

WNA Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2010
6100 Smith Oak (Chris Morris' house)

In attendance: Chris Schexnayder, Gary Buvenick, Jan Boswell, Chris Morris, Barbara Huffman, Trudy Hasan, Jennifer Voss, Hannah Williams, Linda Leubs, and Vicki Phillips

- Jennifer Voss attended the first of three Neighborhood Watch meetings held by the Austin Police Department. Topics included: how to form a neighborhood watch program, selecting a block captain, installing watch signs, and developing a telephone tree. Jennifer received a Resource Manual and more information about 311 violations which she shared with the group. Officer LaHood was also at the meeting, and he mentioned that bike patrols were starting up in Westcreek. She plans to attend the next two meetings that will focus on physical security and how to make your home resistant to crime.

Jennifer's interest in revamping the Neighborhood Watch in Westcreek comes from wanting to *make a difference*: "I can make an impact in my neighborhood, maybe not the city, state, or country, but here I can."

The cost to replace faded signs is \$50; new sign installation is \$70 to \$80. Chris S. will inventory the existing Neighborhood Watch signs to see which ones need to be replaced.

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Committee is taking photos and sending out letters to homeowners for unsightly conditions. Barb is working on a newsletter article to highlight positive examples and she is putting together a Yard of the Month spreadsheet (some months' winners are missing). They are in the process of selecting next month's YOM winner.

Discussed code violations. Gary clarified that concerned neighbors should call 311 first, and, if the City doesn't respond or the problem is recurring, then contact the WNA. Overgrown lot at Old Fredricksburg and Westcreek is becoming a driving visibility hazard (Chris S. has already called 311).

- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the continuing low membership numbers and the efforts of a few to the benefit of everyone. What will happen to Westcreek if we don't put in the effort into keeping up the properties or have input into development of some of the remaining lots? Linda will look into whether any area merchants would provide neighborhood discounts for home improvement, such as for fence replacement. Chris M. will research whether our deed restrictions and architectural committee (Article 7, Paragraph 2) are still valid. We need to start walking the neighborhood to recruit members, and we need to use more than one "sales pitch": amenities (park, trail), property values, code compliance, development of remaining properties, etc.
- Jan presented the Treasurer's Report. Ninety-seven (97) homeowners have paid their dues so far this year.
- The Board approved the April 2010 minutes.
- Neighborhood Partnering Program and KAB Grant. No one replied to Chris' email request for a

volunteer grant writer. He will see if Stephanie with Councilmember Cole's office will meet to walk the trail and possible pocket park area to drum up the City's interest. One of our grant projects will be to replace the red/white barricade at the end of Brush Country with something aesthetically pleasing. Chris prepared the KAB grant application for \$810 for trail cleanup and maintenance.

- Westcreek Pocket Park/Trail. The Scouts have asked whether an Eagle Scout sign can be installed on the trail. Recommend that a tag be placed on one of the benches that were constructed. Chris S. expressed some hesitation about having a concrete sidewalk installed since the natural trail is so nice. Gary said that the City can make the trail meander and that the location of the proposed concrete trail is some distance from the nature trail. Having the concrete trail will also inhibit development in that area, and Vicki pointed out that the concrete sidewalk will require little or no maintenance. The City's next step is to send out notices to the neighborhood. Trudy suggested that we have a celebration of the trail now that the Scouts have finished. She will contact OHTA about a joint party in June. Perhaps Randall's could supply refreshments.
- Wildlife Habitat Challenge. Trudy had no response to her email requesting a volunteer to lead this project. However, the newsletter hasn't come out yet. If there is no response in the week after the newsletter is delivered, then she will complete the necessary application and be the project leader.
- Chris S. received an alternate bid of \$50 for a son/father team to mow the Brush Country ROW. The grass is not too high yet. Linda suggested that we get a light for the Westcreek sign on Brush Country. Can power be run to the sign, or could the light be solar-powered? She would like to spruce up the sign with more native plants.
- Gary and Jan need to submit their bios and photos to Karen for the newsletter.
- The next meeting will be **Monday June 14th at 7pm** at Jan's house (6305 Smith Oak). (Note: the meeting date was going to be June 21st, but it was later changed to the 14th).

Meeting Adjourned.