West Kessler Neighborhood Association

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| Minutes | November 14, 2019 | 6:13-7:29 PM |

 Oak Cliff Brewery

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| Meeting called by | West Kessler Board of Directors |
| Type of meeting | Scheduled General Meeting & Elections |
| Facilitator | Jonathan Saxer |
| Note taker | Angie Mobley |
| Attendees | Jonathan & Amanda Saxer, Stuart & Nan Gill, Angie Mobley, and Eric & Nancy Galvan, Mariam Andersen |
| call to order | Jonathan Saxer at 6:13 PM |

**Special Guest Councilman Chad West Chad West**

Chad updated us on what is going on in our district, hitting the following highlights.

* Housing and Homelessness Committee – Chad has been appointed chair of the committee
* Public Safety – After the pension crisis there has been a major retention problem with the Police and Fire Departments. Council agree to increase the new hire pay up to $60,000 and incremental increases for existing officers . Since the increases the attrition rate is down 15-20%, and the last graduating class was the biggest recruiting class in DPD history. There was an audit to determine staffing levels within the police department and although numbers are down, it was found that there are too many officers in desk jobs where civilians could be utilized. Since July/August timeframe there has been a move to get those officers back into patrol. Chad encouraged us to stop by the Southwest Prescient on Illinois during the holidays to say “Thanks” to the officers and maybe drop off a treat.
* Housing – The city is trying to work on the many facets of homelessness, including the displacement that is occurring especially in our district. He points out that not all the displacement is bad, but there is enough that needs to be addressed. The Comprehensive Housing Policy has a Home Improvement Plan that allows for folks living 60% below the median income to apply for. The plan allows the City to give the homeowner $5000 towards home repairs. This money has to be matched by the homeowner or a city approved vendor has to do work.
* Homelessness – There are different levels of homelessness that have to be address, Shelters are utilized initially but then that has to be a move towards a permanent solution. The committee is facing a problem with NIMBYism. Neighborhoods are fighting against having a permanent housing solution in there are. Chad has challenged each council member to find a place for a permeant solution that will house 100-150 people within each district. These solutions could be in the form of old motel or apartment complexes that are refurbished and turned into housing facilities.
* Projects –
	+ Coombs Creek Pavilion – erosion control was a bigger issue than expected and the job has taken much longer. He expects them to be done in January but there will still be landscaping that will need to be done.
	+ Davis Street – They should be finished early to mid 2020. Between Hampton and Rosemont will be 4 lanes with parking on either side. There is also a bike/walk path in the plans on the north side of road. Kimberly Smith is city staff working on the walkability issues. There are issues with Davis between Hampton and Cockerel Hill that have to be worked out.
	+ North Boulevard Terrace Bridge is still in the works, it’s just taking a while.

Coombs Creek Trail to Davis is on track. The citizen’s task force has a meeting with city staff and the involved city departments next week.

* Chad opened the floor for questions:
	+ Jakob asked how much money left in the Davis Garden Tiff and can it be used to help with some improvements on Davis between Rosemont and Hampton. Chad doesn’t know if there is money or if it can be used for this area but he will check.
	+ It was asked how we can get access to 12 Hills from West Kessler again since the gate to Kessler Woods is always closed now.? Chad encouraged us to reach out to the Kessler Woods HOA and let him know if we are unsuccessful.
	+ It was asked if the City is going to support Royal Blue Grocery coming to Bishop Arts and how much money they will give? Chad said that it is still in the works. CH380 money has to invest in something that will give back economically, so the money can only spend on this type of endeavor. He says the news stories have not focused on the fact that 30 new jobs will be brought to the area in the $15-17/hr. range, council is pushing them to hire from within the neighborhood.
	+ Someone asked about Wynnewood? Wynnewood is moving forward. There are some issues the theater, but a replacement is ready if they back out.

**Special Guest Mario Munoz**

 Mario is a neighbor from Highgrove and has started a trash cleanup campaign. On his daily walks and runs he noticed how much trash is laying around and the fact that trash cans are overflowing but the city and Rosemont Elementary are not emptying them. He starting picking up trash on his walks and routinely gets several bags per walk. He also realized the trash cans were ¾ full of rain water and couldn’t be easily moved. He drilled holes in the cans so that the water drains and the city is now picking up the trash. He’s worked with Rosemont and got them registered with Keep America Beautiful. He’s started a Facebook page called Oak Cliff Ploggers and has posted on North Oak Cliff Neighbors to challenge folks to pick up trash. Mario points out that there is a 52% increase in crime in areas with high litter.

He's asking for our help in this endeavor. There was discussion of a joint HOC grant to address the issue.

**General Election: Jonathan Saxer**

 President – Jonathan Saxer (Incumbent)

 There were no challengers and the vote were unanimous

 Vice President – Nancy Galvan (Incumbent)

 There were no challengers and the vote were unanimous

 Treasurer – Joseph Beckham (Incumbent)

 There were no challengers and the votes were unanimous

 Secretary – Angie Mobley (Incumbent)

 There were no challengers and the vote was unanimous

**Project Recaps Jonathan Saxer**

* **Fall Fest & Little Free Library -**

We would like to get block captains active again. Would like to get them to help with candy canes, flags, welcome bags, etc.

Action Item: Mariam – Check with block captains and see who is interested.

**Green Bags Nan Gill**

A Palm Beach area neighborhood has a “Green Bag” initiative which allows neighbors to purchase an extra food staple when they go to the grocery store. Once a month they place the items in a “Green Bag” which is a reusable shopping bag provided by the neighborhood. A designated person picks up the bags and takes the to the neighborhood coordinator, which takes the items to a food bank. Can do two sets of bags so that when you pick one up you drop an empty one off. Can also alternate toiletries with food staples.

Stu and Nan have volunteer to be the neighborhood coordinator.

Action Item: Stu to check with Cliff Temple for the capacity of their food bank and with North Texas Food Bank in Oak Cliff.

Action Item: Angie to check on cost of bags.

**November General Meeting Jonathan Saxer**

November 7th or 14 6:30pm - Would like Chad West or someone from the Davis zoning project to speak about piping, runoff, and utility infrastructure.

 Elections after general meeting.

Action Item: Jonathan Saxer – reach out to the golf course for meeting space and to Chad West or someone from Davis Zoning to speak.

**Recycling Day Jonathan Saxer**

November 15th is recycling day. Would like to advertise the Do’s and Don’ts of Dallas Recycling.

**Directories Jonathan Saxer**

Joseph is working on them.

**Curb Painting Jonathan Saxer**

More to come. Looking for someone to lead.

**Little Free Library Jonathan Saxer**

Two story Amish. Hope to be done for Fall Fest.

**Holiday Party**

 Holiday party on December 8th or 15th. Need to reach out to neighbors for volunteers.

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| next meeting | November 2019 Golf Course Clubhouse |
| Adjournment  |  |
| minute approval | Recorded: October 1, 2019Approved: Published:  |