Keep West Tawakoni Beautiful

Official Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2023

West Tawakoni City Hall

1. Call to order: The November 16, 2023, meeting of the Keep West Tawakoni Beautiful steering committee was called to order in the West Tawakoni City Council Chambers at 6:32 p.m., by Steering Committee Chair Mary Hall. Present were members Mary Hall, Dwayne Hall, David Radtke, Adriana Thomas, Kim Traves and Jane Kehler.
2. Welcome to visitors: There were no visitors.
3. Citizen Input: None.
4. Announcements: Chair Hall stated City Council will have a special session on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 6:30p.m., in the West Tawakoni City Council Chambers to canvas the votes and swear in the officials. Chair Hall announced on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., the EDC will host the Movies in the Park. Chair Hall also announced on November 18, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and November 19, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., Grace Baptist Church will host “The Enduring Word” traveling exhibit. Chair Hall stated on Sunday after church there will be a potluck lunch as well. Chair Hall announced on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00p.m., the Tawakoni Fire Department will be serving Thanksgiving lunch to those in need. Chair Hall stated City Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday of next week to observe the Thanksgiving holiday. Adriana Thomas stated she would like to announce that she will be resigning from the board effective December 31, 2023. Thomas stated she does not have the time to commit to the committee since she and her husband have started a business. Chair Hall thanked Adriana for the time and effort she has devoted to the committee. Dwyane Hall stated he was happy for Adriana and Tyler but said she would be missed tremendously. David Radtke, Kim Travers and Jane Kehler echoed the same sentiment and wished Adriana well. Chair Hall asked Adriana to submit a letter of resignation to the City of West Tawakoni.

