

**Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2024  
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2024  
Donna Buhr, Secretary**



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2024 Annual Membership Meeting held Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 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, Jano Pretorius; 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; Social Chair, Allison Turner; Welcoming Chair, Cindy Read; Newsletter Editor, Delphia Lawrence

**Visiting Dignitaries and Speakers**

Mayor, Bob Dubey

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

Richardson City Council Members:

- Place 1, Curtis Dorian
- Place 2, Jennifer Justice
- Place 3, Dan Barrios
- Place 5, Ken Hutchenrider

Richardson Animal Shelter and Health Director, Bill Alsup

Keynote speakers: Richardson Animal Shelter Resource Coordinator, Luis DeLeon and Animal Control Officer, Daniel Gonzalez

**Opening Remarks and Introductions**

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

**Treasury Report** presented by Treasurer, Jano Pretorius

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024	\$ 16,838
2024 Deposits to date	4,051
Current PayPal Balance	313
Pending Deposit	90
2024 Expenses to date	(\$1,298)
Current Total Funds Available	\$ 19,994

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

None

## **Guest Speakers**

**Resource Coordinator, Animal Services, Richardson Animal Shelter, Luis DeLeon**

**Assisted by, Richardson Animal Shelter and Health Director, Bill Alsup and Animal Control Officer, Daniel Gonzalez**

**Topic: Animal Shelter Services Information & Facility Renovation Update**

Resource Coordinator, Luis DeLeon and Animal Control Officer, Daniel Gonzalez provided a presentation on the status of the Animal Shelter facility renovations, an informative overview of animal services provided, and an educational review of important animal ordinances and laws.

### **Facility Renovation Update:**

The Animal Shelter has temporarily moved into a facility located adjacent to the shelter where they will remain until the construction renovation is completed in March 2025 (project expected completion date). The shelter renovation project is part of the city's 2021 bond.

### **Updates to the facility will include:**

- A new main entrance with improved lobby
- An entry façade
- Expanded staff offices
- New storage rooms
- Updated staff and public restrooms
- Updated break room

The renovation will not include additional kennel capacity.

**Quote of note:** "The shelter renovation will offer an upgraded experience for visitors."

### **Animal Shelter Services & Ordinance Information:**

"The Richardson Animal Shelter strives to inform and protect our community through the explanation of local and state laws and ordinances." Resource Coordinator, DeLeon and Animal Control Officer, Gonzalez presented an in-depth explanation of the types of services offered and important animal control laws.

### **Types of services offered, some of which include:**

- Public education
- Enforcement of City, State, and Federal laws
- Lost and found animal microchips
- Rabies control
- Vaccination requirements
- Neglected and abused animals
- Unsanitary conditions

### **Important pet ordinances discussed**

- Lease laws – Dogs must be restrained by means of a leash or chain of sufficient strength and not more than six feet to control the animal's actions while off premises.
  - A retractable lease is considered "off-leash" where the owner commits an offense.
- Rabies vaccination – owners are required to have a registration permit for dogs and cats indicating the animal is currently vaccinated. The current rabies tag must be securely attached to the animal's collar.
- Number of animals allowed
  - four dogs / four cats
  - eight hens (roosters are prohibited)
- Bite reports & quarantine – all animal bites must be reported, including minor cuts and scratches. The animal will be quarantined for a ten-day observation period either in the home, shelter, or veterinary.
- Neglect & cruelty complaints - Inhumane treatment of animals should be reported. Texas state law, commonly known as "Loco's Law", went into effect in 2001, making animal cruelty a felony and

punishable by a \$10,000 fine and up to two years in jail. The law was named for a puppy called Loco, whose eyes were intentionally gouged out.

- If you witness inhumane treatment of animals, call the animal shelter or call 911. Treatment such as, but not limited to:
  - Fail to adequately provide an animal with necessities of life, including food, water, sanitary conditions, shelter, or protection from the heat, cold, or other circumstances that may cause bodily injury, serious bodily injury or death of the animal.
  - Fail to provide basic grooming for an animal.
  - Cause or allow an animal to remain in its own filth.
  - Train an animal to fight another animal or possess animal fighting equipment.
- For more information, reference municipal code 5, section 5 -13.
- Noise & barking complaints – it is unlawful for “any owner or person to allow an animal to unreasonable bark or make other unreasonable loud noise, unprovoked, that disturbs the peace and quiet of a person of ordinary sensibilities”.
- Unsanitary conditions & “poop scooping” – it is unlawful to allow an animal to defecate on any private or public property not owned by the person having control of the animal without the immediate removal of all feces.
- Wildlife animals are prohibited – it is an offense to possess, keep or harbor any wild animal within the city.
  - The city does not trap healthy wildlife unless it is severely injured or shows signs of sickness.
- Micro chipping of dogs and cats (New ordinance) – an owner of a dog or cat commits an offense if the dog or cat does not have a microchip.

## **Election of Officers**

Board of Directors Nominations & Election of Offices:

The following officers were elected for the term 2024/2025:

- President: Gene R. Lawrence
- Vice President: Stephen Beyer, Ph. D.
- Treasurer: Jano Pretorius
- Secretary: Donna Buhr
- Other Nominations from floor – None
- Motion was made and seconded to elect the proposed slate of nominations for the 2024/2025 Berkner Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Neighborhood Recognition Award**

Certificate of Appreciation award presented by President Gene Lawrence, assisted by Mayor Bob Dubey and City Council members

- Certificate of Appreciation award presented to Dolly Stankus

## **Neighborhood or Member Concerns, and Visiting Dignitaries Remarks**

Topics discussed:

- Richardson Square Mall
  - Parking lot issues
  - Empty retail buildings
  - Type of businesses to be attracted
    - The city will help subsidize high quality businesses. The Richardson City Economic Development department has reached out to the owners of the Sears Building; however, they have not received a response.

- Sears building update
- Bates and Butler berm condition
- The city's new comprehensive plan includes the Beltline and Plano area
- Repairs needed for Buckingham Place alley and Richland Drive

#### **Important Updates & Announcements by President Lawrence**

- Holiday Dinner Party: December 6, 2024, 6 – 9 p.m.
  - Aboca's Italian Grill
- Spring Membership Meeting
  - March or April 2025
- Interested in Crime Watch Patrol?
  - Contact Clayton Rinderknecht

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

**Refreshments donated by Allison Turner**