

**Austin Newcomer's Club Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2016**

Hosted by Kathy Finley/Valerie Ojeman – 11708 Eagles Glen Dr. Austin 78732

Executive Board Members:

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| President | Susi Spies |
| First VP Membership | Donna Withrow |
| 2 nd VP Programs & Meetings Directors | Laurie Gillig & Kathy Finley |
| Secretary | Paul Parrish |
| Treasurer | Valerie Ojeman |
| Newsletter Editor | Cindy Fenton |
| Interest Group Chair | Alison Seaman |
| Parliamentarian | Marj Lowe |
| Publicity/Communications | Diane Gallagher (absent) |

Standing Committee Chairpersons

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Board Transition Coordinator | Mary Pat Bolton (absent) |
| Calendar | Don Kirmis |
| Greeter | Evelyn McMillen (absent) |
| Historians | Jane Van Dellen & Beth Oliver (absent) |
| Member Services | Annie Prasad (absent) |
| Name Tags | Peggy Sklar |
| Member at Large | Jan Jones (absent) |

Committee member: Beth Noe, Programs/Meetings Committee

- 1. Call to order**
Susi Spies called the meeting to order at 10:05.
- 2. Introduction of new President Elect**
Susi Spies introduced the new President Elect, Sandy Strakosch, who was warmly greeted by board members. This is her 8th newcomers organization, and she is presently the chair of the ANC interest group Come to Dinner, Bring a Plate.
- 3. Approval of August 3rd Minutes**
Marj Lowe moved approval of the August 3rd minutes previously distributed, Valerie Ojeman seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.
- 4. Approval of Special August 28th Executive Board Meeting Minutes**
Donna Withrow moved approval of the August 28th Executive Board minutes previously distributed, Marj Lowe seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.
- 5. Approval of August Treasurer's Report**
Valerie Ojeman presented the August treasurer's report. *Peggy Sklar moved approval of the report, Beth Noe seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.*

In anticipation of the discussion of the 2016-17 ANC budget, Susi Spies went over the two bids we have received from printers for the coming year. The current printer is The Print Shoppe in southwest Austin. Their bid for printing 400 copies of The Welcome Mat, with postage and tax, was \$566.65. The second bid is from Minuteman Press in Cedar Park. Their bid for the same

service was \$513.54. Susi indicated that both Diane Gallagher and Cindy Fenton strongly preferred to stay with the current printer as The Print Shoppe has provided reliable service. She also commented that she felt we had to carefully consider Diane and Cindy's preference on this matter. There followed an extensive discussion of the competing bids. There was some sentiment to stay with the current printer (The Print Shoppe) because they have been helpful in emergencies and responsive to a request last year to lower their bid. Others responded that the bid was lowered only because of pressure, not the printer's initiative. The Print Shoppe has been comfortable to work with, but the board was assured that Minuteman Press has given every indication of working with us effectively as well and was immediately responsive to the request for a bid. Ultimately, the focus was on the lower bid and the potential savings of \$637.32 over the year. *Donna Withrow moved that we accept the bid of Minuteman Press. Alison Seaman seconded. The motion passed with no opposition but with three abstentions.* There was brief further discussion that we should not reveal the decision to change printers until after the current issue (October) is in the mail.

There followed a brief discussion of the advantages of using regular postage to mail *The Welcome Mat* rather than bulk mail, especially because the former is more efficient and timely. *Alison Seaman moved that we continue to use regular postage. Cindy Fenton seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.*

Executive Board Reports

President

Based on a concern expressed by an ANC member, Susi Spies invited discussion about whether we should be providing a printed directory, which is fully available on line. In the discussion there was generally strong sentiment against doing so. *Don Kirmis moved that we not make printed copies of the directory, Alison Seaman seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.*

There was a brief discussion of the ANC Board bowling party scheduled for September 28 at 5:30 at the UT Student Union. Pizza will be served midway, rather than at the end of bowling, and beer will be available.

