



The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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President's Letter



January Meeting - Abundance

Everything about the January AEPNA meeting was full. We had a full room, a full agenda, a full counter of soups and desserts, a full table of white elephant gifts and several new neighbors and special guests in attendance.

Executive Director of the Omaha Parks Foundation Amber Miller showed two options for our Schroeder/Vogel Park project. The designers tried to include as many features that we wanted as possible within reasonable budget limitations. Both plans propose to lower the railroad bed by about a foot and eliminate the "gash" that runs through the park and keep the west side of the park as open space. Both plans separate play areas for different age groups (2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds). And both plans show features that may have to wait for future funding. Amber is eager to get us started on the project this year so you'll hear more about fundraising efforts!

Rob Moore, an Americorps/Vista worker who works with The Neighborhood Association, attended the January meeting because he'd heard that AEPNA meetings are well-attended. Rob has a great deal of experience with social media and he credited AEPNA for getting online. Thanks to Mike Kresnik, Therese McGrath, and Scott Swanson for maintaining our webpage, Facebook page and for handling e-mail blasts to members in advance of events. They are a good example of volunteers whose contributions are critical to keeping people informed of association events and issues.

We closed the meeting with a YouTube video that offered an antidote to "sitting disease". Check out 23 ½ Hours on YouTube to see an excellent short video on walking as medicine for your quality of life and health. I encourage you to take advantage of our highly walkable area to experience our neighborhood from the sidewalks and trails.

After such an evening of abundance, I would be remiss if I didn't mention a new ministry at St. Matthew's. They are now offering a food pantry to help the neighbors among us who face food insecurity or hunger. It's hard to imagine that in our neighborhood, but it's a fact. See the article on page 3 for information.

I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer

Next Meeting ...
Thursday,
March 21st
 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Saint Matthew Evangelical
 Lutheran Church
 1725 S. 60th Street
 3rd Thursday
 Every Other Month

Bring a friend or two
 and join us!

AEP Social Club –

Connecting neighbors, supporting local watering holes...

Member and neighbor Adam Tyma is connecting neighbors. His idea is simple: Develop a space and a time when neighbors can get together, meet each other, actually talk ... and grab a beverage of choice.

Find out what's going on by going to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AEPSocialClub>. The first meeting at Mojo's in the Village boosted the economy in the Village and drew an eclectic crowd.





your neighborhood bank  more

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Small Wonders

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Gnarly Walnut

This huge walnut is one of the last big walnut trees in the neighborhood. Generations of children have climbed, sat on and swung from these branches. The two remaining big branches dip low to scoop up children like gnarly giant arms. Elbow patches nailed onto the privacy fence between the yards speak of boisterous walnut arms waving their way through storms.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Opens Food Pantry

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in partnership with Project Hope opened a satellite Food Pantry at the Church to serve those in need within the midtown Omaha area. "We know there is a great need here and we're excited to be able to provide this outreach to our community," said Pastor Glen Thomas of St. Matthew.

The Food Pantry, open from 10:00 AM -12:00 noon every third Saturday of the month, provides groceries, paper products and personal items for individuals and families who do not have enough of what they need to get them through the month. They expect to serve 25-50 families each month.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is located at the corner of 60th and Walnut streets. For more information contact the church office at 402 556 7030 or at office@smlutheran.com.

AEPNA Membership Form

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The looming treat crisis was averted when Lois Ourada volunteered to coordinate treats for the meetings.

Thank you, Lois!

