

**Subject:** MMMeeting April 30

**From:** "Dan Brown" <dan\_brown@tigerpaw.com>

**Date:** 5/1/2007 7:37 AM

**To:** "Brown, Pam" <dan\_brown@tigerpaw.com>

If I had a chance....I would knock on your door and leave a May Basket, but....I'll just wish everyone Happy May Day!  
I've had some nice e-mails from our Texas Family that I'll pass on. Jack and Freida Robinson wrote:

We are home safe and sound arriving here 2 weeks ago. The snow and ice on the lake are gone and the warmer weather has arrived. Next thing we will be cutting the grass.

I had an e-mail from Zee and Marvin checking our e-mail here in Canada, I'm sorry but I thought we had given you f.j.robinson@sympatico.ca It drives me crazy when we have to change.

We miss all our friends at the Tip but look forward to seeing some of them in August and then later in the year we will be down there again. Jack was playing tennis Monday for the first time since we got home.

We had a phone call from Floyd and Carol and I don't think they were enjoying the cool weather but they will be O.K. now as they are in Ottawa and that is where their daughter lives.

Look forward to hearing from you Pam. Love Jack and Frieda

From the Simpsons (received the middle of April):

Just a line to say Cliff and I arrived home safe and sound late Saturday pm without incident. We were very fortunate to have missed the hail and tornadoes going thru Dallas and Fort Worth by several hours. Did have to drive in pouring rain for half a day. When we pulled in to get a motel it started snowing. Got about four inches but had pretty well melted by the time we took off in morning. Had a wonderful visit with Cliff's cousin in Waxahachie on way. We hadn't seen her in 20 years. Cliff's aunt and uncle had come down for a short visit but his aunt had detached retina surgery twice and is unable to travel back to Minnesota yet. His uncle passed away while there and her husband was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer and had had his third chemo the day we stopped; consequently we kept our visit short. Hope to stop another more convenient time.

In friendship, DeLores

Always good to hear from everyone....thanks for sharing your comings and goings.

Glad to hear that OUR park will be around for years to come. Wishing everyone a good week!  
Pam

Monday April 30, 2007

Lavon started the meeting at 10:00. We said the pledge/

Connie Harmon gave the hospital report:

Gerri St. Aubin is going to Renaissance on Thursday for further treatment. At this time it is not known if she will be an outpatient or admitted.

Richard Carlson is at Renaissance, hoping to be discharged soon.

Ethel Comunale was in the hospital in Penn., but has been released. She starts further chemo today. Pray for her.

Brenda Muller had surgery on an elbow, and is recovering at home at the TIP. Jeanne Leech is at home also.

Sad news: Joe Slavik passed away on Friday. George Andrews (a former resident) died on April 23. We send our

condolences to Floy & family, and also to George's family.

Connie led us in prayer asking for blessings on these families and asked for God's hand to be over Ethel, Richard and Gerri.

Connie told us that this is the time when she leaves for a time, and asked for a volunteer to take over the hospital duties.

Gene Christian spoke next, wishing a safe trip to those leaving this week. He also encouraged all to come to Karaoke in the Al Barnes Friendship Hall on Friday nights from 7-10. We gave applause of appreciation to Jack and Brenda for bringing us this fun time. Jack says "Come on out everyone-We have some unexpected singers among us. You don't have to sing, just come and join the fun." Last Friday we had a great party, with Margaritas by Barb Horne, and refreshments by nearly everyone. It really is fun, Come join the crowd and sing along or merely listen.

Ray Pepe stands ready to register all you unregistered voters. He reminded us that early voting starts today. It is important that we go and vote for the repeal of Bill #HB1928 (the Property tax bill). Vote YES on the ballot. Vote early at the Palmer Pavilion on Hackberry (note the change in location) or on May 12 at Buckner School. Your vote is important! Representative Flores has worked hard to get this bill through the legislature. He needs us to send him a letter of support, or call his office at 512-327-4516.