Treasurer

Valerie Ojeman presented the 2016-17 ANC budget and went over various details, beginning with membership dues. She noted that the budget as originally presented included the higher bid from our current printer. In light of the decision made to go with a new and less expensive printer, the budget for that item would be reduced accordingly. She also pointed out that the Discretionary Fund amount exists largely to create a zero balance yearly budget. Following some questions and discussion about particular items, *Marj Lowe moved approval of the 2016-17 budget, Sandy Strakosch seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.*

Membership

Donna Withrow announced that we presently have 398 paid members, with 134 memberships overdue and not paid. We received 8 new members in August and 13 renewals. Donna will provide a list of overdue members to the board, and Alison Seaman will follow up by contacting interest group chairs to help gauge the activity level of members who have not renewed. Donna then brought up an inquiry from a woman who lives in San Marcos and has expressed interest in joining Austin Newcomers. It was pointed out that the bylaws refer to the ANC in terms of the "greater Austin area," but there was generally a willingness to let this potential member explore the extent to which she might wish to participate. Donna will encourage her to try two events, and she and we can then make a clearer determination about membership if warranted.

Interest Group Coordinator

Alison Seaman noted that the current Bunco interest group chair, Mary Ann Leitz, is resigning because of health issues. There will be an effort to find a new chair from within the Bunco group. Alison reported that two new interest groups are asking for approval. A new mahjong group is seeking approval, in addition to the one that presently exists. Lynne Marcus and Sangie Krishnan wish to form a Newcomers Travel Group.

Marj Lowe noted that there had previously been a travel interest group and suggested that the ANC should determine whether there are any liability issues if the group travels under the auspices of the ANC.

Marj Lowe moved to approve the new mahjong interest group, Peggy Sklar seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.

Donna Withrow moved to reinstate/approve the Newcomers Travel Group subject to a satisfactory resolution of any liability issues, Paul Parrish seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.

Programs & Luncheons

Laurie Gillig, Kathy Finley, and Beth Noe reported on upcoming monthly meetings and luncheons. The September meeting will be held at Chez Zee on the 21st beginning at 11:00 with a meet and greet and 12:00 lunch. The speaker will be Kristen Finan, travel editor for the *Austin American Statesman*, whose topic will be "Texas Hidden Gems." Thirty-five people have thus far signed up. The October luncheon meeting will also be at Chez Zee. The speaker will be Eve Michaels on the topic "Staying Relevant as We Age." The November meeting will be the Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair on the 16th at River Place Country Club, and the December meeting will be a holiday party held at the Sonesta Hotel in Bee Cave on the 14th.

Peggy Sklar noted that Casino Night will be held on January 7 at Great Hills Country Club.

Welcome Mat

Cindy Fenton is working on the October Welcome Mat. As a way of getting information about activities and dates from interest group chairs, she initially sends a generic request to all chairs and then follows up individually if she has received no information. In the future the generic request will encourage recipients to ignore the request if information has already be sent. She has not received any information from the kayaking group, which may not yet be active. She requested contact information for the new mahjong interest group and noted that she needs to submit the Welcome Mat to the printer by September 10.

Communications

Diane Gallagher was absent but Susi Spies read from the Communications report for August to highlight some of the activities that are ongoing.

Standing Committee Reports

Member Services

Susi Spies read from the written report submitted by Annie Prasad, who was absent. She has sent information on the New and Prospective Member Welcome Event on October 23 to the Newsletter and the Calendar. She will also be sending an invitation to Interest Group chairs and ANC Board members. She and Sangie Krishnan will be assisting Karen Kirmis with the RSVPs and the event set up.

Calendar

Don Kirmis announced that he has been receiving calendar submission forms over the last week and a half. He mentioned that he needs to know if there is online payment, payment at the door, or payment by phone, as this affects how the online signup is handled. He pointed out that he can close registration, even if there is no online payment, so long as he knows that he should do that.

Historian

No report

Greeters

No report

Name Tags

Peggy Sklar was commended on the new name tags. She said that she should have new name tags for board members at the new members welcome on October 23.

