

SPENA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Location: Stevens Park Golf Course Clubhouse, 1005 N Monclair Ave, Dallas TX

Date: Monday, May 20, 2024, 6:30 pm



(* = Absent)

Board Members		Committee Chairs	
Nathan Cox, President	Lindsey Patterson, Social	Joe Rybarski, NOCUPP	
Jessica Faulks, Vice-President	Saul Reyes, Beautification & Parks	Mike McVey, Heritage Oak Cliff	
Larry Worden, Treasurer	Peggy Shipp, Welcome Ambassador	Joanna Robben, Greenspace	
Mary Calvo, Secretary	Kenda North, Communications	Jim Barnes, Historian	
Carol Rybarski, Past-President	Hannah Coxon, Social Media		
Agenda Topics			Presenter(s)
Call to order and introduction of guest speakers Ben Mackey, DISD and Chad West, City Council Representative			Nathan Cox
DISD Update: DISD annual budget is ~\$2B, however the Texas Legislature has not provided any budget increases over the last few years. Despite state budget limitations, reserves have been used to address the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raising the minimum wage for school workers• Increasing annual Teacher salaries >\$79, which has also attributed to increased teacher retention (higher salaries and retention compared to other Districts)• Adding counselors and mental health professionals to the staff Bond money has been approved to improve campuses across the District. Ben noted that Chad has been extremely instrumental in getting construction efforts addressed across the District. Some improvements the bond money will address include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ellkay and Peacock are getting fully renovated• Upper Rosemont has started with new construction firm Ben suggested that SPENA may benefit by providing his monthly newsletter to the SPENA community. Nathan will follow up with Ben on this and keep the SPENA Board updated on the details. Q/A: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Q: In an effort to address state funding shortages, will DISD have to consolidate like other Districts (e.g., Arlington, etc.)? A: Not for this year or next year.• Q: How did the private schools voucher legislation proposal impact the climate for DISD public education? A: The Texas Legislature had originally approved significant \$'s for public education. However, since school vouchers for private schools did not pass, the public schools funding was pulled.• Q: How is DISD ensuring security is being addressed at each of the locations considering funding limitations?			Ben Mackey

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A: Armed Security Officers will be required for each campus (this is underway and ahead of schedule). DISD will provide training to their Security Officers. Additionally, all DISD schools will have updated security vestibules and swipe card entries. This is all being done without additional state funding.

- **Q:** How has the Commissioner of Texas Education, Mike Morath, performed?

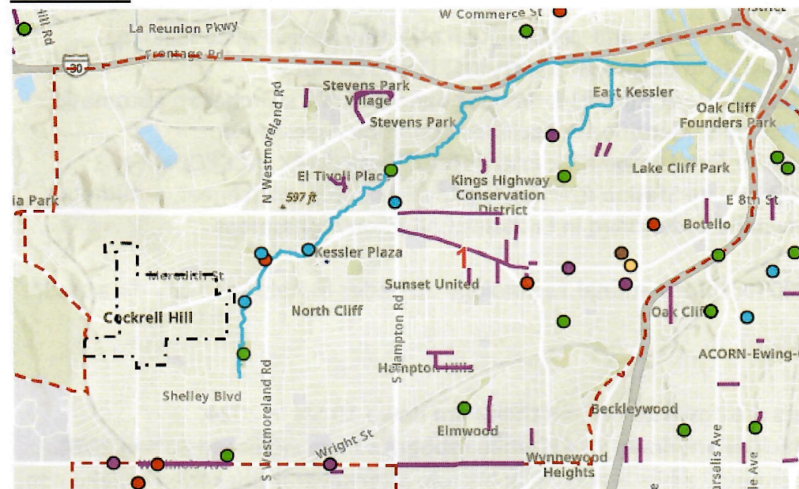
A: Very well. Community college funding has been transformed, getting students access to Algebra I in 8th grade has been accomplished, and incentives have been provided to build on-grade education materials.

