



## **WHNA**

*Whispering Hills Neighborhood Association*

**January 9, 2017**

**Liberty Junior High School**

**7:06 p.m.**

### **WHNA Board Meeting**

**Call to Order:** by President Chuck Laughlin

**Special Guests** – In an effort to build a relationship with the Forestridge Elementary School, President Laughlin invited Misty Wilson, Principal of Forestridge Elementary and Chanda Ash, Vice-Principal of Forestridge Elementary to speak at the meeting.

- Chanda reported that Forestridge's PTA is run by the staff at Forestridge and she is the President of the PTA. This is Chanda's 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Forestridge. She asks that Whispering Hills get involved in the PTA by joining for \$8.50. This fee helps with expenses that the school and teachers incur throughout the year. The neighborhood can get in touch with her on Next Door or by email. She invites anyone that is interested in helping to volunteer at the school. Sonia Harms has been a volunteer for a long time and Sonia reports that volunteers are needed for picture day that is coming up. If a person would like to volunteer they will need to complete a background check. This can be done by going to RISD's website. Volunteers are needed to help with traffic, in the library, make copies and career day. There are 50+ languages spoken by students at Forestridge. It is a very diverse school with African American, Hispanic, Asian, Caucasian and various other ethnicities making up the student body. Chanda also reported that there will be a fundraiser on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Spring Creek Barbecue. Also funds can be raised by purchasing General Mills products and saving box tops from these products to give to the school.

- Misty Wilson reported that her main issue after coming to Forestridge was to work on the students' emotional issues. By addressing the student's emotional issues, it enables them to behave in the classroom and helps with the learning process. Misty said that many of the children come from poverty which causes emotional issues. These children have to walk to school as they do not have any transportation available to them. The school provides breakfast for students that do not get a breakfast at home. Misty also reported that there will be an open house on March the 9<sup>th</sup>. Misty and Chanda both said that they are pleased that Whispering Hills Neighborhood Association invited them to speak at the board meeting and appreciates community support from WHNA.

**Secretary's Report** – Chuck stated there needs to be a correction to the November minutes. The minutes noted that the sidewalk around the fire hydrant on Whispering Hills had been repaired. The concrete around the fire hydrant has not repaired and the correction should note that it has not. A request for the repair has been opened.

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**Treasurer's Report** – The report was given to Chuck by Mary Walraven for the end of December. The beginning balance was \$14,797.39. The income for the month was \$732.50. There was \$747.43 in expenditures for the month; making the ending balance at December 31, 2016 \$14,782.46. The check issued for the tree removal along the alley brick wall has not been cashed. That expense will be \$685.00.

**President** – Chuck announced the new board for 2017. They are:

- Vice-President - Keli Kincaid
- Secretary – Susie Leinneweber
- Treasurer – Claudia Bankston
- Member-At-Large – Bonnie Galloway

**The vision the board has for 2017**

- Community Engagement
- Cultural & All Ages Diversity
- Inclusion & Transparency
- Fiscal Responsibility

**The budget for 2017 will include costs for:**

- Caring Neighborhood
- Civic Interest & Recycling
- Communications & Social Media
- Ground & Improvements
- VIP
- Social & Dine Out
- Youth Engagement
- Administrative

The amount needed to run the neighborhood association will be \$5,500 for the year.

**Committees for 2017**

- Membership
- Caring Neighbor Network
- Civic Interest & Recycling
- Communication & Social Media
- Ground & Improvements
- Social & Dine Out
- VIP
- Cultural Diversity
- Youth Engagement
- Helping Hands

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Leads are needed for the Membership Committee, Ground & Improvement Committee, Cultural Diversity, Youth Engagement and Helping Hands. The lead for Caring Neighbor Network is Cathy Erickson. The lead for Civic Interest & Recycling is Carol Tobias. The lead for Communication & Social Media is Sonia Harms with assistances from Jacy Cochran and Helen Meyer. The lead for Social & Dine Out is Paulette Standefer. This committee will also include special events.

Chuck also announced that he will attend weekly VIP meetings and he will represent our neighborhood at the HOA/NA district 10 meetings.

Items that Chuck wants to review are:

- By-Laws
- West Wall for graffiti and monitor stability
- Friendship Park for dome pylons. They are scheduled for the north side in January and in March for the south side
- South Entrance for the sprinkler system and landscaping
- Security to continue with monitoring
- Safety regarding speeding on Whispering Hills

Chuck's ideas for Celebrations and Special Events:

March 12 – National Plant & Flower Day

March 29 – National Small Business Day (For neighbors with small businesses)

April 11 – National Pet Day

April 22 – Earth Day

June 30 – National Social Media Day

September 28 – National Good Neighbor Day

November – National Military Family Appreciation Month

December 5 – International Volunteer Day

**Safety/VIP Program** – Mike Gorman announced a 3% reduction in crime for the year. The Dallas Police Department reported 41 incidents for the year. WHNA had 137 reports by the neighbors during the year. The VIP patrol hours for December are 150. The VIPs had 1,900 + hours of patrolling for the year. There were 4 neighbors that took the DPD's course in 2016. There are 25 VIPs registered with the DPD and 24 of those are active. The most reported crimes are criminal mischief and vandalism. Some of the least reported crimes are potential assault cases and property thefts including vehicles.

**Open Discussion** – Chuck opened the floor up for discussion.

The west wall – Chuck checked on the work undertaken in removing the trees that were leaning on the wall. He reports that stumps have been left and the kids at the apartments are using them to jump over the wall. Since WHNA did not pay to have

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the stumps removed, it was suggested to announce that anyone can take the stumps to use for firewood.

Earth Day - Carol Tobias commented that Earth Day would be a good day to urge neighbors to clean up their yards.

Attendance - Mike Gorman said that with 615 homes in the neighborhood we should have more people joining the association and attending the board meetings. Chuck said that he had hoped providing child care at the meetings would encourage more attendance at the monthly board meetings.

Deermont - There was a question about the status of closing Deermont. At this time there is probably not a way to get Deermont closed to through traffic.

Speeding - Another discussion brought up was speeding on Whispering Hills. Inquiries have been made about getting another stop sign on Whispering Hills. Chuck said that this item needs to be revisited.

YOM - Chuck said he would like to have a poll taken for the winners of Yard of the Month. This could be done on Next Door.

Pictures - The last item discussed was about more pictures on WHNA's website. Chuck would like to have pictures rotate on the homepage. He thinks this would add more color and variety to the homepage.

Since there was not any further business to discuss, Chuck declared the meeting adjourned.

*Crystal Hughes, Acting for Susie Leinneweber*  
Whispering Hills Neighborhood Association