

# **Angus Valley Area Neighborhood Association**

*Board Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2011, at  
Milwood Library*

## **I. Call to order**

Rodger Barnes, President of AVANA, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Deliese Kennedy Robinson, Judy Schani, Chuck Pace, Gaye Thompson, Marissa Little, Jennie Anderson, Maria Bauman, Stacey Peterson, and Ward Boyd.

Board member absent: Marcia Kirkland

Visitors in attendance: Gil Kloepfer, Randy Robinson, Granville Ott, Reba Ott, Mae Burns, Tim Mayo, Walt Case, Evelyn Case, Donna Slather, Katherine Dombrowski, Anne-Marie Currie, and Cindy Kunkel.

## **II. Review of minutes**

The May 11, 2011 minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

## **III. Finance Report**

No treasurer's report was presented. The board voted to spend \$55.05 for flyers to notify the neighborhood about the upcoming meeting on Yett Creek Park.

## **IV. Committee Reports**

Traffic & Safety - Chuck Pace presented crime data for the past two months. The crime rate in Angus Valley was very low compared to the crimes reported in the Section 8 apartments.

Specifically, there was only one reported crime in Angus Valley (a disturbance on Pony Chase), but there were 10 reports or crimes in the Section 8 apartments (1 accidental death, 1 animal bite, 2 assaults with injury (family violence), one assault with injury, one cruelty to animals, one disturbance (other), one harassment, and two thefts).

- Communications (Yahoo Group) – not addressed / no report.
- Correspondence – not addressed / no report.
- Liaison to Other Neighborhoods – not addressed / no report.

- Parks Committee: Yett Creek Park Off Leash Park Proposal – Marissa Little discussed the upcoming meeting scheduled with Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) and the neighborhood concerning the City of Austin’s proposal to officially designate Yett Creek Park as an off-leash dog trail. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Davis Elementary.

Prior to the meeting, two handouts were prepared: (1) the different ways in which our neighbors can organize to be most effective during the meeting; and (2) a compilation of comments expressed to the board personally and by e-mail.

Marissa pointed out that the Board is NOT advocating a position but will act only to facilitate an open dialog between the City and the neighborhood.

## V. Old Business

The floor was opened for discussion and the following points were discussed:

- If the park is not changed as currently proposed, what will happen to it? One individual who attended the Off Leash Area Advisory Committee (OLAAC) meeting in May said that it was mentioned in that meeting that the land could be traded to the county if the City has too many problems getting the changes to the park approved, and if that happens then the county could trade or sell it for development.
- Whether other nearby neighborhoods were aware of the City’s proposal. Yes! Mesa Park has passed out flyers; Milwood has posted a notice on their web site; it is unknown whether Balcones Woods is aware of the PARC proposal.
- Neighborhood desires for the park must be substantiated with evidence of need or as a qualitative improvement.
- The dog park proposal is an ongoing process. There currently are at least five other dog parks of this nature in the city. It was noted that Bill Frazier, President of OLAAC, is an advocate for the dogs not necessarily for the park. Bill insists that, if the proposal is to become reality that AVANA needs to have a volunteer committee to oversee the monitoring of the park.
- Jennie Anderson has volunteered to be the Park Adopter.
- PARC has indicated that having more Off Leash Dog Areas is third on the list for most requested parks and recreational areas for northwest Austin.
- How was it determined that Yett Creek Park is under-utilized? According to information found on the COA’s website, Yett Creek Park only has rustic trails, which seems to be its only amenity.

