

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful

Published Bimonthly

July–August 2020

San Antonio, Texas

JULY MEETING CANCELLED; AUGUST MEETING DOUBTFUL

WLCA's July 28th meeting has been cancelled. Facilities within City parks, including the Wi-Fi Room where WLCA meets, remain closed under terms of the Mayor's Emergency Declarations. As of this writing, there is no scheduled date to reopen these facilities. Thus, the August 25th meeting might also not take place. We will let our members know if this changes.

We will continue to keep our members informed via email and mailed notices on any issues of importance that affect our community. If you are not receiving emails from WLCA and would like to do so, please let us know at wlca@att.net. We encourage our members to keep current with local media on COVID-19 news and on local restrictions and recommendations. The central issue that remains for WLCA this year is in the article below concerning our elections due to take place at the end of the year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION

Election for WLCA's Executive Board to serve in 2021 and 2022 would ordinarily take place at our December 1st meeting this year. Nominations would open at our October 27th meeting and continue at the following meeting before the election. At this time we do not know if those meetings will take place. If not, we will have to find another way for WLCA to elect its leaders for the next two years. The new Executive Board will take office on January 1, 2021.

The Executive Board includes the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, as well as four board members. Eligibility for office and duties of each office are set by our by-laws. To run for office this year, a candidate must have been a WLCA active member on May 1st. Only active and associate members as of September 1st can vote in this year's election. Only those present at the meeting can vote. Each member is entitled to one vote with family/household memberships being entitled to two voters (who must be present) of the respective group's choosing. These rules might have to be adjusted this year. We welcome your suggestions.

Our current by-laws (adopted October 28, 2014) can be found at neighborhoodlink.com.

CITY CODE ENFORCEMENT DURING PANDEMIC

The Code Enforcement Division is a part of the City's Development Services Department (DSD). It is an essential service and is still operating to help ensure the health and safety of our community. Code Enforcement understands that many residents and property owners are being affected by the unprecedented public health crises and have many priorities outweighing the correction of some code violations. Therefore, it will balance the need for code compliance with helping residents through this unique crises and hardship.

Code Enforcement procedures during this COVID-19 crises will be as follows to assist residents:

- For any non-emergency code violations, DSD will issue an educational form to the owner or resident identifying the observed violations and giving them additional time to come into compliance. It is important to note that this is not a notice of violation nor a citation and will not start any formal code enforcement action.
- For any code violations representing imminent health and safety concerns, normal procedures will be followed. This includes dangerous structures, grass higher than 4 feet, illegal sewer connections or leaks, traffic signal and traffic sign obstructions, unsecured vacant structures, and properties with extensive history of repeated code violations.

This will remain in effect until further notice.

2020 CENSUS

It is not too late to respond to the 2020 Census. The Census determines Congressional representation as well as many budgeting items that affect our community.

Most households received their invitation to respond to the 2020 Census in March. These official Census Bureau mailings included detailed information and a Census ID for completing the census online. In mid-April, the Census Bureau began mailing paper questionnaires to homes that have not yet responded online or by phone. If you have not already responded, please complete and mail back your form as soon as you receive it. You still have the option of responding online or by phone instead.

WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....	485-6168
wlca@att.net	
Vice President: Sally Avila.....	734-2093
Secretary: Ester Soto	
Treasurer: Elia Reyna.....	279-7204
Board Members:	
Marcy Gutierrez.....	313-8296
Charles Oisten.....	702-234-0604
Vicki Wright.....	286-7222
JD Morales.....	885-7146

THE ELECTION & LOCAL ISSUES

Being an active part of the community, as are many WLCA members, involves us in community and political issues. As citizens, all WLCA members can express their view and preferences on public issues. However, members cannot make it appear that their opinions are those of WLCA if WLCA has not in fact formally taken that position. Thus, a member can speak as an individual and as a resident of our area, but in so speaking cannot represent himself or herself as a member or leader of our Association. This includes using such inferences that would lead an outsider to construe the personal view to be that of WLCA.

WLCA does not endorse nor give preference to any candidate. We give candidates who visit our meeting two minutes to speak. They are allowed to pass out campaign material and can speak to members individually before and after the meeting.

SPEAK UP - CITY BUDGET

The City of San Antonio offers many opportunities for residents to provide input on City policies, programs and initiatives. Tell the City what ideas you have to make our community a better place. Speak up by taking a quick survey on a variety of topics or meet up with City representatives at events to learn more about City services and initiatives. Anyone who wants to participate can provide input, regardless of geography, language, or other potential barrier.

A current topic is the City budget. The COVID-19 crisis has left the City's budget with funding shortages, and we need you to tell the City what services matter most to you. The end date of the budget survey is July 31st. It is at saspeakup.com.

WLCA Birthdays

July: flower - larkspur; birthstone - ruby

Victor Almaraz, Sally Avila, Bodil Beanland, Bruce Bronstad, Mary Gantt, Maria Hernandez, Cathleen McClure, Manuel Sandoval, Diana Prado, Henrietta Zavala

August: flower - gladiolus; birthstone - peridot

Gloria Bolick, Efraim Diaz, Alejandro Soto

PAUSE, PLANTS, PILOT

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

We could not have imagined at the start of this year that our routines would be interrupted by a pandemic. WLCA has not met since February. We do not know if we will have another meeting this year. Fiesta was cancelled, taking with it the annual Earth Day celebration at our park. The City also cancelled our 4th of July celebration. Although not yet announced, I do not expect National Night Out to go on in October. Similarly, I do not see much of a chance for Día de los Muertos in November.

The City continues to function, though more as work-from-home and virtual meetings. We still get notices on public meetings concerning zoning, historic issues, other property requests. Our District 1 and 7 Council Offices are functioning, dealing with City issues and constituent needs. However, all activity is at slower pace, with human contact reduced to phone calls and computer screens. This, too, shall pass and normalcy will return.

At WLCA we continue to speak for the community and relay information to our members. We make inquiries to the City on behalf of our members and respond when the City reaches out to us. Internally, we had hoped for a membership drive to restore our previous numbers. Also, we are scheduled to elect a board to lead us over the next two years (page 1). But with no pending programs or activities, the function of a Newsletter is minimized. Therefore, until there are topics of importance or general interest on which to report, we will cease with the publication of our bimonthly Newsletter.

The Centennial Garden does not stop because of the pandemic. Plants still need care, especially now with the summer heat. Because of the pandemic, the City's Parks and Recreation Department is not soliciting volunteers from the community to help us at the garden. One of our members, Norma Jean Moore, has spent several hours in removing weeds and other invasive plants. This has made the garden attractive as plants flower and butterflies return. Unless we get some summer rains, it will be necessary to keep the garden watered. We welcome volunteers in this effort. Of course, we will observe rules for health and safety.

Two months ago we reported on a "Share the Streets" pilot program. The concept was tried on Cincinnati from Woodlawn Lake Park to St. Mary's University from June 8th to July 5th. I do not know how much use was made of this sector by people on foot, skates, or bikes. This is a long stretch of road and is crossed by two major streets. Through vehicular traffic was not totally deterred nor slowed. It was a first effort on a positive idea. What was learned on Cincinnati should lead to improvements for implementations on other streets.

Scheduled 2020 WLCA Meetings

Aug 25, Sept 29, Oct 27, Dec 1

All at 6:30 pm; Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room