the neighborhood. He gave out information on handling solicitations. He also provided some websites to use to access crime data for our area. He introduced Jack Darby who runs the website www.Krimelabb.com. Mr. Darby started gathering crime statistics about 20 years ago after his home had been broken into twice. You can use the website for free to search crime statistics, submit or view non-911 “alerts”, and find out ways to get involved in community policing. He is giving a seminar on February 23rd “How to be a Neighborhood Crime Analyst” - see his website for more information. He, like Officer Paez, stressed that the police need our help in catching offenders. Mr. Darby also encouraged us to lobby city hall for more police, as we are below the national per capita average for police in Austin. Get involved in your Neighborhood Watch Program and stay involved.
7. Urban Trail Update: Mike Curtis, manager of the Neighborhood Connectivity Division, and Chad Crager, project manager for Urban Trails, presented the status of the Westcreek trail plans. The Neighborhood Connectivity Division is a new division in Public Works, and they are in charge of new sidewalks, bike routes, child safety, neighborhood partnering, and urban trails which was recently transferred from the Parks and Recreation Department. Urban trails focus on commuting corridors. The trail that the City plans to build from Brush Country to Small M.S./Monterey Oaks will be an urban trail. It will not be designated as a “Safe Walk to School” since there were some issues with AISD bus routes that would be affected. Because the trail is in a FEMA flood plain, the project was unable to be “fast-tracked” through the City's general permit process. Instead, a more elaborate site plan must be developed, increasing the engineering and construction costs from \$250,000 to \$400,000.

The project is currently on hold until more money is available, likely after the next bond election in November. Currently delayed 18-24 months, but Mr. Curtis assured us that this project will be in the City's Urban Trail Master Plan currently being developed. The City plans to proceed with extending the sidewalk along Westcreek Drive (next to Patton) all the way to the end of the street as an initial phase of

work to be completed in the next 3-6 months. Discussed barricades at end of Brush Country and Westcreek Drive. Mr. Curtis said that they will talk to Transportation to see what options we have that would be more aesthetically pleasing.

8. 6110 Hill Forest: owner Frank Bomar, attorney Dan Wheelus, and real estate broker Gail Whitfield were present at the meeting to discuss the current status and plans for this property. Mr. Wheelus spoke on behalf of Mr. Bomar and presented the background information up to the current demolition and cleaning of the property. Mr. Bomar is a longtime Austin resident and businessman who is not interested in developing the property himself but instead wants to sell to someone who will. Duplexes, garden homes, and a preschool have been discussed as possible uses for the property. Chris asked how many duplexes could be allowed but Mr. Wheelus did not know as he is not a developer. Mr. Wheelus believes that there may be some grandfathering of the property but he is checking into that more. Mr. Wheelus and Mr. Bomar appeared very willing to work with interested parties.
9. Other Comments: Trudy announced that flyers and other information on Wildlife Habitats are available on the back table. Jennifer discussed the recent traffic fatality on Brush Country and possible traffic calming measures for Brush Country, Summerset, and Hill Forest. Sandy Baldrige asked Officer Paez for more traffic cops at Patton in the morning and afternoon. Chris announced that \$1,200 was raised by our Wildfire Relief Benefit in November and donated to Austin Community Foundation. Trudy is organizing a trail work day to spread mulch: it will be Saturday January 22 from 1-3 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.