

# **Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2019 Fall General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**September 24, 2019**

**Donna Buhr, Secretary**



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2019 Fall General Membership Meeting held Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at Berkner High School.

## **Call to Order**

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association President, Gene Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:04 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; School Liaison, Cindy Read; Section Leader Coordinator, David Holmes

## **Visiting Dignitaries and Speakers**

Richardson City Council Members: Place 2, Mark Solomon; Place 1, Bob Dubey  
City of Richardson Transportation & Mobility Department Director, Mark Nelson  
City of Richardson Capital Projects & Engineering Department Director, Shawn Poe  
City of Richardson Development Services Department Director, Michael Spicer  
Eisemann Center Assistant Marketing & Development Manager, Roni Carrasco

## **Opening Remarks**

- President Gene Lawrence offered greetings to members and introduction of guests and the BPNA leadership team

## **Guest Speaker**

- **Eisemann Center Assistant Marketing & Development Manager, Roni Carrasco**  
Assistant Marketing & Development Manager, Roni Carrasco presented an overview of the Eisemann Center and the 2019-2020 Season. Ms. Carrasco encouraged the audience to visit the Eisemann to take advantage of this "wonderful opportunity in your own community", stating that it's a beautiful local facility that presents a wide variety of entertainment with "something for everyone". She described some of the upcoming performances and entertainers, such as "That Golden Girls Show" with a puppet parody, Mandy Patinkin, Kelly Clarkson and Renee Goldsberry. The Eisemann Center also presents the affordable "Family Theatre Series", with an upcoming magic show, "Maddi's Fridge", "Pete the Cat" and others. The Eisemann Center promotes a can food drive benefiting the Network of Community Ministries, where attendees can buy one ticket and get one free with the donation of a canned food item. The Eisemann Center's mission statement is "*To create, foster and sustain an environment of cultural diversity, educational enrichment, and fulfilling experiences benefiting all who live and work within our community.*" Assistant Marketing Manager, Roni Carrasco stated, "we want to get people in the door".

## **Guest Speakers**

- **City of Richardson Transportation & Mobility Department Director, Mark Nelson**
- **City of Richardson Capital Projects & Engineering Department Director, Shawn Poe**
- **City of Richardson Development Services Department Director, Michael Spicer**
- **Richardson East Side Redevelopment/Reinvestment & Traffic Update**

The three city department directors provided an overview and slide presentation of the city's long-range comprehensive plan, an update on traffic and transportation management, street rehabilitation and several major redevelopment projects underway on the east side of Richardson.

### **Project discussion:**

- **Main Street area of Richardson project** includes street and infrastructure improvements along Main Street, between US 75 and Abrams Road. The Main Street area and the Central Expressway Corridor are two of the target project areas. The Main Street/Central Expressway area includes a signature block of historic downtown Richardson. Street changes and improvements will be made to create a more pedestrian and bike friendly, tree lined, two lane streets. Residents can expect traffic delays and closures. Development Services Department Director, Michael Spicer, advised members to “stay away from main street for about twelve to fourteen months”. Construction is expected to start next week with a timeline of September 2019 – December 2020.
- **Arapaho Collins Transit-Oriented Development and Innovation District (formally known as Telecom Corridor)**, a 1,200-acre area, considered to be the “heart of the Telecom Corridor”, is a job center and hub of technology and innovation for the entire region. The vision is to make this district the “premier tech hub in Texas” providing a place to attract a range of new businesses across various industries, while still supporting existing businesses.
  - District will be walkable and bikeable with more open space
  - The Station area contains the Arapaho DART station, the only train station in Richardson, with the vision that the Station area will serve as the primary “gateway to the District”
  - The private sector plays a key role in the redevelopment, and the City has already gathered extensive public and stakeholder input
    - An “Innovation District Block Party” was held in June to solicit input from about 400 attendees
  - The City of Richardson is currently conducting a study on a two-mile area of Greenville Avenue, from Campbell Road to Jackson Street for possible infrastructure improvements
    - The purpose of the study is to collect data as part of the final decision-making process to help traffic and promote bikeability and walkability
      - Temporary cones will be placed to evaluate the impact and to gather the data
      - Driving lines will be removed to add bicycle lanes, potential crossing areas, and possibly a first roundabout for the city
      - If the data gathered supports the project's effectiveness, the lanes and crossing will be made permanent
- **New DART Silver light rail line** will interface with three DART light rail lines including the Red/Orange Lines in Richardson and Plano. Transportation and Mobility Department Director, Mark Nelson stated the Silver Line will be completed and a revenue service for Richardson in December 2022. Trains will run along a 26-mile corridor where Richardson residents will have a direct connection to DFW Airport. The Silver Line will use self-propelled diesel multiple-unit (DMU) train cars. The project also includes a hike and bike trail adjacent to the rail with attractive fencing, water fountains and benches.
- **Redevelopment of the Northwest corner of Richardson Square** around the former Sears Building is moving forward. The Richardson City Council approved the redevelopment plan in July that brings new retail and restaurants to the area. Prospective businesses are Jason's Deli, Spectrum, Chipotle, Marble Slab Creamery, Jersey Mikes, Starbucks, Blaze Pizza, and Aspen Dental. Also included in the redevelopment plan, is to make the area “more appealing and pedestrian friendly”.

