SPNA Meeting Minutes 4/13/26

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 March SPNA meeting were accepted with no changes.

REPORTS OF PROGRAMS AND COMMITTEES:

Guest Speakers: Harpeth Conservancy – Jess Martin, Communications Manager, and Josh Knickerbocker, Program Manager

Jess and Josh discussed updates since the last time they attended the meeting:

- Tennessee government passed the Scenic Rivers Act. This act reclassifies the Duck River as a Class 2 River. This means that certain things can't be built or placed within 2 miles of the river. The act passed the House and Senate with just one Amendment, and is planned to be signed by the Governor.
- TN Water Watch is a program at Harpeth Conservancy to test the water at several locations, including Richland Creek. At Richland Creek, the water is sampled at 2 sites, and there have been 68 tests at one site and 69 at the other site. Of those samples, over 50 had elevated levels of E-Coli.
    - The primary testing is for E-Coli, because it is quick, easy, and a good indicator of other bacteria. Where there is E-Coli, there are typically other bacteria.
    - It was noted that the McCabe Golf Course uses a lot of chemicals, and asked if there was chemical testing. They explained that testing for chemicals is not included. Instead they push for a lush riparian zone, especially with native species. Native species have deeper root systems than invasive species, which allow the chemicals to flow past them into the creek.
- Tennessee Smart Yards is a resource for learning the types of vegetation and care for yard and promotes safe runoff.
- Richland Creek cleanup was on April 11 from Lionshead to Dutchman's Curve. 100 pounds of trash was removed.
- Metro Parks is helping with invasive species removal. They will be doing native species planting as well.
- Songwriters for Streams is an upcoming event.
- Earth Day festival at Centennial Park will have a native tree giveaway.

Membership: 183 members for 2026

Treasurer:

Regions checking account balance: $30,994.87.

- Neighborhood Improvement Fund is $30,687.97, which recently increased due to a $30,000 donation. $8k of the $30k donation is allocated for stormwater projects, with the goal to bring awareness that Sylvan Park's stormwater drains into Richland Creek.
- Request a pre-approval of expenses for the 4 newsletters planned for the remainder of 2026. The request is for $8,800, due to an estimated cost of $2,200 for each of the 4 newsletters. **Motion** made to pre-approve expenses. **Motion seconded and passed**. No opposed.
- Request for approval of the following expenses:

    - Pollinator Garden supplies at $516.91. **Motion** made to approve expense. **Motion seconded and passed**. No opposed.
    - Welcome bags at $107.20. **Motion** made to approve expense. **Motion seconded and passed**. No opposed.
- David proposed moving ~$60k of funds to a Schwab money market, in order to earn 3% interest.

Advocacy and Zoning: No issues to report

Communications: No update.

Welcoming Committee: 54 new households since last August. The welcome bags will be delivered over the next few weeks.

Traffic Calming: No update.

Events:

- Mayor's Spring Cleanup, March 28.
    - Bulk Item Drop Off: This event was attended by a lot of people, and proved there was a huge demand for dropping off bulky items.
    - Friends of McCabe: Organized a cleanup behind Poncho & Lefty's
    - Friends of Richland Park: Organized a cleanup of Richland Park
    - Friends of Richland Library: Held a book sale
    - Richland Park Library: Had a Mending Day
- Richland Creek Run, April 4. The event went well again this year. The Post Race meeting is this week where they will discuss the final numbers.
- Senior Renaissance Center Pancake Breakfast, April 18 from 7am-11am, and will have a silent auction to raise money for the SRC.
- Pollinator Garden Cleanup and Planting, April 19 (tentatively): Plan to pull weeds and plant seed from ~2-4pm.
- Davidson County Primary Election, May 5: Early voting starts April 15.
- SPNA Yard Sale, June 13.

Old Business:

- Richland Park Library redesign:
    - Several community meetings were recently held to discuss the future redesign of the Richland Park Library. Some SPNA members attended.
    - Learned that the library will stay in the same location with a similar footprint as the current library.
    - The purpose of the meeting was to learn what residents would want in a new library, such as Arts & Crafts rooms, meeting rooms, extended hours, etc. This information will help determine the features that will be included in the new library.
- MTSU Historic home research in Sylvan Park:
    - The Center for Historic Preservation is currently working to finalize the first part of the research project for their 2025/26 school year.
    - The blocks they focused on this year were between 46th and 48th, and from Utah to Idaho.
    - They have provided architectural research by address to show how the architecture had progressed by street. They are working on the history of properties by address, as this is the more time consuming research.

New Business:

- Crosswalk project in front of Sylvan Park Elementary
    - An application was submitted with Tactical Urbanism to fund and assist with the beautification of the intersection at 48th and Utah, which is in front of the Sylvan Park Elementary School.
    - The intersection will be painted with school designs related to the school.
    - The project is currently in the design phase, and will likely be painted in the Fall semester.
- Stormwater Awareness Campaign
    - The purpose of this campaign is to educate people who live in and use the area that the stormwater from Sylvan Park around Richland Creek is drained directly into Richland Creek.
    - Information medallions printed with animals will be installed on or near stormwater drains near Richland Creek.
    - For other drains, there will be an art contest for students at the local schools to paint the drains.
    - Also considering having a neighborhood captain for stormwater drains located near them to ensure that they are cleared prior to storms.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: May 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.