

BBVNA BOARD MEETING NOTES - 12/12/2016

The Board convened at 6:30 pm at the home of Mike Weingarten & Joan Thomas, and the meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. John Thomas led the meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE:

John Thomas (President),
Damian Baca (1st VP),
Margaret Johnson (2nd VP),
Rita Toland (Treasurer),
Mike Weingarten (Secretary),
Richard Roati (Urban Wildlife & Forestry Committee)
Ann Pattison (Historic Designation Committee)
Joan Thomas (Malvern Plaza Committee)
Dick Basye (MCRC Representative)
Suzie Husband (Welcome Committee)

1) Joint Cleanup Proposal by Country Club Manor HOA:

Charlie Knowar, Paul Fisher, and Don Barnett from Country Club Manor condominiums on Winsett St. came to present a proposal for our two neighborhoods to collaborate on cleaning up vegetation and weeds along the north side of Winsett St. The area in question immediately borders the back yards of BBVN homes on the south side of Stratford. It is City property, but maintenance and upkeep is the responsibility of the homeowners on Stratford. Some sections are already in reasonably good shape, but there are about 5 segments in which the weeds and other vegetation has grown out of control. The proposal is that we initially focus on weed removal and trimming. At a later time, the potential exists for additional collaboration on planting native plants in that area.

The Board agreed to the proposal, and Richard and Damian agreed to be our contacts to work with Paul, Charlie, and Don on the logistics. Richard and Damian will contact the affected homeowners on Stratford, and solicit their participation in the planning and actual cleanup effort. The Country Club Manor HOA will provide people to help with the effort. Target timing for a group cleanup event is sometime in March.

2) Historic Designation Update: (Ann & Rita)

a) Donation Status: Little has changed since our last meeting, with few additional contributions received. To date, 30 of the 137 people on the initial contributing property list have paid the requested \$200, 98 people have paid the initial \$100 request, and one person paid \$50 toward the \$100 contribution, for a total of \$15,950 contributed thus far. Currently in our accounts, we have about \$12,300 still reserved for the Historic Designation project, but that will be used as Chris Evans continues to work and submits subsequent bills.

b) New Letter to Homeowners: We agreed that a new letter needs to be sent out to homeowners, making an additional appeal for contributions. Ann will draft the letter, which will be designed to address both the group who have yet to contribute the initial \$100, as well as the more select group of contributing properties who have not yet contributed the \$200. Rita will help identify who has paid so far, so that the mailing list can be appropriately targeted. John will review and help with final editing of the letter itself.

c) GARDEN, Inc. Proposal: All agree that if this is acceptable per tax law, it would be a great idea -- i.e., having people contribute to the Historic Designation effort through GARDEN, Inc., and thereby be able to take advantage of GARDEN's tax exempt status. Rita agreed to contact Deb Alter, a tax accounting resource she is familiar with who has expertise with nonprofits. We hope to get direction on this by our next meeting.

3) Neighborhood Input to the Board: (Mike & Joan)

Mike and Joan reported on a meeting they had with a concerned neighbor, who had requested an opportunity to provide input to the Board around concerns and misunderstandings in the neighborhood. The majority of her comments had to do with communications, areas in which she perceives many neighbors do not understand the workings of the Board, the committees, and the projects. She also has an interest in ensuring the neighborhood maintains an attractive appearance, and expressed an interest in ensuring that code violations in this area are reported, and that the process for doing so is understood by our neighbors. She encouraged us to consider providing more open forum time in our neighborhood meetings to allow neighbors to raise questions or concerns.

The Board was appreciative of the effort that this neighbor made to document her perspectives and concerns, and to bring them to our attention. The Board agreed that additional effort at communicating to the neighborhood would be helpful, and liked the idea of allotting time in our upcoming January meeting for a more open style in which neighbors can raise questions and get needed information. We also would like to continue the efforts of using portions of these meetings to clarify projects and committee roles. Regarding code enforcement, the Board agreed that making the City's website for that topic available through a link from our neighborhood website would be appropriate. However, it stressed that as a Neighborhood Association (as opposed to Homeowners' Association) enforcement of standards is not within our role or responsibilities. We support any individual neighbor's right to pursue filing complaints if they feel the need to do so, and will direct them to the standard City processes designed for that purpose. However, we also strongly encourage all neighbors to first attempt to resolve issues through constructive and respectful dialogue with their neighbors, and use the filing of formal complaints only as a last resort.

4) Planning for January 18 General Meeting: (John)

We may need 1 or 2 planned agenda topics, but otherwise, per the above discussion, we agreed to include more open-ended time for a broader discussion of questions and issues. We also discussed the

possible design of rotating people through small groups during a portion of the meeting, each group focused on a different aspect of the Association's activities. Possibly a segment around what the Board does, what the committees do, per the feedback above. John and Mike agreed to work a proposed structure, and to design a single page flyer that could be distributed to all homes to "advertise" and generate interest in the meeting. The flyer should be printed by January 6, so it can be distributed over the weekend of January 7-8.

We discussed the possibility of offering rides to those who may have trouble getting to the meeting.

We discussed the potential to use the meeting to develop and/or recruit other neighbors who might be interested in getting involved in the Board and/or committees.

John and Mike will provide a proposal through email back to the Board for feedback.

5) MCRC: (Dick)

Dick reported that the D-M leadership continues to be reluctant to change landing patterns to use the railway paths, as previously proposed. However, they DID agree to move forward on the idea to move or lengthen the runways to enable planes to land 3/4 mile further to the southeast, thereby reducing the low altitude landing patterns over our neighborhoods. This will also resolve the problem of low flights over a school, which could otherwise be a difficult/expensive problem to address. It appears that this will be the focus of the MCRC group's effort going forward. The Board thanked Dick for his continuing perseverance in representing the neighborhood on this Board.

6) Memorial on the Eastbourne/Manchester median (Richard)

As reported previously, the City rejected the idea of the memorial on the median -- they have determined that in general, memorial structures are not permitted on medians. However, they DO permit works of art on medians, and Ellen has agreed to "rebrand" her work as an art project. Richard and Ellen will now try to get support for installing a modified version.

Additional:

During this meeting, John informed the Board that he and Becky are planning to move from Tucson to California. The move will happen sometime in the first quarter of 2017, after their having lived in this neighborhood for 37 years, and in Tucson for almost 50. John will stay involved in the Board's activities as he can, up until the move. It is not yet time for "goodbyes", but I will note personally that I will miss John's capable leadership and wise counsel when he leaves.

The meeting officially adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Weingarten, BBVNA Secretary