New Business

Susi Spies distributed new ANC business cards and encouraged board members to take several to give to potentially interested members. She also distributed a spread sheet listing all ANC Board members and contact information.

Susi Spies asked the board to consider having a task force on membership, looking at a number of interests and concerns, including the long range plan, membership renewals, activity level of current members, non-participatory members, minimum and maximum number of members, the possible creation of an alumni group, promoting efforts to create greater diversity among the membership, and other possible concerns. There was discussion about the value of contacting other large newcomers groups to see if and how they are addressing some of these matters. It was pointed out that the Communications committee is concerned with some of these issues though there may be added value with focused attention on membership. No formal action was taken but board members were supportive of the initiative.

Marj Lowe suggested some strategies for getting more publicity for the ANC, including asking realtors to identify the ANC, with our website, on their company website and sharing information on the ANC on community Nextdoor sites. She will send basic verbiage that might be included to board members. When information about the ANC is sent to realtors or Nextdoor sites, Diane Gallagher should be informed.

Susi Spies proposed a new benefit for any member who recruits 5 new members: the next year's membership dues will be waived. After some discussion, *Donna Withrow moved that if a current member recruits 5 new members, that individual's dues for the following year will be waived. Beth Noe seconded. Approved without dissent.*

Reminders

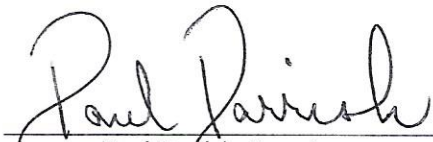
The October board meeting will be held at the home of Donna Withrow (12312 Palisades Parkway 78732; 512-369-3563; withrow19@hotmail.com) on October 5. Susi Spies encouraged board members to send RSVPs in a timely fashion to assist the host in knowing how much food to prepare.

Marj Lowe read a comment from the inimitable Vince Lombardi.


Adjourn

There being no further business, *Marj Lowe moved to adjourn, Valerie Ojeman seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.* The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

Minutes submitted by:


Paul Parrish, Secretary

Approved by:


Susi Spies, President

Approved Motions

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August 1, 2016 to August 31,2016

| | <u>Aug</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Balance | 14,118.92 | 10,531.66 |
| Dues | 2,145.70 | 9,980.41 |
| Luncheon Receipts | 1,398.24 | 2,368.38 |
| 50/50 receipts | 33.00 | 33.00 |
| Pass thru receipts | 221.76 * | 221.76 |
| Hello Austin Custom Eats Tour | 1,006.57 | 1,384.36 |
| July Bank Receipts | 4,805.27 | 13,987.91 |
| Total Cash Available | 18,924.19 | 24,519.57 |
| <u>Disbursements</u> | | |
| Newsletter Printing | 522.85 | 1,513.96 |
| Welcome Mat Postage | 257.02 | 763.39 |
| Luncheon | 966.20 | 3,470.20 |
| Christmas Party | | - |
| All Member Casino Party | | - |
| Liability Insurance | | - |
| Membership Supplies | | - |
| Membership Parties (3) | | - |
| Office Supplies | | - |
| Presidents Fund | | - |
| Presidents Gift | | - |
| P.O. Box Rent | | - |
| Stamps | | 18.80 |
| Publicity/Website | | - |
| MFM Web Hosting Expense | 73.61 | 147.22 |
| 2015/16 Website Expense | | 1,082.50 |
| Web Support | | 330.00 |
| Hello Austin Expenses 2015-2016 Exp | 1,386.00 | 1,458.00 |
| Luncheon - Program | | - |
| Luncheon - Speakers | | - |
| Presidents Scrapbook | | - |
| Misc Exp | 11.73 | 28.72 |
| Sunshine Expense | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Total Disbursements | 3,267.41 | 8,862.79 |
| July Income | 1,537.86 | 5,125.12 |
| Ending Balance Bank Account | 15,656.78 | 15,656.78 |
| Savings Account Balance | 8,483.30 | 8,483.30 |
| Total Cash Available | 24,140.08 | 24,140.08 |