

## **Cherrywood Neighborhood Association General Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Asbury/Servant Church, 1605 East 38th 1/2 Street

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM

### **Members present**

Meaghan Bludau, Patrick Carroll, Roseana Carroll, Mandy Chenevert, Leyla Cohlma, Daniel Culotta, Mike Damal, Terry Dyke, Marilyn Fenn, Ali Foyt, Francie Greene, Girard Kinney, Jules Kniolek, Emily Mathon, Stuart McNulty, Dave Obermann, Ryan Ofsthun, Jennifer Potter-Miller, Jim Reed, Emily Schwartz, Amy Smith, Kacie Stair, Mike Sullivan, Erin Tassoulas, Ioannis Tassoulas, Tom Visco, John Walthour, Dave Westenbarger, Mr. Wiccit, Lauren Yoder

### **Guest present**

Roberto Perez

### **Reading of agenda**

Printed copies distributed

### **Welcoming Remarks From the Chair**

Mr. Kniolek spoke about ways to get the message out, calling for a focus on increasing community and fellowship and getting more people involved. He read portions of a letter (attached) that he circulated to the Steering Committee and the general assembly announcing the re-formation of the Nominating Committee, and apologizing for the failure to post the February 17 General Assembly agenda on time as specified in the by-laws, meaning that the meeting could not act on the two scheduled business items, digital billboards and stealth dorms.

### **Steering Committee update**

#### Treasurer's report

Acting treasurer Terry Dyke reported a balance of \$8,034.14 as of February 10.

#### Hazardous Waste pickup

Mr. Dyke announced that household hazardous waste collection is now an ongoing budgeted program, in the interests of having the Association deliver services to the neighborhood, and that the next collection is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 10 AM – 3 PM at Cherrywood Green. Members may bring items for disposal at the City of Austin Household Hazardous Waste Facility and discarded electronics of all kinds may be brought for recycling. CNA volunteers will haul the collected items to the waste facility during its weekday hours.

#### Development Services

Mr. Kniolek provided an update on the new Development Services program, which makes use of the custom "Permit Alert" online software that accesses new permit applications from the City of Austin's database. He reported receiving three calls this quarter from neighbors seeking advice

or assistance with zoning and building code issues, and mentioned that a treatment of the “side porch” amendment would appear in the upcoming Flea.

#### Music Festival committee

Mr. Ofsthun reported that they have applied for a permit for CherryWoodstock to take place at the pavilion in Patterson Park, Saturday, April 23, from 1:00-6:00 PM.

#### Flea update

Mr. Sullivan, layout designer for the Flea, reported on progress by the new Flea staff, which started with the November 2015 issue. They are updating the design to more of a magazine style. The Flea is looking for volunteers and is open to contributions.

#### Nominating Committee rollout

Mr. Ofsthun reported on progress by the newly re-formed Nominating Committee. To complete its required task of identifying candidates for the Steering Committee, the Nominating committee still needs two more members. He urged CNA members to consider serving on it.

### **Business**

Due to posting irregularities, the assembly was unable to act on any business items. The issues came under some discussion and sharing of information:

Stealth dorms: Ordinance sets a limit of four unrelated adults living in a house. Some 339,000 properties are grandfathered in. The two year moratorium will expire on March 31. Ms. Tassoulas will send out more information, and draft a letter that individual CNA members can send to council members if they wish.

Digital billboards: City ordinances limit proliferation of billboards, but the major operator is planning to convert existing sites to digital displays. City Council has agreed to allow a 120-day public deliberation process before moving ahead with any ordinance regarding digital billboards. Mr. Kinney invited CNA members to email him to become a friend of Scenic Austin, which is opposed to digital billboards.

### **Program**

Neighborhood rock band Bat City played while tacos from El Chilito were served and neighbors socialized before the meeting was called to order.

