



WAMM QUARTERLY MEETING

APRIL 18, 2019

Annunciation Orthodox School (AOS)

MINUTES

Maria Morandi, WAMM Secretary/Treasurer, called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

1. Introduction of Officers

Maria Morandi introduced herself as Secretary/Treasurer of the association, and Diane Baker as Second Vice-President. She informed attendees that Lane Llewellyn, First Vice-President and Acting President was out of town and could not attend the meeting.

2. Meeting Agenda and Introduction of Speakers and Hosts

Maria Morandi described the agenda for the meeting, including a presentation by AOS administration, a guided tour of the new AOS facilities, and updates on several WAMM issues upon the conclusion of the tour.

Maria introduced Dr. Samuel V. Fragomeni, Head Master of AOS since last year, and Ms Isabelle Dom, Director of Communications. She thank them both for making it possible to hold the WAMM meeting at AOS and for providing the unexpected assortment of wonderful Greek delicacies for WAMM members in attendance.

Dr. Fragomeni provided a brief description of AOS and his experiences since assuming the position of Head of the School. He turned over the meeting to Ms. Dom, who introduced Ms Margarite Schultz, Admissions Assistant at AOS and would be guiding the tour of the facilities.

Maria Morandi thanked Dr. Fragomeni again. She indicated that Mr. Greg Meyers, former President of Houston Independent School District (HISD) Board of Education and candidate for Houston City Council District C was at the meeting. She asked Mr. Meyers if he would like to speak briefly to the attendees before the guided tour. Mr. Meyers introduced himself and spoke briefly about his personal and professional background, his achievements at HISD's Board of Education and his philosophy as City Council candidate. Maria thanked Mr. Meyers and invited all attendees to take part of the guided tour.

3. Guided Tour of AOS.

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Ms Schultz guided the tour of the new AOS facilities with the assistance of Ms. Dom. We visited the library' classrooms for music, visual arts, and the sciences; the cafeteria, a rooftop vegetable and herb garden, as well as the indoor and outdoor athletic facilities. Ms. Schultz described the depth and breath of the academic program at AOS, and the high ranking of the school. Admissions are highly competitive. Ms. Dom explained that there is a second phase for school expansion that is currently in the planning stages.

4. Order of Business.

Following the tour, the meeting reconvened at 7:38 pm. Maria Morandi provided updates on the following WAMM issues:

4.a. Membership – There were 54 paid members to date in 2019. There is significant new residential construction in WAMM and new neighbors are moving in. She asked attendees to mention WAMM when they met new people moving into the neighborhood. Reminders of dues will continue to be published in the WAMM Gazette and she will continue sending emails to members who are still in arrears.

4.b. Need for candidates to the WAMM Board – Maria asked for volunteers to fill Board vacancies. There was a question about the vacancies available. She indicated that the position of President was still vacant and the current acting President and First Vice-President will not be eligible for Board positions after the expiration of her term at the end of the year. Maria exercises both the treasurer and secretary duties, but it would be helpful to split these positions again in the future. Volunteers are also need to help with a variety of WAMM activities and projects. No attendees volunteered except Bob Lacy who indicated he would like to get involved with the street sign project. Maria indicated she would contact him.

4.c. WAMM Street Signs – Maria informed the attendees that she had finally located the person in charge of the street topper program at the City of Houston with the help of Helen Cohen's Office. There are no application fees or other City-required payments. There are no requirements for a contractor to install the toppers, which could be done by residents of WAMM. The only limitation is that the City will be enforcing the toppers size limits to 10in wide by 4in high. Maria said that we could go to 5in high because the channel of the topper bracket is almost 1in by itself. The first and second part of the application can be sent at the same time to the program director's email address. His office will then send an inspector to verify the topper locations. Review and approval could take as little as two weeks. Maria also contacted Helen Cohen's Office about the availability of neighborhood improvement grants in 2019 to help cover up to 50% of the cost of the toppers. It is highly probable that an announcement about grant availability will be made early in the summer with the window for

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submitting the application between July and December. Submitted projects should have received all required City approvals by the time of submission of the application to the Neighborhood Improvement Grants program. The Board's plan is to submit the application for installing the toppers by mid May, and be ready to submit the application for the Neighborhood Grant by July. The contact with Helen Cohen's Office recommended not to move forward with actual installation until January 2020, once the winners of the awards are announced. Bob Lacy indicated again that he would like to lead this effort.

4.d. Incident report – WAMM meeting announcement sign intentionally set on fire. – Maria reported that Sam Leuschen, a WAMM member, reported that a meeting announcement signs placed at the northwest corner of Mulberry and Harold was deliberately set in fire in the early morning of Tuesday, April 16. He put out of fire and reported the incident to the police. His actions precluded the potential for a more serious incident due to fire propagation.

5. Other Business

Maria announced that the Board is planning to have a party sometime in June or July, similar to the 2018 Summerfest. Bob Manchester has agreed to host it. Details are still in the planning stage, and will be announced in the June newsletter as well as by email.

6. New Business

There were questions about the progress on the resurfacing of Yupon St. Maria indicated that she could only report on the work that is visible and that she understood completion is expected by August which, to her, appeared optimistic. A member raised concerns about the potential for blocking a pipe that goes to a drain in the back of his townhome. Maria indicated that she would follow up with the contractor. Bob Lacy reported that Kipling St. could also be resurfaced but without replacement of water and sewer lines.

Maria Morandi informed the attendees that the time was 8:00pm and we had to vacate the room. She called the meeting adjourned.

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