

Minutes
Glenlake Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 23, 2007

Board members present: Jeannette Burger, Eric Dorris, Carol Lee, Tom Pullum
Board members absent: Susan McDonald Cooper

Others present: Mari Schwanke Barreda (treasurer), Arthur McLean (webmaster), Richard Yoder (ACC Chair), John Busch (LCRA liaison), Mary Daigle (resident), Kristie Reeves-Cavaliero (resident), Kevin MacDonnell (resident)

Because of icy weather in the middle of January, the meeting originally planned for January 16 was postponed one week. This also delayed the mailing of the newsletter to announce the general GNA meeting normally held in late January. That meeting will take place on February 5.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. at Carol's home with two presentations by residents and discussion.

Kristie Reeves-Cavaliero presented an analysis of the planned LCRA water improvements for Glenlake and Westminster Glen, prepared by Brett Reeves (who was unable to attend) and herself. Kristie attended the GNA general meeting in October 2006, at which LCRA representatives described the project, and was following up on that presentation and some of the discussion at that meeting. Brett is a commercial plumber and is familiar with this kind of construction. Briefly summarized, the analysis presented four primary concerns: 1) equity of rates between Westminster Glen and Glenlake, considering that the landscaping found in WG probably contributes more to the strain on capacity, 2) water conservation could perhaps avoid the need to expand capacity, 3) Glenlake residents are not informed about the project, and 4) the projected monthly charge and permanent fee for financing the project seem too high..

Kristie was able to obtain from the LCRA some documents pertaining to the project that our LCRA liaison did not have. They will be added to the GNA website. Although the GNA has arranged several briefings from LCRA for residents, including at the October 2006 General Meeting, and provided status updates in newsletters and on the website, the Board agreed that more can and should be done to inform residents. The Board does not have the authority to regulate water consumption, but agreed that we can do more to promote conservation, rainwater collection, and staggered times for sprinkler systems. .

The Board also agreed that the estimated average increase of \$50 per month needs further explanation and review. The LCRA plans to hold a Cost of Service meeting to explain the financing to residents after they have obtained firm bids, but the GNA will initiate discussions with LCRA to better understand the proposed financing and the process for setting the rates. There was a consensus that the cost should be built into a new rate structure in such a way that it will be borne primarily by the heaviest users, because their demands for water are a major reason behind the upgrading of capacity. A more steeply graduated rate structure may also provide an incentive for water conservation.

The Board acknowledged its appreciation of Kristie and Brett's efforts, as well as of John Busch's voluntary liaison activities to keep this project moving along.

Kevin MacDonnell then proposed that the GNA sponsor a workshop on dog behavior, which would include a presentation by a certified dog behavior specialist and a personal injury lawyer. The goals would be to improve dog owners' management of their dogs, to help residents avert potential dog attacks, and to educate residents on the legal risks and options for owners of misbehaving dogs. Dr. Kim Berry of the Travis County Health Department would be a potential speaker. GNA sponsorship would take the form of paying speaker fees, facility rental, and publicity. No cost estimates could be provided with the proposal.

The Board expressed concern about whether such a workshop would be well attended by owners of problematic dogs. Sponsorship cannot be considered until a cost estimate is provided and funds are budgeted.

The business portion of the meeting began at approximately 8:30 p.m. The following topics were considered:

1. Board membership and responsibilities

Long-time Glenlake resident Mary Daigle is willing to take the board position currently occupied by Tom Pullum, who stayed on after his regular term ended on October 31, 2006. She will assume the remainder of a three-year term that will expire on October 31, 2009. Tom will continue to be active, but in the role of past president rather than as a board member and secretary. Eric Dorris, who has also served in a temporary capacity since November 1, 2006, will take on the secretary's role beginning with the next GNA Board meeting.

2. GNA goals for 2007

There was a lengthy discussion of goals for the current year, largely connected with the budget for the fiscal year that will begin on February 1 and will be voted on at the Feb. 5 general GNA meeting. The possibilities that were raised and will be discussed at the general meeting include the following:

--Revive the Neighborhood Watch program, in which residents have a heightened awareness of suspicious activities. This could be done as part of an organized program or could largely be achieved by having more social activities for Glenlake as a whole or within sub-areas.

--More social activities. This is a goal in its own right, apart from the justification given above. Unfortunately, there is no obvious venue within Glenlake for such events. There was support for a cook-out or potluck dinner in the cul de sac at the end of Glenlake Drive. Proximity to Richard Yoder's home is one advantage of this location. The board discussed having block parties in different areas of Glenlake. These smaller gatherings would promote a sense of community within the different parts of Glenlake, and get folks to know their nearby neighbors. At the annual meeting we may ask for volunteer coordinators. Other possibilities featuring neighborhood musical talent were discussed. In a written report, social committee chair Gillian McLean proposed a Ski Shores social event in the spring.

--Complete the landscaping near the entrance. Much has been done but it is still not known whether the sprinkler system is functional, and the flower beds must be mulched.

--The new website is essentially complete; we still have a \$500 payment due upon final upload of the features originally agreed to. During the coming year we will try to make it more interactive. The budget should include some money for software and maintenance.

--The GNA will continue as an active participant in the 2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (CONA). Annual membership dues of associations have not been specified but, given our size and budget, it was felt we could contribute \$500 and encourage residents to make additional contributions. In the past fiscal year we contributed \$1000 and residents contributed approximately an additional \$1000.

--The adaptation of the gatehouse to use as a lending library should be completed in the spring. The main remaining expenses are for shelving and a lock system. Susan Cooper and Arthur McLean have been working on this.

3. Additional budget discussion

We will try to reduce the mailing costs for the newsletter (as well as the effort to get it out) by increasing the use of email.

We will look into a contractual arrangement with Mike Farrell for our regular maintenance work. Mike has done this work for several years but on a month-to-month basis. It would be better for Glenlake, and possibly better for Mike, if it were done with a contract that would clearly specify his responsibilities and fees. His fees seem reasonable but Eric Dorris will develop estimates of alternatives.

Future general meetings may be held at the River Place Country Club instead of Shepherd of the Hills Church. The Church has raised its rental fee to \$100, whereas we may be able to obtain free or inexpensive use of RPCC meeting rooms through Glenlake residents who are members of RPCC.

4. Report by ACC Chair, Richard Yoder

There has been no significant activity since the last meeting. We received a complaint from the Westminster Glen HOA regarding an occupied trailer visible from Westminster. Richard has not been able to verify that the trailer is being lived in, or whether it meets the setback requirements of the Glenlake deed restrictions. It is screened from view within Glenlake. Richard will contact the Glenlake resident and attempt to work out an amicable resolution. Richard also will consult one or more attorneys who handle real estate to obtain an estimate of the cost of revising and integrating the various sets of Glenlake deed restrictions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Pullum