

COVNA Executive Board Meeting

March 13, 2023, 6p - Denise's front porch (2503 Comburg Castle Way)

1. Call to order & Attendance - 6:05p Will, Ron, Denise and Sean

2. Pending Business

a. Set annual budget for 2023 events

i. Review Ron's budget/account update

ii. Review past budget amounts

Ron provided info by email, recommends \$3k for this year, we have always done a blanket amount, at end of year, if we need extra, ask for authorization, concerned that we have gotten away from having business at the beginning of each event,

Will seconded Ron's recommendation and added that the way the organization was created was because of oak wilt, to have funds to help with the trees; the recent freezes and tree damage from the storms means we likely need to shift our priority back on trees by increasing fees, to have money to call in an arborist (estimated \$75-100k).

Ron offered info on a couple of NA in town who sued the city of Austin over zoning, we all have deed restrictions that supersede city zoning, for about \$25k to defend the neighborhood; Will added that we don't have enough funds in the account to cover either of those scenarios.

Ron added that previously, for the oak wilt issue, we did not have enough money in the COVNA account then; he and another neighbor walked door to door to collect money from the neighbors and collected \$15k, Texas A&M contributed, and the City contributed and it cost \$45k total; Ron commented that having \$25k in the COVNA account is likely not attainable.

Discussion followed regarding the role of the voluntary neighborhood association as compared to an HOA where paying \$100/month in fees allows for an HOA to assist with tree care. All agreed that COVNA's role is not to fund tree care services to neighbors. However, coordinating help and communication between neighbors can continue to be the role of the organization.

Will asked Ron to confirm the spending last year: \$1844 of approved budget of \$3k, plus an added \$2300 for knight fire plus another \$146 authorized for newsletter printing and web hosting. Ron confirmed those amounts.

Ron added that the catered events, while very costly, expanded the membership numbers, but suggested we scale the cost down. He recalled previous COVNA meetings/gatherings where the host would grill burgers and hot dogs and have a bounce house in the yard - those events happened numerous times per year and stayed under budget.

Will asked for a motion. Ron moved that we approve his recommendation of setting a budget for the year of \$3,000. Denise seconded it.

Discussion followed regarding the expense of catering and the increasing costs. All agreed that scaling back of events, getting back to a business meeting at the beginning of each event and staying under budget are a priority.

A vote was called on the motion to set an annual budget for 2023 of \$3,000 and it carried unanimously.

b. Share feedback/impressions on serving on Board in 2022

Will shared that he enjoyed working with everyone; Ron agrees and stated that he is still invested - he thought he would step down, but enjoys serving and will continue; Sean added that he has enjoyed his time serving on the Board as well and getting to know more people; Denise offered that she appreciates the diversity of the group and now that she has served for a year, she looks forward to being more vocal and helping to keep the organization under budget.

3. New Business

a. Upcoming event - Neighborhood Garage Sale

i. What is needed? Event flier? Does Committee have everything they need?

Will asked if there was a committee; Denise reminded the group that we decided last meeting to form the committee and Michelle was to reach out to Tina to see if she was interested in being the chair of that committee. Board discussed expectations that Committee chair would need to communicate with the Board and coordinate the details of the event.

ACTION ITEM: Michelle to confirm that Tina can chair the program committee for the upcoming garage sale and make the expectations clear:

-All expenses need to be approved by a minimum of 3 members prior to spending the funds; and

-Chair will store, place and remove signage for the event.

Denise made a motion that this event should not incur costs to COVNA. Ron seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Denise to ask Katy if she'll be making a flier for the upcoming garage sale for posting to the website.

b. Newsletter update - first issue of 2023 needs to go out soon -

Carryover agenda item.

Board discussed the next newsletter timing. Anticipate that the next newsletter will be published in May/June.

ACTION ITEM: Sean to provide an article to Katy for the newsletter by the end of April.

4. Future agenda items

Membership update - 38 paid, 3 honorary, just got mail from last 16 days, 9 more possibly; Denise and Ron to coordinate on membership roster, to have roster prepared by Spring Fling; Spring Fling details: sponsorship, planning

5. Future meeting dates - *April 4; May 2; June 6; July 11; Aug 1; Sep 12 (Labor Day is 9/4); Oct 10; Nov 7; Dec 5*

Board agreed on dates; Ron can host April, Will can host May. We can meet virtually if needed.

ACTION ITEM: Denise to send out meeting invites to the Board for the meeting dates for the rest of the year.

6. Adjourn - 6:45p