

GNA Board Meeting Minutes - January 13th, 2004

Attendees:

Board Members: Eric Dorris, Jannelle Imken, Austin Spencer, John Busch

Absent: Mike Collins, Rick Friedman

Committee Chairs: Robert Floyd, Arthur McLean

Absent: Lisette Schmidli, Gillian McLean

Other Invitees: Nic Holland

Absent: Ted Biggerstaff

Minutes:

John Busch called the meeting to order at 7:08pm and enjoined discussion on the following agenda items:

1) Standard Reports: quick review at the beginning of each meeting

Gatehouse update – Nic

Sign update: The Stainless Steel backing on the sign is off now because Bobby Parker is modifying it in his shop to add interior lighting. Nic visited with Bobby yesterday and they discussed lighting the sign. They also discussed lighting the Gatehouse both inside and outside. The approach from both of their standpoints was to enhance durability and low maintenance. Bobby agreed to donate certain lighting fixtures of high quality that were left over from previous jobs. If we need to buy anything, it will be at his Bobby's cost. Nic passed a drawing around illustrating the lighting plan. There will be two 42" tubes located inside the sign. We will abandon the existing floodlight in front of the planter, which leaves room for new landscaping. There will be two lights behind the sign illuminating the Gatehouse, and these lights will be obscured by the sign. They will also add a halide light outside and will add an interior light for illuminating the inside of the gatehouse as well. The halide will be a replacement for the existing light fixture which lights the flags. In conclusion, whatever we do will require some maintenance, but this plan is a relatively low maintenance approach. One alternate approach that was also discussed was to use the same type of long exterior light fixture as that found on the Westminster Glen sign, but we'll only revert to that type of approach if our plan does not work for any reason. Arthur brought up the issue of insects and suggested that we could use a Plexiglas panel behind the letters. John said that this might ruin the aesthetics. Robert added that if we do use this approach, we should use a milky plastic so that it will look more

evenly dispersed in it backlighting. Nic said that he and Bobby had discussed this previously, their conclusion was that insects would probably be an issue even if we do add some sort of covering such as the plastic, but we should try it first without to see how it works. John added that I liked this approach since Nic has steered us right so far, and Bobby has considerable experience, we should agree to trust their judgment in this matter. Jannelle asked Nic when the best time to pay for the completed sign would be, and said that she would especially like to write the check before Jan. 31st if possible, when our fiscal year ends. Nic suggested we wait until acid washing is complete, however, he made the point that the vendor was about 95% done with the sign. Eric made the suggestion that we write the check before the fiscal year ends, but not deliver it until the work is complete. All agreed this was a good and acceptable approach. Jannelle also asked if the lantern part of the Gatehouse was still on track, since she has the same issue with this expenditure. Nic said that, as far as he knew, it was still scheduled for later this month. As suggested, and with Board approval, Jannelle will write the check for both and hold onto them before mailing. Jannelle asked if \$3450 and \$7714 were still valid amounts for the sign and lantern, consecutively? Nic said they were, although the \$7714 was more of an estimate, and suggested allotting an additional \$350 to cover the cost of any additional lighting materials.

Architectural Control Committee activity - Robert

Per Robert: 2 formal requests were received over the last few months – one for an addition for the Barreras and one more minor inquiry. Austin asked about the work at Ted's place, and Robert indicated his plan was approved last year by the previous ACC. Robert mentioned that he had tried to contact the other members of the ACC, but had not received a response. At the next Board meeting, we will dedicate time to discussing ACC expectations, organization, etc.

Neighborhood Development Issues update – Lisette

John talked to Lisette by phone and there were no updates. Arthur indicated that Lisette had mentioned that the City Council will be meeting on the Champion's issue that had previously passed the Platting and Zoning Commission last month. The date for this City Council meeting is Feb. 26th in about a month. Arthur has added this update to the website.

Welcoming Committee activity – Eric / Lisette

Eric said that he still had no phone number for Lake and Susan Robertson but will keep trying to contact them. He did call John and Jamie Carpenter and welcomed them to the neighborhood. He will follow up with more info and an offer for the Welcoming Committee to visit them. Per Arthur, the Welcoming Committee may be getting a new chairperson soon, but this announcement is still pending.

