

Park Springs Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Membership Meeting – May 5, 2015 at TerrAdorna Event Center

- I. President John Williams called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- II. **Report on Operation of Solar Plant on Webberville Site** - Mr. John Woolard, representing operators of the facility presented information about the solar plant. The facility is owned by MetLife and FRB Solar of Madrid is the operator. There are 3 employees plus contracted employees to keep the grounds maintained. The facility sits on 302 acres that are in the Del Valle ISD. Groups can visit the Visitor's Center but must register on the website. An employee meets visitors there to conduct the tour. There were 198 visitors in 2012; 183 visitors in 2013; 175 visitors in 2014 and 48 visitors so far in 2015.
Construction of the \$140 million facility began in 2010 and it came "online" in 2012. It produces 6,000 megawatts per hour in the summer months. There is a 20-year agreement with Austin Energy. If the agreement is not renewed, the facility will be demolished but that is not likely to happen since there are 2 parcels of land and they generate \$589,183 and \$1million dollars respectively in property taxes. There are 167,000 panels that must be replaced over time. 2% of the solar panels are replaced each year. Newer panels are more efficient than the original panels.
- III. **The Search for Fort Webber – "Real History is sometimes more amazing and surprising than Fiction"**.
Claud Bramblett, PSNA member and Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas presented interesting information about a homestead called "Fort Webber". The site was discovered in 2004 when the City of Austin wanted to develop a landfill in our area. Claud also presented information about the early settlers of the area including Stephen F. Austin who received land grants beginning in 1824. Another early settler was John Webber who was a veteran of the War of 1812 and who married a slave woman named Sylvia and they had 8 children. It was customary at the time for a large family to hire a teacher who would live onsite with the family. At the time, slavery was not a big issue but slavery in Texas would become an issue when the Civil War began in 1862. John and Sylvia were the first interracial couple in Texas. Also discussed was the practice of building a house near the river which provided shelter for the people and their livestock. Building a home on flat grasslands meant that you could be easily detected for miles and would be more prone to Indian attacks. Webber would later sell his land and move his family to a 27,000 acre ranch in Hidalgo County which is near the Texas/Mexico border. In the 1850s, the village of Webberville was destroyed in a flood.

PSNA Membership Business Meeting

- I. **Call to order at 7:10pm and minutes of previous meeting**
- II. **Treasurer's report** – Treasurer Rod Castilleja reported a balance of \$2,999.28 as of April 1, 2015. Checks in the amount of \$154.29 were written.
- III. **Nominating Committee report and election of officers for 2015-2016** – The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee Dory West announced the nominees for the various positions. They included President Maura Phelan, Vice President Tom West, Secretary Vicki McFarland, Treasurer Rod Castilleja, and Webmaster Sharon Bramblett. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion made by Neal Cook and seconded by Jim Donahue to nominate the officers by acclamation. Motion passed.
- IV. **Reports and concerns from officers and members** – none
- V. **Old Business** – none
- VI. **New Business** – none
- VII. **The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

Next Membership meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2015