



WAMM CIVIC ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY – BASILIAN ROOM

MINUTES

Lane Llewellyn, First Vice-President and Acting President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

1. Introduction of Officers

Lane introduced herself as current First Vice-President and Acting President of WAMM. She introduced Maria Morandi, Treasurer/Secretary. Diane Baker, Second-Vice-President could not attend the meeting.

2. Acknowledgement and Recognition of the Host for the Meeting

Lane explained that the University of St. Thomas was making available the Basilian Room to the Association for its meetings. She thanked Ms. Elizabeth Edwards (not present) for having facilitated the arrangement.

3. Introduction of Guest Speakers and other Guests

Lane indicated that the invited speaker, Ms. Rhonda I. Sauter, Division Manager of the Mayor's Citizens' Assistance Office in the Department of Neighborhoods, was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Sauter had to attend to City activities related to the aftermath of tropical storm Imelda. She will probably be coming to the WAMM-sponsored National Night Out (NNO) event on October 1. Lane will explore other dates for Ms. Sauter or a representative to speak at a future meeting.

Lane introduced Mr. Jeff Rushing, Chairman of the Greek Festival, the largest and best at recycling in the Houston area. He will give an update of the Festival activities and will distribute complementary tickets.

4. Order of Business

4.a. WAMM Street Signs

Maria Morandi gave a brief summary of the background for the decision to install WAMM toppers on street signs in the neighborhood. She circulated a sample of a

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WAMM topper and the holding bracket. Maria reminded the attendees that the placement of street sign toppers had been voted as the preferable of two options for enhancing the WAMM's visibility. A permit application was submitted to the City for installation of WAMM signs on top of the 35 street signs within the boundaries of WAMM. After modification of the WAMM signs to comply with City guidelines, the application was approved. There were no costs involved in this application. Maria explained that the Board had intended to apply for a Neighborhood Improvement Grant to cover up to half the cost of the signs and installation, but found that only 503b or 503c organizations were eligible to apply for these grants. The Association does not have 503b or 503c status. The estimated cost for 36 signs and brackets is \$1,444. There was a general agreement among attendees that this is a good idea. There were questions about the cost of installation of the street signs. Maria indicated that Bob Lacy was exploring the option of having the signs installed by a Boy Scouts troop. They could use this activity as part of the requirement for community service. Fred Lagrasta indicated that he would be willing to lead a group of neighbors to install the brackets. They do not have to be installed at the same time; installation could be done over a few weekends. Bob Lacy suggested that we should purchase 50 signs, so that those stolen or damaged could be replaced quickly with signs from the same production lot. Maria said that the cost would be approximately \$1,800. Lane reminded the attendees that a minimum quorum of 15 members is required to vote on a motion, and there were only 13 attending the meeting. It was decided to call an extraordinary general meeting at the NNO celebration on October 1, 2019, in order to vote on the motion to purchase the signs.

4. Announcements

Need for volunteers - Lovett Triangle Clean Team- Jamie Roark describe how she and a group of residents from WAMM and surrounding areas decided to take action about the litter in the triangle-shaped lot behind Light Bulbs Unlimited. Several people had gathered in the lot for some time, and it was left strewn with litter and unsightly. The lot is owned by the City, which does not pick up the trash. Jamie and neighbors decided to do it themselves, and started to collect the garbage into bags. Some of the people gathering at the lot were untrusting of their motives at first, but they recognized the good intentions of the Clean Team over time; some even started to help. Jamie explained that the Team has developed a good rapport with the individuals gathering at the lot, and that it is important to be non-judgmental in order to achieve the goal of keeping the area clean. The Team needs more volunteers so that no single individual has to pick up trash more than one day a week; she said it takes about 10 minutes work. Jamie provided the web link for prospective volunteers, which shows the cleaning schedule. A couple of attendees expressed interest. Maria will include a note about the Clean Team and the need for volunteers in the October 1 issue of the WAMM Gazette. Fred Lagrasta



indicated that he would contact the City about installing a more proper trash container than the one currently in place.

Ellen Cohen's informational meeting about the new Montrose Library – Maria Morandi explained that there is a plan to move the Freed-Montrose Neighborhood Library from its current location on Montrose Blvd. at Richmond to the Westheimer-Montrose Blvd. area. Ellen Cohen will be presenting the status and plans for the new library at a meeting to be held at UST's Jarubeck Center on September 26. She distributed copies of the meeting announcement. Maria said she would not be able to attend and asked if any of the attendees could. Lane said that she would likely be able to attend.

Lane told the attendees to take and look the Basilian Fathers brochures available on the conference room table, and distributed menus from the newly opened Sweetgreens restaurant on Westheimer.

5. Other Business

Greek Festival Update – Lane asked Mr. Jeff Rushing to provide an update on the upcoming Greek Festival. Mr. Rushing indicated that the Festival is in its 53rd year. Parking has always been an issue, and so it will be this year. Uber and Lift will be used. For the first time, food will be served cafeteria style, so festival goers can get their individual food preferences. There will be a wine tasting and additional tent for sitting. Security is being strengthened. The Sheriff and Constables will be keeping watch around the perimeter; Constables can use this activity for their required community service hours. Yoakum St. in front of the church will be closed around the clock during the festival. La Colombe d'Or will be opening the street during the festival. The City will install the signs in the non-parking areas. The company contracted for trash pickup has been changed. Lane asked Jeff to send the Festival program so it can be included in the October 1 issue of the WAMM Gazette.

Mr. Rushing distributed Festival tickets to all attendees and reminded everybody to call if any problems arise during the Festival.

6. New Business

There was a discussion about the size of signs placed by Croix Builders in front of homes under construction. Lane reminded everybody that WAMM's deed restrictions limit the size allowed for signs placed in front of properties, and requested that people call her when a potential violation is noted.

Lane said she would try to get a speaker from the general contractor for La Colombe d'Or's expansion to get an update on the construction progress.



Lane asked if there was additional new business. Hearing none, she called the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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