- Recently, city staff visited the park and did not see anyone else there, but it was theorized that the City by chance reviewed the park at a time when no one was using it.
- Who will enforce the rules and regulations if the park becomes an off-leash area? One of our neighbors stated that she already picks up a 39-gallon trash bag full of trash each month from the park. PARD apparently has the money to build the park, but not enough money to maintain the park. Thus, there will be a need for community advocates to help oversee and maintain the park.
- Why can't the park stay the way it is? It is open green space, provides a rustic trail, is the home for wildlife, and does not have any impervious cover. Additionally, Yett Creek Park already is a de-facto off-leash dog park.
- Entrances would be at locations that are easily accessed by park rangers.
- Trash cans would be placed at entrances. Trash would be picked up daily or as needed. Three-one-one (311) could be called for additional trash pickup.
- Concerns were expressed over the possibility of badly behaving dogs, especially when children and the elderly are present. It was theorized that an off-leash dog facility as proposed would not likely be used by children and the elderly.
- It was expressed that likelihood of fire and crime would decrease because there would be more people in the park to discourage trouble.
- Stacey volunteered to collect the thoughts already expressed on our listserv and organize those into a list for easy reference. The categories of information would be organized as noted above - in support of, adverse to, and in support but with concessions.
- How do we communicate with the City? We encourage neighbors to send e-mails directly to the City personnel responsible for this proposed park change (i.e., Ricardo Soliz and D'Anne Williams).
- How do we best inform the neighborhood on current issues? The AVANA web page and via our Yahoo Group listserv are the preferred methods. Signs have already been posted around the neighborhood with the date and time of the PARD meeting.
- Who will be at the PARD meeting scheduled for June 13, 2011? Three or four other neighborhoods have received notice of the meeting so they may be there along with AVANA. Additionally, a representative from OLAAC and a bike plan representative will be there to present their positions and to answer questions.
- How will the dust and the potential smells be dealt with? It was suggested that the park may need periodic recovery time when no one is allowed to use the park.

- How will we get questions answered prior to the PARD meeting? These questions relate to the actual structure of the meeting, City attendees, etc. Marissa said that she would contact D'Anne to inquire and will let the Board know via e-mail.
- How many entrances would there be? There are five identified possible entrances to the park: West Cow Path cul-de-sac, Mustang Chase, Riata Vista Circle (main entrance), rail road track (SW corner of park), and Warehouse parking lot area near the holding pond (NW edge of park).
- What other amenities might be included? Kiosks with mutt mitts and trash cans at or near the entrances. But, no water or restroom facilities are being planned so as to limit public participation. Parking spaces, if any, would be at main entrance on Riata Vista Circle.
- Will there be additional meetings with PARD? Currently, three meetings are planned, but we don't have a schedule. It was mentioned that when Bartholomew Park was proposed, there really was only one meeting where citizen input was received and all the other meetings were voting meetings where comment was not taken.
- Will the proposed off-leash park be fenced? No, it would not. It would be more of a moving dog-trail where the dogs would be walking along off-leash with their humans.

## **VI. New Business**

Jennie Anderson relayed a suggestion by Eric Dayal, who lives in the West Cow Path cul-de-sac, that a streetlight is needed in that area

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Submitted by Deliese Kennedy Robinson, Secretary**  
**Date Approved: October 5, 2011**

## **ADDENDUM TO MEETING MINUTES of June 8, 2011**

(to document the activities via e-mail of the Board between Board meetings)

- The Board voted unanimously, via e-mail, to reimburse Rodger Barnes for the expenses incurred when he purchased new signs to advertise the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with the City of Austin. That expense came to \$116.91, and our treasurer was asked to draw up a check to Rodger for that amount. A copy of the invoice is attached to the hard-copy of these minutes.
- Jennie Anderson, Stacey Peterson, and Maria Bauman volunteered to attend and attended the PARD sub-committee meeting (Lands, Facilities, and Program Committee) on July 11, 2011.
- Jennie Anderson volunteered to attend and attended the Off-Leash Area Advisory Council meeting on July 13, 2011, and the Off Leash Area Adopters meeting on July 20, 2011.
- Jennie Anderson volunteered to attend and attended the Parks Advisory Board meeting on July 26, 2011.
- Jennie Anderson volunteered to attend and attended the Austin Neighborhood Council's first annual workshop entitled "Understanding and Presenting to City Boards and Commissions" to be conducted in September 2011.
- We discussed the blue street reflector markers that started showing up in the neighborhood. It was determined that they were placed there by the fire department to mark the locations of fire hydrants.
- Election of the Board and the General Meeting to be conducted in October 2011 – we've been pondering individually as to who will seek re-election on the Board and are seeking others to be involved, as well.
- AVANA web site – we've also been discussing the need for more than one person to know how to update our web site in the future so it can be more reflective of what's going on during those times when additional assistance is needed in this regard.