City Council Update:

Chad West

Sprouts breaking ground in December 2024

Bond wins:



Prop A: Transportation

- \$15,000,000.00 for Davis Phase I Complete Street (Clinton to Hampton): Reconstruct four-to six-lane roadway as a two-to four-lane roadway with physically separated bike lanes, six-foot unobstructed sidewalks, lighting, and upgraded traffic signals.
- \$3,930,000.00 for Tyler-Sylvan-Colorado Intersection Realignment for Geometric changes, drainage improvements, and traffic signal upgrade at the intersection of Sylvan and Colorado.

Prop B: Parks & Recreation

- \$15,000,000.00 for Southern Gateway: Matching funds for development of a deck park Phase II
- \$9,000,000.00 for Martin Weiss Rec Center - gym/multi-purpose/entry addition
- \$3,500,000 for Site Development and Zoo Improvements at the Dallas Zoo
- \$300,000.00 for Stevens: Playground Replacement

Prop C: Flood Protection & Storm Drainage

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- \$805,000.00 for Erosion Control at 3303 Sheldon Ave: Unnamed Tributary to Coombs Creek - Public-Type 1, 1structure threatened, approx. 4' from bank 14'deep. Approx. 200 FL ofgabion wall.
- \$552,000.00 for Flood Management with Coombs Creek Flood Management Study Update: Update of 1983 Coombs Creek FMS & 2021 Kidd Springs Tunnel TM. Update H&H if needed. Identify new projects, including the evaluation of naturalistic and streambank protection, for Coombs Creek and Kidds Springs.

Prop D: Libraries

- \$16,182,500.00 for North Oak Cliff Replacement: Design &Construction (incl. books) of new 18,000 sf facility
- \$450,000.00 for Oak Cliff Cultural Center: Redo parking lot and upgrade bathrooms including ADA enhancements

Prop F: Public Safety

- \$50,000,000 for Design and Construction of a new Dallas Police Training Academy Facility in partnership with UNT Dallas Campus.
- \$52,400.00 for Fire Station #14: Replace panel boards, switchgear, automatic transfer switches. Identified in Facilities Condition Assessment.
- \$16,478.49 for Fire Station #15: Install HVAC Control (AX JACE) Quantity 1.
- \$52,400.00 for FireStation #26: Replace panel boards, switchgear, automatic transfer switches. Identified in Facilities Condition Assessment.

Prop J

- \$5,000,000 for Informational Technology upgrades to help keep city data secure

Public Safety update:

- Citywide, murders are down 26.6% and thefts are down 10.5% in 2024.
- In District 1, homicides are down 71.4% while robberies have increased 33% in 2024.
- Chief Garcia has announced he is staying in his role after several citiestried to take him.

1950 Forth Worth (Miramar) Project update:

- Despite setbacks, the project is now on a positive path to meet the original objective of providing safe, affordable, and permanent housing for formerly unhoused individuals.
- The CPC passed an early renewal on the SUP (specific use permit) on 5/16/24 to extend the permit for permanent supportive housing to be built at that location for five years, providing greater certainty for the new operator.
- In the coming weeks, the selected operator and summary overview of the terms will be announced. This comes after a thorough RFP process to find a highly regarded and experienced operator. The City Council will vote on that contract on June 26, 2024.
- If approved, the new operator would start work on rehabbing the site and then would open to residents in approximately 12-24 months. The new operator will restart community engagement as soon as the City Council approves their contract.

Upcoming events:

- June 24, 2024, 5:30pm - 7:30pm - State of Housing and Forward Dallas Workshop at Hitt Auditorium (Methodist), City of Dallas Housing Department and Planning & Urban Design Department. Co-Hosted by Heritage Oak Cliff

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- June 25, 2024, 6pm - 7:30pm - Public Safety Town Hall at Texas Theatre, with Chief Garcia. Co-hosted by NOCUPP
- June 26, 2024, City Council meeting, Council will vote on 1950 Forth Worth Ave. (Miramar) proposed contract with operator and SUP renewal
- August (TBD), 2024 - Budget Town Hall series, with various city departments

Q/A:

