

**Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2023 Fall
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023
Donna Buhr, Secretary**



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2023 Fall General Membership Meeting held Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at Berkner High School.

Call to Order

Berkner Park Neighborhood Association President, Gene Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Board Members Present

President, Gene Lawrence; Treasurer, Holly Goodside; Secretary, Donna Buhr

Leadership Team Members Present

Beautification Co-Chair, J.J. Wampler; Newsletter Editor, Delphia Lawrence; Communications Chair, Ben Beazley; Social Chair, Allison Turner

Visiting Dignitaries and Speakers

Mayor, Bob Dubey

Mayor Pro Tem and Council Member Place 6, Arefin Shamsul

City Manager, Don Magner

Richardson City Council Members:

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

Keynote speaker, Lindsay Turman, Community Services Administrator

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 | 3,500.30 |
| • Current PayPal Balance | 1023.06 |
| • Pending Deposit | 0.00 |
| • 2023 Expenses to date | 2,767.43 |
| • Current Total Funds Available | 13,616.41 |

Treasury Considerations Projects & Events

- Membership Numbers Matter
- Affects Ability to Budget Future Expenses
- Street Sign Topper Replacement
- Future Major Expense
- Matching Funds Beautification (MFB), Social Events, e.g. Spring Fling, etc.
- We will be conservative

Unfinished Business - None

New Business - None

Guest Speaker

- **Community Services Administrator, Lindsay Turman**

Topic: Code enforcement and community services

Community Services Administrator, Lindsay Turman provided an informative presentation on the City of Richardson Community Services department. Lindsay Turman has been with the city for 16 years and oversees and manages a staff of 15 in the Community Services division. Community services is responsible for code enforcement and community programs.

Code Enforcement – covers residential, commercial, multi-family, and rental code enforcement programs. The goal of code enforcement is to work with people “to maintain the city’s integrity by making certain its residential neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and commercial areas are kept in a safe and healthy manner through fair and reasonable enforcement of codes and ordinances”.

Residential Code Enforcement - Proactively drive all residential streets and alleys on a monthly basis:

- Follow standard operating procedures
- Failure to comply can result in citations, abatement, or a case at the Building and Standards Commission
- Number one code enforcement issue is trees, followed by other areas such as, high grass, open storage, trash and debris, junk vehicles, and maintaining minimum property standards

Respond to citizen complaints

- You can report code violations online at the COR website
- The **My Richardson App** is also available for residents and allows you to easily report issues and receive updates. The app is available for Apple or Android smartphones
- All received complaints are investigated and responded to within 24 hours

Commercial & Multifamily Code Enforcement - City-wide regularly scheduled inspections for commercial properties and apartment complexes for code enforcement areas such as zoning, parking, health, and property standards.

Rental Registration – The purpose of the rental registration program is to protect the vitality and integrity of the City by ensuring its rental housing is properly maintained.

Short-Term Rental (STR) – means a residential property that is rented for a fee for a period not longer than 30 consecutive days.

- Requires annual registration fee of \$75
- There are less than 100 STRs in the City of Richardson
- The property must have a local individual the city and police can contact if needed
- The City Manager has the right to revoke a registration
- Primary issues reported for STR are noise or trash

Community Programs – “strives to create successful and sustainable Richardson neighborhoods”. The division covers all neighborhood-centric programming for the City of Richardson including the Home Improvement Incentive Program, Volunteer Assistance Program, Sign Topper Program, Wall Washing / Painting Program, Neighborhood Leadership Workshops, and other community-wide programming. Some of these programs were discussed in the presentation.

Home Improvement Incentive program – designed to provide an economic incentive to homeowners.

- All homeowners in single-family zoned areas are eligible to participate
- To qualify, an improvement project must involve reconstruction or remodeling cost at least \$20,000 and be completed within 24 months of project approval
- Must apply for the program prior to work beginning

Support for our Neighborhoods – City of Richardson supports our neighborhoods in multiple areas.

- **Neighborhood Leadership Workshops** – “designed to provide leadership training for neighborhood and other community associations in Richardson”.
- **Monthly City Council / Presidents Meetings** – promotes a two-way discussion concerning important neighborhood issues.
- **Sign Topper Program** – helps neighborhoods be recognized for their unique character and increase visibility.
- **Newsletters & Publications** – articles designed to assist neighborhood associations.
- **Volunteer Assistance Program** – Community services partners with volunteer groups to help residents maintain their property. The purpose is to help home owners who cannot properly maintain their property due to age, finance, or disability.
- **Graffiti Abatement Program** – is committed to eliminate graffiti on public and private property in a timely manner at no cost to residents.

Berkner Park Playground Update

- Berkner Park received upgraded amenities, including new playground equipment. Voters approved the renovations as part of the 2021 bond program, and Berkner Park is the fourth park in Richardson to receive upgrades. In addition to the new playground equipment, the park received benches, shade structures and sidewalk approaches. Many residents are enjoying the new playground.

Street Sign Toppers

Overview:

- First Ordered in 2012
 - 40 Locations - 80 Total Sign Toppers
 - Two Single Sided Toppers Per Street Sign
 - \$53 Each | \$106 Per Street Sign
 - Approximately \$4,240 for 80 Toppers
- Current 2023 Sign Topper Prices
 - \$113 Each | \$226 Per Street Sign
 - \$9,040 Replacement Cost Estimate

Replacement Approach:

- Establish a Replacement Criteria
- Evaluate All 80 Sign Toppers
- Create a Replacement Budget
- Treasury Balance KEY Factor
- Determine Replacement Locations
- Two Installation Options
- All At Once or Piecemeal

Double-sided Specifics (Single sign imprinted on each side):

- Does Not Meet Richardson Standards
- Now Installed Oakridge & Camelot
- One Double Sided Topper Per Street Sign
- \$113 Each Single Sided Two Color
- \$140 Each Double Sided Two Color
- 40 Toppers @ 140 Each = \$5,600
- BPNA Saves Approximately \$3,440
- Saves Thousands of HOA/NA Dollar
- Downside – Installation Hardware Shows

Neighborhood Concerns

- Neighborhood concerns discussed:
 - Sears Building Retail Leasing – City is closely monitoring but there are no new developments.
 - Bates & Butler Berm Condition – City continues to monitor the area and work with the property owner.
 - Rental Property & Short Term Rentals – The city required an annual registration beginning January 1, 2023 with an annual registration fee of \$75.
 - Poor Street lightning in Berkner Park – City is not responsible for the lights around the park or neighborhood streets. The lights are owned and handled by Oncor. The City of Richardson has no direct control over street lights in the park or Berkner Park residential streets. Residents must work directly with Oncor.

Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence

- **National Night Out: October 3, 2023**
- **Annual Membership Meeting: November 14, 2023**
- **Holiday Dinner Party: December, 2023 (specific date & location TBD)**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Refreshments donated by The Line Sports Bar and Grill