SPNA Meeting Minutes 9/14/26

The SPNA monthly meeting was held at the McCabe Community Center. The meeting was called to order and a quorum was recognized. President, Jenny Komoll, presided.

Minutes: Minutes from the August SPNA meeting were accepted with no changes.

REPORTS OF PROGRAMS AND COMMITTEES:

Guest Speakers: Sylvan Park Paideia Elementary representatives – Principal Elizabeth Goetz; Ann Early Spiller, PTO Vice President; Margaret Marchetti, PTO President

- Amazon Wishlist for teachers – The PTO created an Amazon wish list for the needs of the teachers who don't have a homeroom class, such as art, music, Spanish, etc. SPNA sent the wish list link to the membership email list, and the community responded with many supplies to help the teachers. The guest speakers wanted to express their sincere thanks to everyone who donated from the wish list. They were overwhelmed with the contributions that the community made.
- Invest Campaign
    - Invest is a fundraiser led by the PTO to raise money to pay for 3 additional teachers at the school, that includes 2 interventionists and 1 Spanish teacher.
    - This year's theme is "What Would Dolly Do?", and will run approximately 2 weeks starting on 9/21.
    - The campaign finishes with a Fun Run for the students at school.
    - The fundraising goal this year is $200k, compared to $120k last year. The increase this year is due to budget cuts caused by decreased funding for the school.
- School Budget
    - This school year's budget allotment was reduced by $338k.
    - The reason for the budget cuts:
        1. Need based. Sylvan Park Elementary's achievement has gone up 20% in recent years. The success of the school has resulted in a reduction of need.
        2. Neighborhood. Areas that are economically disadvantaged have higher share of funds directed to them. Since Sylvan Park is not economically disadvantaged, this part of the funding is reduced.
        3. Enrollment. Enrollment YoY dropped slightly, but that caused enrollment to cross a threshold reducing funding by 1 faculty member.
        4. Base money. This is a complicated formula, but the simplified explanation is that there is no base money for this year's funding.
- The results of the funding allocation reduction is that a project to beautify an area in the back of the school was cut from this year's plan at SPE.
- They asked for anything to help raise money: checks, business sponsors, volunteering, etc. If any questions about how to help, contact Margaret Marchetti.
- There was a question about whether School Choice impacted the funding. They estimate that this program reduced funding/student by ~$200, which affected all Metro schools.
- Jenny offered to include the Invest Campaign in the SPNA newsletter, if they are able to get a write up to her by that night, since the newsletter is about to go to print. Information about Invest will also put it on the website.

Membership:

- 2026 member year finished with 281 members, compared with 308 in 2025.

- 2027 member sign up has begun. Membership cost is $25 for individual, and $50 for family.

Treasurer:

- Available Assets: $70,364. The account balances are $12,910 in Regions, and $58,101 in Schwab.
- August net cash in of $521, from $271 new memberships and $250 newsletter ad revenue.

Advocacy and Zoning:

- There are 2 houses currently being built in Sylvan Park that are ~6,000 square feet. This size of house was not allowed in the past, but it was noted that the Planning Commission has increased the allowable size.
- John recommends a community workshop to discuss contextual and historic overlays. An overlay would protect against building houses of this size. Brenda Gadd would need to sponsor, since she is the current councilperson.

Communications:

- The Fall newsletter is being sent to the printer, and the digital version will be emailed and posted to the Facebook group soon.

Welcoming Committee: No update

Events:

- Sylvan Park Elementary Crosswalk Project:
    - Mike J shared renderings of the intersection painting design. The school and PTO team agreed on the design to move forward. The next step is that the application needs to be finalized. The goal is for the community and school to be involved with the painting during a block party to close off the street. It will be done either this Fall or next Spring.
    - It was recommended to ask if a 4 way stop at Wyoming to be included with this project.
    - It was requested to have a Stop sign at Wyoming and 48th lowered as part of this project, because there is a tree blocking the sign. The feedback was to submit a request via HubNashville to trim the branches of the tree.
- Richland Creek Cleanup on October 17. Will meet at Lionshead. Sign up is available.
- Sylvan Park Tree Planting on November 7. A sign up for the event will be sent out soon.
- Senior Renaissance Center Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction on October 10 from 7am-11am. Marcia Edwards from the SRC has asked for donations for the silent auction and for the thrift store.
- Picnic in the Park on October 11. The event is hosted by Friends of Richland Park. The picnic in September was well attended and very successful.
- Volunteer Call Days, 2nd Saturday each month from 8am-10am. These are informal and small volunteer projects led by Kate.

Old Business:

- SPNA Pollinator Garden – Working hard to maintain. However, the recent heat and lack of rain has made it difficult for many of the flowers to survive.
- Stormwater Awareness Campaign
    - There will be an art contest for adults and children. The goal is to create artwork to inform people that whatever goes into the stormwater drains feeds into Richland Creek.
    - 12 new trees will be added to the McCabe golf course to assist with stormwater runoff.

New Business:

- SPNA Dues for 2027: The Steering Committee recommends keeping the cost at $25 for individual and $50 for family, which is the same as 2026. **Motion** made to approve membership cost. M**otion seconded and passed**. No opposed.
- Neighborhood Parking
    - Guy Marsh spoke. He owns the Edley's property, and the parking lot next to SuperNormal. He tore down the duplex to build the parking lot. He also owns 4611 Wyoming.
    - He built the parking lot to alleviate the parking issues in the neighborhood, specifically the business district at the roundabout.
    - He is asking for feedback about what has been done or what can be done, with respect to parking.
    - Parking for the lot is validated by the businesses. Guy offered for the city to lease the property, for them to offer free parking in the lots.
    - John recommends that Brenda facilitate a community workshop to discuss the parking issues.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: October 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.