- Q: Why can't SPENA get 4-way stop signs, speed bumps, etc? In the past these requests have been submitted, though never approved.
A: A corridor study needs to be initiated. The SPENA board will put this on the agenda for discussion and planning for next steps.
- Q: How can we improve walkability via our sidewalks particularly from neighborhood to neighborhood (e.g., Stevens Park to Kessler Park, etc.)
A: SPENA Board will gather list of routes that are impacted and submit to Chad and Kyle Wick for potential funding sources available for this work since SPENA is on the edge of the Fort Worth Avenue TIF. These funds may be used for things like sidewalk improvements, lighting, creek improvements, etc.).
- Q: Can Stevens Park Golf Course charge non-Dallas golfers more for green fees to help subsize local funding opportunities?
A: Possibly, yes. SPENA Board will investigate with Chad.
- Q: Any chance for reasonably priced housing in the area?
A: Yes, possibly in Bishop Arts targeting the Bishop Arts workforce to enable household incomes of ~\$60K annually.
- Q: How can retail space at lower levels of high rise apartment complexes be enabled to open?
A: Potentiall through small business center funding. They offer up to ~\$2M for potential funding, but no requests have been submitted.
- Q: What is being done to address the crime upticking (particularly theft) in our community?
A: While city-wide crime data is down, there is an uptick in theft data due to added territory being measured farther west up to Loop 12. The city continues to try and manage auto vehicle theft, gun shots, and backyard theft.

SPENA Treasury:

Membership and Balance

- Currently at 75 member households vs. 77 last year
- Represents 37% of the neighborhood.
- Current bank balance of \$6,922

Larry Worden

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Block Party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total expenses for catering, music, supplies, bounce house, Pinata, and face painter of \$2,024.48 68 meal tickets for \$340 in income 		
SPENA Heritage Oak Cliff Grant Submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic lamp post updates Annual Block Party Movie night at Annie Stevens Park 		Mike McVey
SPENA Beautification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground equipment and curb cut funding pending Quarterly park clean-up days at Annie Stevens Park. First clean-up was in March. Second clean up is schedule June 8th (which also includes Triangle Maintenance common area). Mark your calendars! 		Saul Reyes
Action Items	Assigned to	Status
Obtain Ben Mackey's monthly newsletter to share with SPENA community	Nathan Cox	Not started
Investigate how to initiate a corridor study for traffic safety (e.g, stop signs, speed bumps, traffic islands, etc.)	TBD	Not started
Sidewalk safety improvements, particularly from neighborhood to neighborhood; potentially engage with Kyle Wick who sits on board for Ft. Worth Ave TIF for potential funding solutions	TBD	Not started
Investigate raising Stevens Park Golf Course green fees for non-Dallas golfers	TBD	Not started
Research repainting street lights for potential HOC grant funding	Saul Reyes, Larry Worden	Completed
Research movie night costs (e.g., screen, etc.) for potential HOC grant funding	Mike McVey	WIP
Contact Ben Mackey to attend Annual Business Meeting	Kenda North	Complete
Rounding with SPENA residents to promote membership	Saul Reyes	WIP
Send highlights to include in Member Marketing Flyer to Hannah Coxon	Saul Reyes	WIP
Draft Membership Marketing Flyer for Board review	Hannah Coxon	WIP
Get price quotes for Iris bulbs and discuss use (e.g., welcome baskets, selling on Earth Day, etc.); Need input from Peggy when she needs for baskets	Saul Reyes, Kenda North, Peggy Shipp	WIP can order if we want

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Assign Board Members to distribute Block Party Flyers	Carol Rybarski/Larry Worden	Complete
Mock-up up a new social media page on the existing FB site to present to Board for review	Hannah Coxon	WIP – Initial contact made with former FaceBook page owner
Investigate how to engage with Annie L Stevens Trust (managed by Foundations Dallas) as a potential funding resource for SPENA opportunities.	Saul Reyes, Carol Rybarski, Jim Barnes	WIP Trust designed for the needy adults and children; Saul tap into Kendra if she needs to escalate

Decisions	Made by	Date
None		

Next Meeting
Next meeting: Annual Business Meeting, June 17, 2024, 7:00 pm, Rybarski residence, 1935 W. Colorado Boulevard, Dallas, TX

Meeting minutes taken by Mary Calvo