### **Street Rehabilitation and Traffic Updates**

- The City of Richardson Transportation & Mobility Department is responsible for monitoring and responding to existing traffic and planning for future needs. Traffic Department Director Mark Nelson described the

traffic challenges for Richardson where there are more workers than residents. Richardson is the second largest employment center, with 130,000 workers and a city population of 110,000. The city maintains more than 310 miles of roadway where the goal is to “keep the good roads good” so rehabilitation is not required, however, it comes a point when road rehabilitation is necessary.

- Slide presentation and overview of traffic issues in the city and planned street improvements and rehabilitation was discussed. The presentation included:
  - Rehabilitation
    - Berkner Park alley repairs, sidewalk replacements, and waste water rehabilitation
    - Spring Valley Road Rehabilitation
    - Yale Bridge update
  - Traffic
    - Traffic Central management
    - Traffic Signal System Overview
      - 139 traffic signals in the city
      - Controlled by a Central Software
        - Traffic monitoring
        - Incident management
        - Timing optimization
        - Progression and Enhancements Planned
    - Berkner Park Upcoming Traffic Delays & Street Closures Expected
      - Berkner High School 50-year Reunion
        - Parade scheduled for October 12, 2019 at 9 a.m.
          - Barricades will be placed with street closures beginning at 8:45
- After the informative presentation by the three City Directors, the floor was opened for questions from the audience. Berkner Park Neighborhood Association members took advantage of the rare opportunity to speak openly and directly to city leaders. Many important questions were asked by members that directly affect our neighborhood. City leaders answered all questions and concerns and agreed to follow up on several issues raised by members.

**Unfinished Business - None**

**New Business - None**

**Treasury Report** presented by Treasurer, Holly Goodside

- |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Beginning Balance January 1, 2019 | \$10,564.80 |
| • Current PayPal Balance            | 845.79      |
| • Pending Deposit                   | 245.00      |
| • 2019 Deposits to date             | 4,208.80    |
| • 2019 Expenses to date             | 6,887.45    |
| • Current Total Funds Available     | 8,976.94    |

**Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence**

- BPNA Fall Membership Drive Update
- Holiday Dinner Party Relocation to Aboca’s Italian Grill located at 100 S Central Expy, Suite 63, Richardson, TX

**Upcoming Calendar of Events**

- National Night Out: Tuesday, October 1, 2019
- Annual Membership Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2019
- Holiday Dinner Party: Friday, December 6, 2019

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.**

**Refreshments donated by: Jimmy John’s provided mini sandwiches. Walmart Neighborhood Mart provided cookies, chips and bottled water.**