1. Approval of the October 19, 2023, minutes: Chair Hall stated Kim Travers does an amazing job with the minutes, but the minutes need to be condensed. Chair Hall stated the committee doesn’t have the funds to print them. Travers stated she could email the minutes to each committee member to cut costs. David Radtke stated he would rather get the minutes by email and not condense them. Jane Kehler stated she would like to keep the minutes as is and print out her own minutes for meetings. Kim Travers stated she will begin email committee members the monthly minutes. Dwayne Hall motioned to accept the October minutes as written. Adriana Thomas seconded. Approved.
2. Review of the KWTB bank account dated November 2023: Chair Hall stated the statement she received is dated October 2023, and at the last meeting she also handed out an October 2023 statement, but the balances are different. Chair Hall stated after doing some checking the balance of $4,320.67 shown on the statement handed out for review today is correct.
3. Update on the little library: Chair Hall stated she has not been by to check on the library recently but plans to go by there tomorrow. Chair Hall stated we currently have plenty of books.
4. Reschedule a workday to weed and place mulch in garden: Kim Travers stated Brandy with B&J landscaping has purchased the mulch. Travers stated she had recently met Brandy at the park to look over the garden and noticed the nandina’s have been destroyed by field rats. Travers stated Brandy suggested putting out some kind of bait to control the rats or replace the plants. Chair Hall stated we need put something else there and not mess with pest control. Chair Hall stated she went by Steve’s Nursery to talk about the covering for the plants during a winter freeze and Steve told her we do not need to cover any of the plants. Chair Hall stated Steve said if we insisted on covering them, he sells winter fabric by the yard. Jane Kehler asked if Steve carries the fabric year-round. Chair Hall stated yes, he has an entire room full of different fabrics. Kehler stated then we can hold off purchasing any of the coverings until we see what kind of winter we’ll have. The committee agreed to hold off on purchasing the covers. Adriana Thomas suggested we hold off on planting anything new in the garden until Spring. The committee agreed to work in the garden on Thursday, November 28, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., weather permitting and schedule Saturday December 2, 2023, as a backup day if needed. Travers stated she’ll get in touch with Brandy and give her the dates.
5. Status of Adopt A Hwy Program and Signs: Chair Hall states we are at a standstill with TxDOT. Dwayne Hall stated they have a new computer system for printing signs and they’re having issues with the system. The committee agreed to table the Adopt A Hwy conversation until February to give TxDOT time to get the sign and information to us.
6. Recap of cleanup on November 11, 2023, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant: Chair Hall stated according to the notes we had 17 trucks, 5 trailers, 1 car, 1 golf cart and an unusual item a clean toilet. Chair Hall stated we received $43.50 in donations. David Radtke stated he has spoken with Mike Stafford, and they plan to get together sometime in January to go over dates for 2024.
7. Discuss attending the EDC meeting on December 4, 2023, to ask about partnering with them on city entrance sign: Chair Hall stated our budget is limited and the signs she wants to place at the city entrance are quite expensive. Chair Hall would like the committee to attend the EDC meeting on December 4, to ask the EDC to help pay for half of the signs. Dwayne Hall stated he is having new designs drawn up to present to the EDC at the meeting. Jane Kehler stated she thought on two separate occasions we had agreed and voted as a group on signs to purchase. Chair Hall stated that Kehler was right, and we had voted to purchase signs from Jim at Vital Signs for $1,500.00, but if we could partner with EDC, we could get a larger permanent structure. Dwayne Hall stated we never voted on anything, we just talked about it. Kehler recalls the committee voting on a sign that we all agreed on. Kim Travers stated she is concerned about the political posturing taking place within our city, and that includes the EDC. Jane Kehler agreed and stated she is concerned about getting into a financial partnership with any organization that is being questioned by its citizens about their finances. Dwayne Hall stated he is unaware of any questions or problems with the EDC. Hall stated the EDC is thriving and is functioning soundly. David Radtke stated he doesn’t know much about the EDC or its members, but he has seen statements out there regarding the organization. Radtke stated he doesn’t know any of these people making the statements, but like Jane stated they are there. Radtke stated whether they are valid or not he doesn’t know but it is concerning. Dwayne Hall stated the city entrance signs have been on our books for many years and we haven’t moved an inch. Hall stated the EDC has money for tourism that could go towards these signs. Jane Kehler believes we need to approach the city for help instead of the EDC. Adriana Thomas suggested we see what money we could raise ourselves by doing something like the golf tournament we have been discussing, before we ask anyone for help. The committee agreed and tabled the topic of partnering with the EDC. Chair Hall stated she will reach out to the EDC to remove us from their upcoming agenda.
8. Discuss and approve participation in the STOP litter audit around the lakeshore at the city park: Chair Hall stated we have discussed in previous meetings about taking part in this program. Chair Hall stated we would clean an area in the park by collecting trash, placing it on a tarp and counting the various forms of trash and report the findings back to the program. David Radtke motioned to approve the committee participating in the STOP litter program. Dwayne Hall seconded the motion. Approved.
9. Discuss and set dates for the Christmas home/yard decorating contest: Adriana Thomas presented a flyer for committee review. The committee made small suggestions and tweaked the flyer to make it more visible that KWTB is sponsoring the contest and added a few details regarding the criteria. The committee agreed to have the citizens nominate and vote on the homes so there would be no bios. Jane Kehler stated she is concerned about the lack of time and how we police the website to make it fair. David Radtke stated that Facebook would need a running tally for the community to see so there’s not any questions on how a winner was selected. Thomas stated she can have a real time graph that shows who has the most votes at any time. Thomas stated the first time will be trial and error, but she is confident that it will all work out. Kim Travers stated she has concerns on how quickly this must be put together, but stated if Adriana feels this is a go, she’s onboard. David Radtke echoed the same sentiment and stated he trusted Adriana’s judgement, Kehler agreed. Chair Hall stated she feels this will be a positive event for the city. David Radtke motioned to approve the holiday yard contest. Dwayne Hall seconded. Approved.
10. Discuss and approve Hit-N-Fish tournament May 17, 2024 &
11. Discuss getting 501(c)3 status: Jane Kehler stated these two-line items go hand and hand so we will discuss them together. Kim Travers stated we are going to drop the “fish” and focus only on the golf tournament. Travers stated she spoken with James at Deer Run Golf Club, and he has May 17, 2024, available for KWTB tournament. Travers stated James suggested a mid-range tournament with approximately 18 teams and charge $300.00 per team. James also suggested reaching out to Tiffony Chapman to ask for a list of sponsors in our area. The only problem James saw was not having the 501(c)3 for tax purposes when it comes to larger donations. Chair Hall stated she has reached out to Keep Texas Beautiful and was informed that some affiliates have the 501(c)3 status but was told that it was very costly and time consuming. Chair Hall stated currently we do not have the funds to pay the fees. Jane Kehler stated there should be a short form for us to use that shouldn’t be quite as costly. Kehler feels we need to pursue the 501(c)3 before continuing the discussion on the golf tournament. Kehler requested time to get information regarding the 501(c)3 and report back at our next meeting. Dwayne Hall motioned to proceed with the planning on the KWTB May Golf Tournament and David Radtke seconded. Approved.
12. Discuss and approve purchase of KWTB pens from Greenville Trophy: Chair Hall had samples of pens for committee review. David Radtke motioned to approve the purchase of 250 pens from Greenville Trophy. Kim Travers seconded. Approved.
13. Discuss and approve cancelling December 2023 and January 2024 meetings: David Radtke made a motion to cancel the meetings. Kim Travers seconded. Approved.
14. Social media update: David Radtke stated our social media presence is growing and we had 1,100 hits on Facebook this week.
15. Any future agenda items: David Radtke stated he would like to discuss cleanup dates for 2024. Jane Kehler stated the golf tournament needs to be on the February agenda.
16. Adjourn: Dwayne Hall motioned to adjourn. David Radtke seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:32.