

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association
2019 Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2019
Donna Buhr, Secretary



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2019 Spring General Membership Meeting held Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at Berkner High School.

Call to Order

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association President, Gene Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7 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 Co-chair, Judy Bergstrom; Beautification Co-chair, J.J. Wampler; Newsletter Editor, Delphia Lawrence; Welcoming Co-chair and School Liaison, Cindy Read; Welcoming Co-chair, Bob Hackney; Communications Chair, Ben Beazley; Section Leader Coordinator, David Holmes

Visiting Dignitaries and Speakers

City of Richardson Deputy City Manager, Don Magner
Albertsons Store Director, Donna Hilliard

Opening Remarks

President Gene Lawrence offered greetings to members and introduction of guests

Guest Speakers

- **City of Richardson Deputy City Manager, Don Magner**

Deputy City Manager, Don Magner provided an update on three topics of interest:

- **Main Street Infrastructure project** will include major changes and enhancements. Work is expected to begin in July 2019 with completion planned for fall 2020. The redevelopment design includes street improvements and public amenities.
 - Street pavement replacement of Main Street
 - Traffic enhancements, including new turn lanes and signal replacement
 - Creation of a pedestrian and bike friendly area with wider sidewalks
 - Trees planted on both sides of Main Street
 - Public Art including a 28-foot sculpture titled "Rising Star"
 - Public Safety Campus update:
 - The project includes the construction of a new Police Headquarters building and a new Fire Station No. 1
 - The new facilities will provide larger improved locker rooms and quarters for female firefighters
 - Staff is scheduled to move into the new facilities in July 2019, with completion of the entire project planned for 2020
- **Collins/Arapaho Innovation District** is a 1200-acre area considered the "heart of the Telecom Corridor". Mr. Magner says the City's vision is for the area to be the "*premier tech hub in Texas*". To achieve this goal, 10 main strategies were briefly described for the project that includes supporting existing businesses, attracting new business, walkable and bikeable, with ample green space that is unique and visually appealing.

- **Texas 86th Legislative Session** began January 8 and continues through May 27. According to Mr. Wagner, the “high-priority bill” for the City of Richardson is House Bill 2, the property tax reform bill that will require cities to receive voter approval before levying 2.5 percent more property tax revenue than the previous year. Mr. Wagner stated that “We should be able to make this decision here in Richardson, not in Austin”. He continued to state that the 2.5 percent cap would negatively impact city services where difficult choices may have to be made, such as cutting back on the twice a week garage pickup.
- **Donna Hilliard, Albertsons Grocery Store Director**
Donna Hilliard provided an interesting presentation on the “Evolving Retail Grocery Store Business”, focusing on the human component and the difficulty of obtaining and maintaining employees. While new to the Richardson store location, Ms. Hilliard has been in the grocery store industry for thirty-four years, working her way up through various positions before becoming store director. Ms. Hilliard describes herself as a “people person” and after hearing Ms. Hilliard’s passionate and motivational message, this self-described description is understandable. She “likes to train people to get them on the right path”, taking the “extra step to teach young employees how to be good responsible workers”. Explaining that many young applicants come into the store not knowing how to present themselves for a job interview, or how to be good workers. She tries to instill on employees that “it’s all about giving the best possible customer service”. Ms. Hilliard ended the presentation with an inspirational message that “we are all people together, that can come together, to make things happen”.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Treasury Report: Provided by Treasurer, Holly Goodside

- Balance available: \$12,625.06

Membership Update: Provided by Membership Committee Chair, Carol Weldon

Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence

- **1800 Spring Valley Road Project Update**
 - Additional landscaping, such as flagstone tips and decorative rock
- **2019 Matching Funds Beautification**
 - \$10,000 matching funds budget: \$5,000 BPNA / \$5,000 City of Richardson to install sprinklers, plant trees and decorative grass in the Spring Valley median
 - Estimated completion: May 2019

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- **Meet the Candidates – Tuesday, April 2, 2019 6 to 8:30 p.m.**
- **Trash Bash 2019 - Saturday, April 13, 2019 9 to 11 a.m.**
- **Spring Fling - Saturday April 27, 2019 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Refreshments donated by

- **The Line Public House provided pizza**
- **Albertsons provided cookies, chips, bottled water and ice**