E-Mail activity – Eric

No activity, except a New Year's Party invitation sent to Far View residents at the request of Vince Parrilla.

Social Committee – Arthur or Gillian

No activity, but Arthur passed out a draft of a future e-mail blast to the neighborhood, which requests feedback on various social neighborhood opportunities. Board members quickly reviewed his draft message and all agreed that it looked very good with no revisions. Eric will supply the e-mail addresses to Arthur upon request.

Website – Arthur

Arthur mentioned that he has actively been updating the website and it is quite enjoyable. It's also a great learning experience. Arthur indicated that he had a new surprise feature to compare the new and old Gatehouse facades using a "hover" button dynamic element, which is on the website now – very impressive! He just added a new Glenlake Photo from Carla and also an invitation to join a Tennis Group from Dede Brown.

Grounds Maintenance / Entrance – Austin

No updates. Janelle asked about the last bill from Mike Farrell. Austin indicated it did, in fact, include loose gravel cleanup and spraying of weeds growing in the asphalt. According to Austin, gravel really collects at the downhill cul-de-sac sides of both Turkey Creek and Weatherhill Cove. Janelle wondered if the County may be enticed to do a little more maintenance on our roads which might re-disburse some of the loose gravel. In her opinion, surrounding neighborhoods roads looked better than ours. Robert suggested that maybe we need to squeak a little to get the county to do our roads. We agreed to postpone this discussion until the next Board meeting.

Newsletter – Rick

No activity. John talked to Rick before the meeting, and Rick wants to start on the Newsletter soon and would like to solicit our input.

Membership status – Janelle

No change. There are currently 120 members. John suggested that he include a letter in the next membership drive mailing to try to enhance membership numbers, given our strained financial reserve position due to necessary Gatehouse expenditures during the last fiscal year.

Budget status – Janelle

No change. Janelle has not sent checks for Gatehouse yet, and the premium for Directors and Officers Insurance was higher than we thought again this year. After paying all outstanding bills, we should start our next fiscal year with approx. \$3700 in reserve, which may not be enough to cover a future emergency.

Messages sent to GNA – John

John indicated that he had fielded complaints from 2 residents about different subjects. The first had to do with children making noise at the bus stop, while the second had to do with a feral rooster waking folks up. Both issues have been addressed.

Neighborhood Issues – John

John mentioned that the decision on the Water Storage Tank has not yet been finalized, and that LCRA has this matter under study and is keeping the neighborhood association apprised of their progress.

Look forward at upcoming Calendar Events – John

Nothing upcoming before next Board meeting except possible Newsletter.

2) Budget Discussion – all

Jannelle led the Board in a discussion of next years budget. The main initiative was to build the reserve, which is too low at this point. In light of this, the Board approved an increase of the yearly dues from \$65, where it has been for some time, to \$75 in order to general more revenue for critical reserves. The Board also agreed that the neighborhood's number one priority was to finish the Gatehouse restoration, and set aside additional funds for any overage or unexpected additional expenses in this regard. One project that the Board had indicated interest in was to install cameras in the Gatehouse for 2 reasons: to help identify vandals (of which we've had many instances of Gatehouse damage) as well as a record to review in the event that we have reported crimes or break-ins in the neighborhood in the future.

3) General Meeting Prep - all

John will:

- Create an agenda that will include Gatehouse and Neighborhood updates
- Provide signs to Austin for posting at the Gatehouse
- Bring bottled water
- Reserve our meeting place at the Church
- Be prepared to discuss the proposed Water Tower
- Get drinking glasses from Ted, if available

Eric will:

- Invite our newest neighbors
- Bring juice to drink

Austin will:

- Post signage at the Gatehouse
- Bring snacks (optional)

3) ACC Expectations – Robert

Due to the lateness of the hour, this discussion will be deferred to the next Board meeting.

4) General Discussion – all

Eric proposed an idea to solicit the City of Austin to remove specific trees at the intersection of City Park/2222 to increase visibility. The Board generally thought this was a great idea, worth pursuing. We will defer this to our next Board meeting, when we have more time to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Spencer and John Busch (standing in for Rick Friedman, GNA
Secretary)