**Minutes for…**

**March General Membership Meeting**

**March 5 2019, 7:00pm-9:00pm**

**Mathews School Cafeteria (906 West Lynn at West 9th)**

Call to Order (7:10pm)

**Minutes:**

Approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Renae gave a brief update on accounts.

**Misc**

Mark Bozyk, a member of the Austin Police Department came to introduce himself. He works nights in our neighborhood. He noted that the major issues in our neighborhood seem to be low level mischief like vandalism or rummaging through cars with open doors. He fielded questions. Thanks for coming, Mark!!

**Mathews Friends for Excellence**

Ted introduced this group, who are trying to raise money for the Mathews community. They are currently looking into restoring the building while simultaneously adding some curriculum about architecture and restoration for the students. Contact Ruth ann Rushing for details (see OWL for her contact info).

**Yedi Mindfulness**

Kellie Dowell, a former Mathews teacher, came to talk about her program for kids on mindfulness. Thanks to a grant from the PTA, she teaches mindfulness lessons on peace to each class. She also runs an after school program. She is looking for a new home for the program, so if you have ideas, let her know. ([kellie.dowell@att.net](mailto:kellie.dowell@att.net)) Thanks Kellie!!

**Renaming West Austin Park**

Scott Marks and Kim Overton came to talk about renaming West Austin Park. The idea is to bring more history to the Park. The Park appears on maps in about 1935, and was originally named the West 10th st Park. Scott found a number of pictures of the Park and the pool from the late 1930s. From the early 1960s, some pictures illustrated a good deal of racial integration among the kids in the Park. Scott proposed renaming the park after Volma Overton, Kim’s grandfather. Kim went to school at Mathews and now lives in the neighborhood with her children attending Mathews.

Kim presented her grandfather’s story. He was in the Marines in WWII. Upon his return he was surprised to be confronted with segregation. He went to Huston-Tillotson but could not find a job in his field. But he got a job in the post office and was a postmaster in Bastrop. He was president of the NAACP for 21 years--from 1962-1983. Several people reported that Overton built bridges between east and west Austin. He conducted a peaceful “read in” in 1964 to protest the city councils inaction.. He created groups to test whether businesses were complying with anti-segregation ordinances, and worked against those who did not. He integrated Bastrop State Park, and was involved with early integration of area golf courses. In 1969 he was involved in suing AISD to stop segregation. He is the second black person to be buried in the state cemetery.

Volma never lived in the neighborhood.

The proposed name of the Park is “Overton Park” or “Volma Overton West Austin Park.”

Other comments:

Some worried that new information would come out that might make us hesitate to name the Park after anyone. Several people wanted to keep the “West Austin Park” portion.

Mike made a motion to “percolate,” including considering the possibility of instead naming other portions of the neighborhood after Overton like Lamar Beach. Others wanted more information in the OWL about Overton, and more information about Overton’s connection to the neighborhood.

Motion to add this info to the OWL and let things percolate. Passed.

FOOD BREAK--THANKS ZOCALO for the wonderful food!!!!

**Preservation Austin**

Motion to support preservation Austin with a $200 donation. They often support the neighborhood’s preservation efforts.

**Affordable Housing**

They are working with families who have housing insecurity. They have made two grants, and have been soliciting more applications. They have up to $50,000 available.

**Events**

Movie night:

Orlo discussed Lego Batman movie night this Saturday!

THANKS GRANDE for sponsoring this movie AND the next movie!!

Will Heron, from the neighborhood, will be hosting a lego building event before the movie, with 12,000 bricks!

Mathews Fundraiser:

We are still putting this event together, but it probably will be a house party in the neighborhood.

Fourth of July Parade:

This will happen again this year!

Other:

CCDC’s Fun fest is coming up!

**Membership**

Sinikka took over from George after 6 years. She is working on streamlining the checking in process and the email systems.

**Parks**

The shade structures are up in West Austin Park!

**Transportation**

Mike mentioned that the city has approved money to improve the RR crossing on Pressler st.

We need to take a new look at the neighborhood plan, and Mike is looking for volunteers to begin thinking about this issue.

**Zoning**

Erin gave a summary of what’s been going on at the Historic Landmark commission

1. Since the last General Membership meeting, the Historic Landmark Commission has:
2. Approved a demolition permit for 1808 West 6th Street
3. Approved renovation/building plans for the following properties:

i. 1204 and 1206 West 10th Street (rehab and addition)

ii. 703 Highland Avenue (3-story new build)

iii. 1106 West 9th Street (new garage/ADU)

iv. 707 Blanco Street (addition and ADU)

v. 1108 West 11th Street (rehab and addition)

The house located at 1013 Blanco was unexpectedly demolished—the staff of the Historic Preservation Office is working with the homeowner to make sure the salvageable parts will be refurbished and replaced.

1. Relevant plans, permits, and HLC meeting minutes can be found on the HLC website. Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the Zoning Committee if you have questions/comments.
2. The next Zoning Committee meeting will be on March 21 at noon.
3. The Town Lake Y is converting a softball field to a bigger parking lot.

There was a lot of discussion about 1013 Blanco. To express displeasure about what happened here, email Kathy Tovo and/or HLC.

8:40 Adjourn