

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association
Spring General Membership Meeting Summary

March 1, 2016

The Berkner Park Neighborhood Association general spring meeting was held on March 1, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Gene Lawrence. The Berkner Park Neighborhood Association leadership team was introduced.

Visiting dignitaries in attendance were Richardson City Council members Bob Townsend and Mark Solomon (Mayor Pro Tem), First Assistant City Manager Don Magner, Assistant to the City Manager Taylor Lough, Texas House Representative Linda Koop (District 102), and Berkner High School Principal Henry Hall who was accompanied by Ms Elizabeth Swaner, Associate Berkner HS principal and Berkner STEM Academy principal.

Mr. Lawrence provided an overview of the neighborhood entry feature project and the butterfly garden project. He also summarized Phase 2 of the sign project.

Ms Goodside gave the Treasurer's report.

Mr. Magner reviewed the composition of the City Council and he reviewed City goals and related projects and activities that are currently active:

City goals focus on finances and financial position, internal processes and improvements, customer service, and organizational culture.

Mr. Magner also provided status and information on city projects currently underway or that are in the planning process:

- infrastructure including streets, retaining walls, bridges, water, waste water, and intersection improvements and maintenance
- buildings, streets, parks, and sidewalk bond improvements
- library, golf course, surgical center, and restaurant park
- community recognition as a bicycle friendly city
- food truck park
- Barkway dog park has received state recognition

Mr. Magner summarized economic development activity that includes new corporate presence as well as relocations. Cityline has been particularly active with other development occurring in various locations. Important factors associated with economic development include quality educational opportunities for workers and families offered by the University of Texas at Dallas, Richland College, and RISD and PISD and quality health facilities represented by Methodist Health development at Cityline and other locations including Plano Rd, Campbell Rd, and Renner Rd.

A query was raised about housing units associated with much of the economic development activity. Mr. Magner pointed out that age groups and lifestyles are important factors associated with housing and the interests and needs of prospective occupants of housing types.

Ms Koop reviewed state legislative activity. This is an off-year so committees are working on tasks assigned by legislative leadership. Appropriations, International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Select Committee on Emerging Issues in Texas Law Enforcements are committees Ms Koop is participating on.

Ms Koop handed out a legislative newsletter. It is available to members who would like to read it. Contact one of her offices for further information.

Mr. Henry Hall overviewed the Berkner High School STEM Academy program. Ms Elizabeth Swaner, Principal of STEM Academy and Associate Principal at Berkner High School, provided a more detailed review of the STEM Academy at Berkner HS. The Berkner STEM Academy program is a recognized program that focuses on engineering technology basics. There is not program duplication with the other STEM Academy program located at Richardson High School.

Mr. Hall offered to provide information and feedback relative to the RISD bond program currently being analyzed.

Mr. Lawrence detailed upcoming events:

April 16	Trash Bash
April 23	Spring Fling
April 30	Taste of Eastside
May 20-22	Richardson Wildflower Festival
May 22	BPNA Patio Party at the Wildflower Festival. Tickets will be available April 18-21

The Fish Shack provided complimentary food and Fiesta Market provided drinks and chips and cookies.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.