

Angus Valley Area Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting Minutes - February 11, 2009

Milwood Library

I. Call to order

John Baylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members in attendance: John Baylor, Bob Zane, Jim Lorance, Stacey Peterson, John Bramlett, David Brown, Marissa Little, A.V. Ootsey, Chuck Pace, Judy Poole, Gaye Thompson. Also in attendance: Sue Krivka.

II. Review of minutes

The minutes of January 9, 2009, were approved as corrected.

III. Finance Report

Jim Lorance presented the treasurer's report. Income this period was \$50.22 (interest income + dues + advertising). Expenses were \$35.00 (Austin Neighborhood Council Dues). The association's cash balance is \$1,725.30 and a written financial report was filed with the minutes.

IV. Committee Reports

- Traffic & safety - Chuck Pace reported that he was still talking to the city about possibly getting a "No Through Traffic" sign for W. Cow Path. Car burglaries have increased in Austin especially in parking lots and at fitness centers. Chuck reiterated the need for extra caution whenever visiting places like 24-hour fitness on 183. He reminded us to lock our cars, even at home, and to leave nothing in plain site as over 70% of car burglaries involve visible items left in cars (i.e. laptops, cell phones).

For 1/13/09 - 2/10/09 there were eleven (11) criminal incidents that generated reports in the Section 8 apartments (which is average for this area):

- 1 aggravated assault
- 2 assaults with injury - family violence
- 1 burglary of residence
- 1 arrest for credit card abuse
- 1 arrest for outstanding traffic warrant
- 2 family disturbances
- 1 terroristic threat
- 2 thefts

Four (4) incidents for the rest of Angus Valley:

- 1 assault on Mustang Chase
- 1 assault with injury - family violence on Black Angus
- 1 burglary of vehicle on Sage Hen
- 1 harassment on Sage Hen

- Communications - Newsletter - Marissa Little reported that the newsletter has gone to Dorene Cohen and should be published soon. Many residents have requested that the newsletter take on more of a community feel.

Yahoo Group - John Bramlett reported that 4 more residents have joined the Yahoo Group since last month bringing the total members to 108.

Website - John Baylor relayed information from Bill Woleben concerning a limitation of storage space on the free website that AVANA uses. Bill Woleben will attempt to establish a link from our website to another server so the minutes can remain archived. Chuck Pace suggested placing a counter on the website to track the number of visitors to it.

- Parks - Bob Zane reported that he had met with Annick Beaudet, Project Manager of the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, to discuss proposed bicycle trails through Angus Valley that appeared on the city's website. Ms. Beaudet stated that she did not foresee any bike lanes being added in our area due to budget constraints. She also stated that the city is not moving forward at this time in opening an entrance into Riata Park via Jessica Lane. AVANA will be contacted if either project is revisited.

There was general discussion of changes going on in Yett Creek Park related to the city's cutting a large path along the length of the power line that runs along the north of the neighborhood. John Baylor pointed out that this is needed to allow access for utility trucks due to the closing of the private railroad crossing into Yett Creek from the east (it is being closed to allow UPRR to add an additional siding track and also so the trains will not have to blow their whistles). He added that the city will probably do something (such as a locked gate) to restrict unauthorized vehicular traffic. A.V. Ootsey requested that we consider asking the city for signage directing pedestrians to established trails. John Baylor stated that we need to determine the extent of the city's plans and said he would follow up by contacting Brad Arndt who has more information on the subject. A.V. Ootsey volunteered to serve as Chair on AVANA's standing Park Committee.

- Liason to Other Neighborhoods – John Baylor received an invitation from Dustin Lanier, President of the Milwood Neighborhood Association, to attend a meeting with some representatives from other northwest Austin neighborhood

groups concerning issues surrounding the Gateway/Domain development and how it might impact adjacent neighborhoods. One of the concerns is an increase of traffic on Duval and what the city might do to focus and control it. Other board members expressed an interest in attending this meeting and asked John to email the invitation to everyone.

V. Correspondence -

- UP Railroad Siding Case – Having received many emails from residents on Black Angus and in Champion Forest and Mesa Park, John Baylor wrote to Nikki Hoelter in the City of Austin on behalf of AVANA asking to be named as an interested party in the case. As a result, he received a copy of the Master Comment Report from the city to McNeil Siding Improvements which outlines the city’s requests/demands that the applicant must meet in order to get city approval. John stated that while we may not be able to stop the siding from going in, the interested parties (including about 120 homes that lie within 500 feet of the tracks) can communicate to the city any concerns or conditions they might wish to have included in the site plan.

John referred to a letter dated January 21, 2009, that he wrote to the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Depart on behalf of AVANA stating serious concerns and opposing this development in its present form. He requested that the UPRR stop the siding improvement before it intersects with our residential area and that, at minimum, UPRR should build a high fence and agree to keep the vegetation mowed. Several board members voiced a desire that if possible any documents pertaining to this case that might be helpful or of interest to the affected residents be scanned and placed on AVANA’s website.

VI. New Business -

- An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to consider the question of how the board should distinguish which kind of issues should be brought before the whole neighborhood for a community vote and which type of issues should the board members decide on their own and relay to the city on the neighborhood’s behalf. Committee members will be David Brown (chair), Chuck Pace, Judy Poole, and Stacey Peterson.
- The March board meeting was tentatively cancelled unless a need for it arises.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Stacey Peterson, Secretary

Date Approved: March 11, 2009