

Glenlake Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2016 7:30pm-9:30pm

River Place Country Club

Minutes taken by John Busch, Glenlake board member

Halloween Hayride

GNA Board Member Austin Spencer reported that the 2016 Halloween Hayride was a fantastic neighborhood social event. His wife Theresa did the bulk of it and deserves the praise. We had great participation and met 3-4 families new to GL. This year, we planned on Sun instead of Sat and it worked out great. We did miss the usual band at Dr. Harris' house, but maybe next time. Thanks to Austin and esp. to Theresa!

GNA Picnic - planned for Summer 2017

GNA Board Member Austin Spencer reported that the annual GNA Picnic may be the weekend before Memorial Day at Woodlands Park off Big View Drive. We had a fantastic turnout last year with fajitas and margarita mix, which came in right on budget. He thinks it's important to have a few social events per year.

Austin Fire Dept (AFD) and ESD4 Update

GNA President Michael Reitzel introduced 2 speakers: ESD4 Fire Chief David Bailey and AFD President Bob Nicks. Here is a bulleted summary of their comments:

- ESD4 used to encircle much of Austin, however, due to City of Austin annexing, it is only left with 6 islands that are very spaced apart. If they would build the dept. today, it wouldn't look like this, obviously.
- Earlier this year, merger talks began. The goal was by Sept. to have a commitment, which did happen.
- The advantage of ESD4 merging with AFD is that we have a standing army of about 300 people to serve in an emergency such as an area wildfire
- The disadvantage is that AFD operates differently and has more overhead, thus making it considerably more expensive, so the toughest hurdle is to make it happen at a reasonable price point.
- While neither Chief Bailey or Pres. Nicks (also head of the AFD union) were originally sure it would happen, it now does look like it's at least possible, so they are cautiously optimistic.
- Contract deal breakers would be: 911 Drive and Station 407 must stay open, firefighters must have a chance (not a guarantee) to join AFD, and the standard of service (time to get to your house) cannot degrade, however, none of these have met with any opposition at this point.
- The conversation ended in Sept with a budget gap of about \$1.4M, which ESD4 needed to try to close. Luckily, ESD4 did find some extra revenue that closes this gap. The extra revenue was from businesses that were not paying their full new sales tax rate.
- The Austin City Council is the one that must approve this, but since there now is either a much smaller gap or no financial gap, we're in a much more favorable position.
- No date certain, but final merger could be as early as next summer. ESD4 will keep ownership of all facilities, but the City of Austin will maintain it. ESD4 stays in existence to monitor contracts, collect money and keep insurance active.

- GNA President Michael Reitzel asked if the new contract would have a renewal feature and the answer was that it's not worked out yet, but they expect the contract to be written in such way that it guarantees long contract life.
- Our Austin City Council District 10 representative Sheri Gallo was in attendance, and was asked by a neighbor if our neighborhood would soon be annexed. She replied not that she'd heard, and that they were seeing more methodical thoughtful conversations prior to annexation - a new thing - so it may provide more notice in the future, but as of now nothing that she's heard so far. She also reiterated how nice it was that ESD4 could close the budget gap, because if there is a gap, we'd be competing with everything else in the budget cycle including AISD, parks, etc. She also said that since wildfire is such a big issue, it would be very nice to have the resources of the city to help fight that possibility.

GNA Board of Directions Election

GNA President Michael Reitzel called for the election of a replacement for an expiring Board of Director's term. John Busch was nominated and voted into another term.

Treasurer's Review

GNA Treasurer Tracy Sims gave a Treasurer's Report which included the following items:

- Dues were a little less than last year, but not much.
- Budget was pretty much on target.
- We may have a water leak at the entrance, but have some budget to cover it
- The GNA Website may need an update, but it would be better to find a volunteer.
- Brush is growing up on 911 cut-thru. Since it's a small issue, the consensus was to just ask Mike Farrel to consider it.
- From the audience, the idea of becoming a neighborhood association w/ mandatory dues was mentioned, but there was no significant interest from those in attendance.

City Park Road Champion Development

GNA Board Member Carol Lee covered this issue with a slideshow and making these points:

- The Champion's attorney has been working on this development for 20 years, but there is little institutional knowledge on the Austin City Council, so it's easy for him to start over periodically to try to get a better outcome. As an example, much less intense zoning was approved in 2000, but now they have returned and are asking for more.
- Only about 5 acres are buildable on this 45 acre tract, since there is a gorge running through the middle of the property. 325 apartments are proposed for just the western portion.
- Legal shenanigans ensued and it passed at City Council. In summary, the adjacent neighbors petitioned for a super-majority of 8 members and it was found to be a valid petition. Then, at the last minute, the applicant changed their zoning application to move the boundary 205 feet - just enough that the petition would be invalid, which meant only 6 votes were needed. In the end, we got 7 votes yes, so this made all the difference.
- In response to a question about why she was not more effective in helping our cause, Council Member Gallo mentioned that per the Open Meetings Act, she cannot lobby more than 4 council members. She did lobby 4, however none voted in our favor.
- In response to a question about what, if anything, we could have done differently to obtain a better result, Council Member Gallo said we should look at the meetings schedule and attend all meetings on this issue esp. with City Staff. Also, it's important to talk to the other Council Members as well. At the conclusion of her responses,

Representative Gallo reiterated that she did her best for our cause, bade her farewells and thanked us for inviting her. She then left the meeting.

- Other options to respond to this issue were then discussed.

Viper Nation Education Foundation

Former GNA Board Member Courtney Johnson attended to discuss her new assignment as Executive Director of Viper Nation Education Foundation, but since our Champion discussion went long, this will be postponed to January 2017.