



Museum Park Neighborhood Association General Meeting
Clayton Library Carriage House
July 6, 2016
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm:

MINUTES

The annual July Ice Cream Social was held before the meeting began. Vanilla and chocolate cups of Blue Bell ice cream were distributed to those attending by Membership Committee Chairman Barbara McGuffey. and Vice President Sandy Stevens.

President's Report

- President Greg Quintero called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- It was determined that a quorum of members was present.

Vice President's Report: Sandy Stevens had no report

Secretary's Report: Janet Fayle had no report

Treasurer's Report: Cynthia Tang

- Cynthia reported that the current balance in the MPNA account was \$14,945.00
- Changes in the size of the MPNA post office box will result in savings to the account. The new, smaller box will cost \$80 per year rather than the \$400 per year cost of the current larger box. It was determined that the amount of mail received did not warrant the larger box.
- The Treasurer's report included an expenditure of \$600 for new esplanade signs to announce the MPNA monthly meetings. President Greg Quintero thanked MPNA member Carl Lindsay for maintaining, storing and placing the signs on the esplanades before each General Meeting.
- More expenditures may be necessary for maintaining the seven end-cap gardens on our esplanades. Further details will be provided in the Quality of Life report by Committee Chairman Kathleen O'Reilly.

Parliamentarian's Report: Armin Porter had no report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee Report: Barbara McGuffey

- Barbara introduced Amanda Taylor, owner of Club 44 Health and Fitness club as a new Affiliate member.
- Barbara has started sending a welcome to new Museum Park members on NextDoor with information about the MPNA Neighborhood Association and inviting them to attend our meetings.
- She asked first time attendees to the meeting to stand and introduce themselves

Community Engagement Committee Report: In the absence of Chairman Cindy Woods the following upcoming events were announced.

- Miller Outdoor Theater Museum Park Night and Pot Luck Social - Thursday, September 15
- National Night Out – Tuesday, October 4 on the esplanade at Crawford and Southmore

Quality of Life and Infrastructure Committee Report: Kathleen O'Reilly

- Kathleen reported on Mayor Sylvester Turner's Homeless Initiative meeting held at Hermann Park on June 30th in which he unveiled a plan to deploy 175 patrol officers into five areas with problems of homeless population and drug addictions particularly to the synthetic marijuana drug, Kush. These areas include Peggy Point Park, and Hermann Park. Patrolling in these areas has increased since the plan was put into place.

- Cynthia Alvarado of the Midtown Management District has reported that all feeding at Peggy's Point Park and two other parks has been cancelled.
- We need to keep in mind that mental health, physical health and drug use are all factors contributing to the homeless problem.
- The seven esplanade end-cap gardens are an important part of the neighborhood's identity and beautification. Their maintenance has become burdensome for members of the neighborhood; therefore, the Committee has taken the step of contracting with a lawn maintenance company on a trial basis of four months at a cost of about \$50 per esplanade. If this trial is successful it may be necessary to establish a maintenance fund for the esplanades perhaps funded by donations from the membership.
- The draft Livable Center Study report should be available later in July.

Safety & Security Committee Report: Open Position In the absence of a Committee Chairman, Greg Quintero reported.

- To form a COP (Citizens on Patrol) group eight people are needed to go to meetings to be recertified.
- Currently we are waiting for the end of the fiscal year to see if there will be money available to pay the overtime for officers to staff these meetings.
- We will have more information when it becomes available.

Preservation Committee Report: Kim Mickelson

- Kim reported that she is still looking for a time to do oral histories to attempt to preserve the history of the neighborhood.

Additional Topics:

MacGregor Park progress: Discussions have been held with the Principal of MacGregor Elementary. The property belongs to HISD and while she is open to the park idea the safety and security of the students is the first priority.

Questions from the Membership:

What is the status of the Palm Street abandonment and could the decision could be changed with enough neighborhood input?

- Kathleen O'Reilly responded by saying that the developers for the project have been asked to comply with the parameters of the Livable Center Study regarding development and mobility. Once the purchase of Palm Street is made the use of the area becomes private rather than public and there is no guarantee that the green space promised would become a reality. MPNA sent the questions and comments from the June 1 General Meeting to the developer with a request for a response and a request for the presentation or renderings to post on our website. Neither have been provided.

Is the proposed HEB supermarket was still in the works and where would it be located?

- Greg Quintero responded that as far as he knew an HEB was still planned just east of Hwy 288 on MacGregor. Council Member Dwight Boykins would probably have more information.

Adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Fayle

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Secretary Museum Park Neighborhood Association

7/18/2016