

**Austin Neighborhoods Council
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 22, 2004**

Following a 15 minute networking social, which started at 6:45 p.m., President Susan Pascoe called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PROGRAM

President Pascoe introduced Sam Archer, Cap Metro Assistant Director of Community Involvement, who presented a 20 minute overview of the Cap Metro Commuter Rail Proposal.

Following Mr. Archer's presentation, a panel representing support and opposition for the proposal were introduced. Supporting the referendum proposal were David Foster and Jim Walker. Speaking in opposition to the referendum were Mike Dahmus and Jim Skaggs.

Each panelist was given 5 minutes to state their case. Then each was provided 5 minutes for rebuttal of the other side's position, followed by 10 minutes of questions and answers from the audience.

At the conclusion of the discussion and Q & A, representatives of neighborhood associations in good standing with ANC and ANC officers voted to either support or oppose the referendum. The vote was 69.2% in favor 15.4% in opposition 15.4% took no position and 2 members abstained; thus, **ANC supports the Cap Metro Commuter Rail Proposal.**

A copy of the voting record is available in pdf format, along with the meeting agenda and sign in sheet.

BUSINESS MEETING

The first item of business was an announcement regarding the October General Meeting. A Nominating Committee has been appointed to seek candidates for election to the ANC Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee consists of Mark Boyden, Kevin Lewis, and Bobby Nelson. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

President Pascoe also asked all ANC representatives and interested citizens to review the ANC By-Laws, which are posted on the ANC web-site. At the October meeting, suggested changes will be presented from a sub-

committee of the Executive Committee, along with reasons for the change, and voted on at that time.

Tex Mitchell from Highland Park – Pecan Springs brought up an issue concerning commercial development in the Denson Dr. area, of N. Lamar. The development would have access off Lamar, with one-way traffic through the strip center, forcing traffic to exit into the neighborhood on Burns St. Efforts are needed to stop the plan as it is presented to City Council.

Jeff Jack made motion for **ANC to send a letter to City Council opposing action such as this, which is similar to the approval of Walgreen's zoning change on South Lamar, which allows commercial traffic into surrounding neighborhoods.** Bobby Nelson seconded the motion. All neighborhoods present voted **IN FAVOR** of the resolution.

Next, Mark Barnett, President of Pecan Springs – Springdale Neighborhood Association asked for ANC's assistance in dealing with a proposed MHMR facility in their neighborhood. Currently there are two or three MHMR facilities already in their neighborhood. The proposed facility would include the conversion of a 5 bedroom 3 bath home into a group home for substance abuse offenders. It is reportedly planning to house 14 residents and 4 counselors. They were not formally notified of the proposed development, but instead found out from "back door" sources. It would not be as unsettling if the residents were going to become a part of the neighborhood for a year or so, but supposedly a new group will be rotated into the facility every 90 days.

ANC will attempt to address these concerns to contacts with Travis County MHMR, along with the issue of increased de-institutionalizing of patients.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.