Ray repeated a warning he has read about the Border Patrol crackdown on those who smuggle tobacco or drugs. Be careful what you bring through the checkpoints. The trip to the Ballgame on Tues., May 8 has a full bus. The next game trip will be on Thursday, May 23--\$1 beer night. There will be no bus for this trip, so plan to car pool. Sign up on the board.

Mary Kitkowski brought us thanks from Barb Sherbenaut for all our prayers during her recent illness. It is certainly great to see Barb back here at the TIP. She brought bread pudding for everyone to eat after this meeting.

This week:

Thirsty Thursday will be at Logan's Steak House on South Tenth Street (near the airport). Inez Struna will be the hostess. Sign up today.

Bottom Line Band plays Wednesday night at 7:00.

Play Pinochle on Friday at 6:30.

Come to Karaoke Friday nights at 7:00.

Jennice and Lavonne leave this week for their vacation. Ray Pepe and Bob Miller will conduct the Monday Meetings for May.

The meeting gave a round of applause to Kathie for her work on the Monday minutes. We also said thanks also to Charlie Waltz for his guidance in keeping everyone calm during the last meeting with the officials from the City of Pharr. The mayor of Pharr is to meet with us again today. Kathie asked everyone to pass the news on to those who may not be on the e-mail list. Bonnie said that because of the uncertainty, many did not make reservations for next season. Encourage them to do so now. Remember the \$50 Bring-a- Friend program is still in effect!

While we waited for Mayor Palacios to appear, Joe Strain told a few funny stories.

50/50 won by #328 Doris Fox

We sang "God Bless America".

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The Mayor did not arrive until 11:45 to meet with those of us who were able to wait.

He brought good news!

Mayor Palacio said that the board has met with the developer, and has notified them that there are other sites available for their project. The City definitely will not pursue condemnation proceedings against our Park. The mayor said there is other land available, and there is no longer interest in acquiring even the initial 10 acres of the Tip of Texas. If any developers wish to move on this area, they will do it without the assistance of the City of Pharr. Mr. Palacios said " He doubted any developer would be able to or want to do it without the backing of the City. Why would we want to take people to court to take their homes? I couldn't sleep at night." The City Manager will send us an official letter stating the City's policy tomorrow.

The mayor did tell us there soon will be interesting news about the property at the NW corner of Sioux and Expressway. Something good for the Community and good for us is coming soon!

The Mayor said that the City of Pharr, along with the County and the State are planning to resurface Sioux Road from Sugar to Jackson. and also Sugar Road from Sioux Road to the city limits at Owassa Road. A large development is being planned at Jackson and Ridge roads, and also some development west from Tower Road.

Then speaking as a concerned citizen and taxpayer, Mr. Palacio asked our residents to vote against collective bargaining for the Pharr Police and Firemen. He personally asks us to vote for repeal of the bill that allows the Civil Service employees to negotiate contracts. He asks us to vote YES. Go to the Pharr Civic Center on Kelly Ave to vote. This is a different issue than the Property tax bill.

Mr. Palacios said that Pharr Police and Firemen are paid much more than other City employees, and yet they continually ask for raises. According to Mr. Palacios the basic first year salary for Police and Firemen is around \$32,662. plus yearly benefits of:

Health Insurance-- \$6,063.00

Retirement 4,537.00

Social Security 2,499.00

Annual Leave 1,853.00

Sick Leave 1,853.00

Ten Pd. Holidays 1,235.00

This is first year employees.

Plus 5 year longevity \$375.00

Plus Seniority \$1500.00

The average City employee receives a raise of \$700 per year:

Police and Firemen each receive \$1500.

Both the mayor and City manager said that the City can't afford it! If this process continues, the City will be forced to raise taxes on property in order to meet the expenses. If the employees can go to arbitration each year, the City will have no choice except to borrow the money to meet these costs. Once a new contract has been signed with the Union, the City has no recourse except to pay these raises, and to raise taxes.

Mr. Palacio, speaking as the Mayor of Pharr and as a taxpayer, asks you all to go vote to repeal the right of Collective Bargaining for Police and Firefighters. He asks you to vote YES.

Thought for Today: Rejoyce with me!

Kathie