### **Announcements**

Jennifer Potter-Miller announced the revival of Friends of Patterson Park and urged that the proposed Neighborhood Partnering Program “Cloudburst” art and rain-garden project be put on hold, pending further consideration. She announced the “It’s My Park Day” event for March 5, and noted that Ramsey Park is a good model for neighborhood involvement in managing a park. Mr. Kinney reported that according to a conversation with a representative of the City’s Neighborhood Partnering Program, the Cloudburst project is in fact on hold.

Roberto Perez announced that services such as food distribution and nursing services are available at the Blackland Neighborhood Center, 2005 Salina St., as well as other neighborhood centers around the city.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted by Terry Dyke, Secretary

Attachment: Apology from the Chair

17 Feb 2016

To: Steering Committee, Nominating Committee, Girard Kinney, & Erin Tassoulas

cc: CNA General Assembly  
From: Jules Kniolek, CNA Chair

In light of the fairly recent controversy over a letter about I35 that we were called out on for improper procedure and had to re-work as a result, and the currently active controversy over the SWNA proposed Cloudburst Neighborhood Partnering Program regarding following proper process and procedure I want to stress that it is *extremely important* today that we be *very deliberate* in our processes of governance.

To that end the Steering Committee has an obligation to adhere to the by-laws of the association. Further, the by-laws under Article XII specifically state that the CNA is governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

**Article XII: Parliamentary Authority**

Rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern CNA in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Regarding this I have two very important items I need to communicate prior to this evening's General Assembly meeting. One is about announcing the re-formation of the Nominating Committee and its work in selecting a slate of candidates for the November election, and the other item is about General Assembly agenda posting and how it relates to action by vote on agenda items.

It has been brought to my attention that a suggestion was made that the Nominating Committee consider prior service as a criteria when recruiting a slate of candidates for the Steering Committee. With respect to the makeup of the Steering Committee the by-laws are specific about diversity. As stated in the bylaws this diversity criteria is "geographic residence, age, sex, occupation and area of expertise."

**Article VIII: Committees**

B. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of five members, no more than two of whom shall be members of the SC. **The Nominating Committee shall select a slate of candidates for the SC election** prior to the October general membership meeting as specified previously in the bylaws; for election prior to the October general membership meeting; **in so doing it shall attempt to balance the membership of the SC with respect to geographic residence, age, sex, occupation, and areas of expertise**, choosing from among persons who have

demonstrated interest in furthering the goals of CNA. The slate of candidates shall be equal to or greater than the number of vacancies on the SC. The Nominating Committee shall publish the slate of nominees and notice of the election meeting pursuant to Art. V(A). The Nominating Committee shall, in the case of vacancies, present nominees to the SC to fill the vacancy. Refer to Article VI(C).

With that in mind I beg the current members of the Nominating Committee to be very careful when speaking tonight about the re-formation of the Nominating Committee and how they will proceed in their work.

Secondly - and embarrassingly - it has been brought to my attention in separate communications by two members of the CNA that I failed to post the February 17 General Assembly agenda on time as specified in the by-laws.

**Article V: Meetings of the Membership**

A. Notice of Membership Meetings: All general and special membership meetings shall require prior notice specifying the date, time, place and an agenda describing issues to be discussed and any possible actions on which a vote may be taken. Written notice shall be posted in publicly accessible locations no fewer than 5 days prior to a meeting. The Steering Committee shall determine and make public the exact locations of notice to be used for the year at its first meeting following October elections, or whenever a change is necessary. In addition, electronic notice shall also be posted to relevant websites and email lists, such as Cherrywood.org and NeighborNet, no fewer than 5 days prior to a meeting.

In following this very important by-law I am afraid we will not be able to call for a vote on the Stealth Dorm item and the Digital Billboard item at this meeting. I know bringing these items to the assembly are very important to Erin and Girard personally and each of you brought them to the Steering Committee in good faith for their inclusion in the proceedings tonight. I blame no-one but me for my misstep and I want to publicly state my sincerest apologies to you. I could explain the circumstances leading to my mistake but in the end while it could present a logical explanation about it the result still remains and for that I am truly sorry.

Regards  
Jules