

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association
2018 Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2018
Donna Buhr, Secretary



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2018 Spring General Membership Meeting held Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at Berkner High School.

Call to Order

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association President, Gene Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Board Members Present

President, Gene Lawrence; Vice President, Stephen Beyer; Treasurer, Holly Goodside; Secretary, Donna Buhr

Leadership Team Members Present

Membership Chair, Carol Weldon; Beautification Chair, Judy Bergstrom; Social Committee Chair, Huibrie Pretorius; Communications Chair, Ben Beazley; Welcoming Chair, Bob Hackney; J.J. Wampler

Visiting Dignitaries and Speakers

Richardson Mayor Pro Tem, Mark Solomon
Richardson City Council member; Place 6, Steve Mitchell
City of Richardson First Assistant City Manager, Don Magner
Berkner Park Interim Neighborhood Police Officer, Ed Coleman and Richardson Police Officer, Jose Perez

Opening Remarks

- President Gene Lawrence offered greetings to members and introduction of guests.
- Mayor Pro Tem, Mark Solomon stated that the City of Richardson is in “good shape and doing well”. For the ninth year in a row, both the Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s credit rating agencies reaffirmed Richardson’s “Triple A” status. The Triple A rating is the highest possible rating available for credit worthiness. Mayor Pro Tem Solomon also talked about the planned bond sale.
- Council member, Steve Mitchell continued by explaining the Triple A rating is important because it allows “us to get the best rate for bonds” that are associated with the 2015 Bond Program projects.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Treasury Report presented by Treasurer, Holly Goodside

Guest Speakers

- **City of Richardson First Assistant City Manager, Don Magner**
City Manager, Don Magner provided a “City of Richardson Infrastructure Maintenance Strategies” presentation and shared details on four major projects, Streets, Main Street Redevelopment, Cotton Belt Rail Line and Water.
 - **Streets** in Richardson are aging with over 80% being twenty-five years old and about six percent are 30 years. City Manager Magner states that “time is catching up with us” and the city now spends 5.4 million dollars annually to maintain the streets.
 - **Main Street and Greenville Avenue project updates** were provided with Mr. Magner stating that progress is being made.

- **Main Street area redevelopment** includes the historical downtown area of Richardson and is a major access route to the community, traveled daily by about 30,000 vehicles. The area is a targeted redevelopment zone for revitalization efforts outlined in the City's comprehensive strategy plan.
- **Greenville Avenue and Main** is home to the new 10-acre public safety campus project that includes a new police station, fire station and secured parking.
- **Cotton Belt Rail Line Service Plan Amendment** is a key piece of Richardson's future transportation network. The 65-mile rail corridor will connect Richardson to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, downtown Fort Worth, and Addison.
- **Water** and the rising water rate increases are a key concern for the city. The price of water has almost doubled and is expected to double even again due to the "take or pay" agreement with the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). The cities of Richardson, Plano, Garland and Mesquite continue their petition for the Public Utility Commission of Texas to review the district's water contract with the cities. To date, all rulings have been favorable for the cities.
 - Mr. Magner also addressed the recent concerns regarding water quality and safety during a time when the NTMWD performs its annual chlorine maintenance on the water transmission system. Mr. Magner stated that the disinfection process is safe and is needed to eliminate bacteria in the water supply and pipes.
- **Officer Ed Coleman Neighborhood Crime**

Officer Coleman serves as the south-central Richardson Neighborhood Police Officer which includes the Berkner Park area. Officer Coleman provided background information and an overview of the neighborhood police officers program. The program was started by Chief Jimmy Spivey and consists of part-time, usually retired, police officers. Officer Coleman describes his role as "maintaining a face" for the Richardson Police Department with the neighborhoods. Neighborhood Police Officer's work in their designated geographic areas and take proactive measures to build relationships with citizens and work to educate the community and share information. Officer Coleman said he would provide his contact information in the Berkner Park Neighborhood Newsletter and urged BPNA members to feel free to call with their needs and concerns. Utilizing Officer Coleman can provide a faster, more personalized response to neighborhood problems which frees Patrol Officers to focus on more directed patrol activities.

Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence

- **Neighborhood Entry Feature** has still not been started due to lack of bids. The city declares the entry features will be built, it is just a matter of when a contractor can be secured.
- **2018 Matching Funds Beautification Application** has been submitted for a \$10,000 matching funds request, although the amount can be modified as needed. Possible proposed projects include additional benches, butterfly garden plaques and Spring Valley hardscaping.
- **Membership Update** was provided by President Gene Lawrence and Membership Chair, Carol Weldon

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- **Trash Bash 2018 - Saturday, April 7, 2018 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**
- **Spring Fling - Saturday April 21, 2018 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- **Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival - May 18 -20, 2018**
- **Wildflower Festival Patio Party - Sunday May 20, 2018**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Refreshments donated by

- **Jimmy John's provided sandwiches**
- **Kroger's provided potato chips, fresh baked cookies and iced bottled water**