

**Berkner Park Neighborhood Association**  
**2025 Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**March 25, 2025**  
**Donna Buhr, Secretary**



The following are the Minutes of the Berkner Park Neighborhood Association 2025 Spring General Membership Meeting held Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 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, Jano Pretorius; Secretary, Donna Buhr

**Leadership Team Members Present**

Membership Chair, Le Filler; Beautification Co-Chair, Judy Bergstrom; Beautification Co-Chair, J.J. Wampler; Social Chair, Allison Turner; Welcoming Chair, Cindy Read; Newsletter Editor, Delphia Lawrence

**Guest Speaker**

Keynote speaker, Charles Goff, City of Richardson Assistant City Manager

**Opening Remarks and Introductions**

- President Gene Lawrence offered greetings to members and introduction of guests.
- President Lawrence acknowledged Carol Weldon's dedicated years of service as BPNA Membership Chair. Carol stepped down from membership chair after serving in the position for the past ten years.
- Le Filler is now serving as membership chair.

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

- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| • Beginning Balance January 1, 2025 | \$21,600 |
| • 2025 Deposits to date             | 730      |
| • Current PayPal Balance            | 385      |
| • Pending Deposit                   | 120      |
| • 2025 Expenses to date             | (6,192)  |
| • Current Total Funds Available     | \$16,643 |

**Unfinished Business - None**

**New Business – None**

**Guest Speaker: Charles Goff, COR Assistant City Manager**

Assistant City Manager, Charles Goff provided a presentation on the Richardson CORE District redevelopment and activities related to the project. The "CORE District" is composed geographically of the Chinatown, Downtown, Heights, Interurban, and Lockwood neighborhoods, and is considered Richardson's epicenter of community, culture, commerce, and cuisine. Mr. Goff gave an update on the following CORE District areas:

- **Lockwood** – The Lockwood neighborhood is the newest addition to the CORE District and has undergone substantial revitalization. Updates for Lockwood include:
  - The Dream Café restaurant opened this year and offers breakfast and lunch menus.
  - Thirty-six additional parking spaces have been added.

- Oak Highlands Brewery is relocating its taproom and production facility to Lockwood.
- **Downtown, “Belt+Main”** – Belt+Main is a mixed-use development and is part of the Downtown revitalization project to reinvigorate economic growth. The Downtown plan includes a mixed-use residential and retail project.
  - 350 new multifamily units are now available for lease. Residents began moving into Belt+Main in September 2024 with full occupancy expected in the next few months.
  - Two new restaurants are planned to be located on the ground level of the building.
  - Up to 6,000 SF of retail space is still available.
  - Public parking garage with 145 spaces.
- **Interurban Commons** is a 180,000-square-foot public space on Polk Street near Belt+Main. Together with the Downtown CORE project, the Interurban project is planned to revitalize the downtown area into a walkable urban center. Proposed Interurban Common plans include:
  - Park with pavilions, plaza area for gatherings, dog park, and connection to the Central Trail.

Mr. Goff also provided updates on the Richardson Square Mall Sears building redevelopment and the Richardson East Shopping Center renovations.

- **Richardson Square Mall Sears** building redevelopment will include open-air corridors and should be completed by the end of 2025. Tenants have not been finalized.
- **Richardson East Shopping Center** is going through a major face lift of the buildings to provide an improved and modernized appearance. There are discussions about adding a retail site pad around KFC.

In closing, Assistant City Manager, Goff provided remarks and several statistics on the state of the city, commenting that Richardson is strong and doing well. Proof of performance statistics noted by Mr. Goff included:

- **AAA Rating** - For the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s credit rating agencies reaffirmed Richardson’s “Triple A” status, which is the highest possible rating available for credit worthiness.
- **Tree City USA** – Richardson has been recognized as a “Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation. The city distributed 500 trees this fall with plans for another 500 in the spring to replace trees lost during the May 2024 storm.
- **City Hall** – Demolition work of the old City Hall is complete with construction on the new facility to begin in early 2025. Expected completion in 2027.
- **Library** – Work on the library renovations estimated completion timeline is late 2025 to early 2026.
- **Animal Shelter** – Renovations to the animal shelter include a new front entrance and improved staff area.
- **Comprehensive Planning** – Richardson is working on an update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the “Envision Richardson” comprehensive plan update is to describe the community’s desired vision for the future. The plan will help guide land use and property development among other decisions, such as investments in transportation and infrastructure improvements.
  - **Envision Richardson BPNA Local Impact:** All four corners of the Beltline and Plano Road are identified as an enhancement area in the Envision Richardson Comprehensive Plan.
- **Economic Development** – Richardson’s economic development is strong:
  - Over \$225 million in new capital investments since 2024.
  - More than 4,000 new jobs were created or retained as the result of business relocations or expansion since 2024.

**Guest Speaker Presentation Concluded** with a round of Q&A where Mr. Goff answered neighborhood questions and concerns.

### **Street Sign Topper Replacement Project**

BPNA President, Gene Lawrence provided a status update on the street sign topper replacement stating that the project is complete with 80 sign toppers having been replaced. The update was followed by a discussion about how to use the old sign toppers.

- BPNA owns the old sign toppers.

- Contact Gene Lawrence if you would like to have an old sign topper. The toppers are free, but donations are welcome.

### **2025 Matching Funds Beautification (MFB) Project Update**

President Lawrence provided an overview of the MFB project.

- Proposed project: Entry feature west from Spring Valley.
- Project details: Add a flower planting bed with a mow strip.
  - Because of the cost, a concrete mow strip will have to be used instead of flagstones.
  - An additional MFB item is to add three or four decorative trees.
- The MFB application has been submitted to the city and is currently out for quote.
- Construction is expected from fall 2025 to March/April 2026.

### **Member or Neighborhood Concerns and Q&A**

The floor was open to members for Q&A

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

- Trash Bash - Saturday, March 29, 2025, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  - First United Methodist Church
- Spring Fling – Saturday, May 10, 2025
  - Berkner Park 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - Between Butterfly Garden & Pavillion
- Election Day Saturday, May 3
  - Early voting April 22 – April 29
  - Three voting locations
- Interested in Crime Watch Patrol?
  - Contact, Clayton Rinderknecht at [clayton.rinderknecht@gmail.com](mailto:clayton.rinderknecht@gmail.com)

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 p.m.**

**Refreshments donated by Bobbie & Allison Turner**