

**Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2023
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023
Donna Buhr, Secretary**



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2023 Annual Membership Meeting held Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at Berkner High School.

Call to Order

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association President, Gene Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:05 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; Communications Chair, Ben Beazley; Newsletter Editor, Delphia Lawrence; Social Chair, Allison Turner

Visiting Dignitaries, Speakers, and Guests

Richardson Mayor, Bob Dubey

Richardson Mayor Pro Tem and Council Member Place 6, Arefin Shamsul

Richardson City Council Members:

- Place 1, Curtis Dorian
- Place 3, Dan Barrios

Keynote speaker, Mark Nelson Director, Transportation and Mobility Department

Management Analyst, City Manager's Office, Haley Alsabrook

Assistant Director Transportation and Mobility Department, Pritam Deshmukh

Opening Remarks and Introductions

- President Gene Lawrence offered greetings to members and introduction of guests.

Treasury Report presented by Treasurer, Holly Goodside

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	\$11,860.48
2023 Deposits to date	6,988.55
Current PayPal Balance	85.34
Pending Deposit	0.00
2023 Expenses to date	2,776.08
Current Total Funds Available	16,158.29

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Guest Speaker: Mark Nelson, Director, Transportation and Mobility Department

Topic: Transportation & Mobility Update

Director Nelson provided an overview on traffic calming methods, how to report a concern, criteria utilized to determine the best option(s) to resolve speeding vehicles, and pedestrian safety concerns. Mr. Nelson also provided a brief update on the DART Silver Line/Cotton Belt Trail.

Traffic calming policy – was created to address citizen concerns of neighborhood traffic issues. The most common concern is speeding where citizens request stop signs and speed humps. The policy allows citizens to request the installation of certain traffic calming measures and establishes a procedure for making and evaluation of such requests.

Traffic calming flowchart - Mr. Nelson presented a flowchart of the traffic calming procedure and provided an explanation for each step.

Flowchart:

- **Receipt of concern/request** – initial request must originate from property owners residing on the streets in question. The “Traffic Calming for Residential Neighborhoods Application” must be completed.
- **Data collection & assessment** – speed data will be collected and assessed.
- **Education, enforcement & engineering** – Police and traffic department work together to achieve this three-step process.
 - **Education:** Inform the public through various contacts about driving habits and how to correct them.
 - **Enforcement:** Issue warnings or citations based on severity of the violation and the overall safety of the motoring public.
 - **Engineering:** Work on developing and implementing physical changes to the roadway infrastructure to help facilitate safe flow of traffic throughout the City.
- **Determination of eligibility for traffic calming**
 - **If eligibility:** Selection of traffic calming option.
 - Various options are available, such as: Speed cushions, speed humps, curb extensions, and traffic circles.
 - **If not eligibility:** Follow up and closing out of the request.

DART Silver Line/Cotton Belt Trail Update

DART Silver Line - The 26-mile regional rail service crosses Tarrant, Dallas, and Collin counties and seven cities, including Richardson and will provide passenger rail connections to DFW Airport. The project is expected to be operational in late 2025 to early 2026. The two Richardson Silver Line stations will be located at the Cityline/Bush Station and the UT Dallas Station.

Cotton Belt Trail – Three-and-a-half miles of the 26-mile Cotton Belt rail line will run through Richardson. Funding is available for construction to begin in 2024 with expected completion in 2026. The Cotton Belt Trail is a regional trail that connects to downtown Fort Worth. The trail will allow residents of Richardson to go from their neighbors to the Richardson city dog park, and will also connect with restaurants, hotels, and entertainment. The trail will be 12 feet wide allowing room for cyclists, runners, and walkers.

Questions – The presentation ended with numerous questions from members. Mr. Nelson provided detailed answers to the many questions with commitments to follow up if needed.

Street Sign Toppers – BPNA President Gene Lawrence provided clarification on the costs presented in the September 26, 2023 Fall Membership meeting

- **Replacement Cost Clarification**
- **40 Locations - 80 Total Sign Toppers**
- **\$105 Each | \$210 Per Street Sign**
- **\$ 8,400 Replacement Cost Estimate**
- **Plus Sales Tax**

Recognition Awards

- **Certificate of Appreciation** was awarded to J.J. Wampler by President Gene Lawrence, assisted by Mayor Bob Dubey and City Council members Arefin Shamsul and Curtis Dorian.

Neighborhood or Member Concerns

- **Sears Building Retail Leasing** – The City is trying to address neighborhood concerns. A “Meet & Greet” is being planned to gather information from the neighborhood “on what you would like to see” in the building. Council member Curtis Dorian stressed the importance of your participation and feedback. The more feedback received will result in a better outcome.

Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence

- **Holiday Dinner Party**
 - December 1 or 8, 2023
 - Aboca’s Italian Grill
- **Spring Membership Meeting**
 - March or April 2024
- **Interested in Crime Watch Patrol?**
 - Contact Tom Guarraia - Email: tguarraia@tx.rr.com

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Refreshments donated by Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen located at 1445 E. Beltline Road