

The meeting was called to order on 12/7/2009 at 7:35pm at the Spicewood library. The board members in attendance were Eric Deal, Dan Coops, Doug Leininger, Randee Ketzal, Marilyn Calhoun, Randy Haines, Nathan Smith (ACC) and Walter Bodwell (Web wrangler).

October meeting minutes: a motion to approve the minutes distributed last month was made by Randee Ketzal, seconded by Eric Deal, and passed without dissent.

### **Officer/Committee Reports**

**Treasurer Report:** Doug Leininger reported that between membership dues, directory advertising revenue, and holiday tree income, MNA income has now met 99% of the planned income level for the fiscal year at \$15,180. Year-to-date spending is as planned with 43% of the budgeted expenses having already been incurred.

**Membership:** Judit Kolicsne reported via Dan that membership has increased to 196 member households (16 more than last month). Judit is working on a new member packet of information and MNA member benefits that would be provided to block captains to distribute to new residents when they move into the neighborhood.

Judit made a proposal that new residents who move in mid-way through the year should be allowed to join at a reduced rate, and there was general support for new residents to be able to join at half-price (\$25) if they are just moving into the neighborhood.

**Streetlight Committee:** Stephanie Methven reported via Eric that the committee has agreed the initial step that is needed is a simple up or down questionnaire regarding lights. Questions about type, paint color, etc. are secondary steps. The questionnaire is targeted for release in early January and will be accompanied with brief positions pro and con. Additional volunteers have stepped forward as Gail Alfar is collecting pro-light research, and Connie Gray will be on the committee as the pro-light chair.

**Website:** Walter Bodwell reported that the new site is up now and is based on Drupal which has an advantage of being easy for people to append content without having to know any HTML. This site will also have login capability and we will make some pages to MNA members only (see member benefit section above).

**Architectural Committee:** Randy Haines reported that things have been fairly quiet. One fence approval has gone through recently. There was some discussion that many residents are not aware of what restrictions and approvals are needed. In the past reminders have gone out yearly and this should be done in 2010 as well.

**Maintenance & Capital Improvements:** Stephanie Methven has 3 volunteers for helping with plantings around the front entrance sign in the spring. Stephanie is also now collecting competitive bids on the landscaping work that will begin in the spring.

**MNA Bylaws:** Kristin Goodale is starting to work on MNA bylaws. There was a brief discussion about legal policies, and a longer discussion about businesses in the Mountain residential zone. The neighborhood nuisance level is generally agreed to be when there are commercial and oversized vehicles involved. Kristin has the current bylaws, has started research, and will starting working on editing proposals in January.

**Government Liaison:** Marilyn Calhoun inquired about communicating things to the neighborhood such as state representative forums, as well as reporting on political

committee meetings that may take place during campaign season. The general sense is that all of these may be communicated via the Mountain Google Group. The board will take action to clamp down on any discussion threads that spin out of control and are filling e-mail boxes.

**Social Committee:** Rande Ketzl mentioned that the previous gentlemen's agreement between the MNA and the City of Austin has fallen victim to tight city budgets. Previously the MNA was allowed four free events per year, however this year the policy at the Dept of Parks and Recreation changed and now they will charge us \$75-\$500 per event depending on size and duration of the event.

## Open Forum

### MNA participation discussion

Nathan Smith brought up a point about awareness in the neighborhood of what sorts of activities and discussions are happening. There are many cases we know of where people who are not on the Mountain Google group do not know what is going on, but who would be interested. Eric commented that we have tried to collect a broader e-mail list of all 400+ household but have not made much progress so far.

Dan commented that Judit's new member packet could be tweaked for current residents who are non-members and distributed to all non-member households in advance of the 2010 membership drive.

A print newsletter that invites residents to join us online on the Mountain Google group was suggested. There will be printing costs. Longer term it would be desirable to get residents with e-mail on that forum, and block captains could distribute paper copies to those without e-mail (elderly, Luddites, self-proclaimed technically challenged, etc.)

### Yard of the Month

It was briefly discussed that this was a very informal award that went from yard to yard based on the current title holder's discretion.

## Old and New Business

Dan Coops made a motion to appoint Stephanie Methven as Austin Energy Representative. Rande seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**MNA Survey:** Dan Coops motioned and Rande seconded that we collect opinions and ideas from residents via an online survey about security issues, improving home values, MNA membership preferences, social event preferences, e-mail preferences, and some limited demographics. The motion passed unanimously. Dan will distribute a draft to the board to collect any additional thoughts before rolling this out to the neighborhood.

The **next board meeting** will be in approximately early March unless other matters arise that dictate a meeting sooner. The meeting will address the formation of an MNA board nomination committee, as well as readouts from all the above committees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.