

**Austin Neighborhoods Council
General Meeting – Austin Energy Building
February 23, 2005**

Agenda

1. Call to Order (7:00 p.m.)
2. Introductions of attendees and roll call (7:01)
3. Program (7:10)
 - Oak Wilt Education
 - Update on commercial design standards – Laura Morrison
4. Business Items (7:40)
 - a.. ANC Bylaws revisions – discussion and vote to approve
 - b. ANC Articles of Incorporation
5. New Business (8:00)
 - a. Development of questions for council candidates
 - b. Galindo Elementary NA – proposed SATC expansion
 - c. OWANA
 - i. Opposition to rezoning of the northeast corner of 6th & Lamar, 601-711 N. Lamar Blvd., Case #C184-04-0144, from CS to PUD
 - ii. Opposition to demolition permit application being considered by Council for 609 West Lynn and by the Landmark Commission for 609 Harthan Street, and other demolition permits in the neighborhood.
6. Announcement (8:45)
7. Adjourn (9:00)

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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Jeff Jack in place of President Susan Pascoe who is out of town.
 2. Introductions and Roll Call – there were 16 neighborhood association representatives with dues paid in good standing (Roll Call Roster.pdf attachment)
 3. **Program**
 - A. **Oak Wilt Education**

Nathaniel Chapin of Save Austin Oaks discussed the issue of Oak Wilt and how to address with the assistance of the Texas Forest Service. The City of Austin eliminated the position of Oak Wilt specialist. Trenching around the infected area is the only known method of preventing the spread of the Oak Wilt fungus, which travels via the root system of Live Oak trees. The Texas Forest Service does have some funds available to assist NA and homeowners in dealing with Oak Wilt. They have offered

\$25,000 per year to help fund the position of Oak Wilt specialist with the City of Austin. A research project conducted by a graduate student of Texas A&M University on the Travis Heights outbreak, found trees to be worth 13 – 19% of property value.

Patrick Wentworth, arborist and owner of Austin Tree Specialists added more historical data regarding the massive outbreak in Travis Heights and Tarrytown. In the original Travis Heights incident, a trench 5’ wide and 20’ deep was dug from I-35 to Congress down Annie St., working in concert with COA Water and Wastewater for a new water line. When extensive trenching is required, look for partners like COA and Lone Star Gas. There are anti-fungal products on the market, sold under the trade name of Alamo, which can help prevent Oak Wilt. Where Oak Wilt has hit and infected trees have been removed, over a long period of time, re-forestation with a diversity of species has returned the areas to some of their original value and aesthetics. City of Austin only serves as an advisor, leaving it up to private landowners to deal with the issue. It is an economic factor for homeowners to be aware of.

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B. Commercial Design Standards Update

Laura Morrison updated attendees on City Council member Brewster McCracken’s proposed Commercial Design Standards proposal. An alternate plan has been drafted by the Real Estate Council of Austin, leading to the development of compromise standards. There was a motion (**Resolution No. 1; 2.23.05**) to create a committee from ANC reps to monitor the process, which is expected to get the fast track. The motion was made by Tim Mahoney, with second by Joyce Basciano. The motion passed with no opposition. Volunteers for the Committee include Jeff Jack, Laura Morrison, and Kevin Lewis. Kevin shared key dates for the standards committee:

3/3/05	Design Standards briefing to City Council
3/9/05	Urban Institute lunch at Four Seasons
3/14/05	6:00 p.m. Design Standards workshop
3/22/05	Planning Commission Hearing
3/24/05	City Council Hearing

C. Transit Oriented Development

Karen Paup addressed the meeting with regard to the proposed Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Districts, which will be created around stations along the commuter rail line. TOD Districts are planned to be mixed used areas with residential, commercial and retail development. The concern is for adequate affordable housing. There was a motion (**Resolution No. 2; 2.23.05**) by Tim Mahoney to support the Community Values Statement on Transit Oriented Development. There was a second by Lorraine Atherton. There was no opposition to the motion and the resolution passed.

4. **Business Items**

A. **ANC Bylaws Revisions**

There was a review of the proposed revision to the Bylaws with concern being expressed about the ability of Neighborhood Association which have 501(C)(3) status may be prohibited from participating in endorsement meetings, as one of the revisions to the By-Laws would allow ANC to sponsor candidate forums and possible endorsement of candidates who best represent the position of ANC. Following continued discussion, there was a motion (**Resolution No. 3; 2.23.05**) from Mark Boyden to accept the bylaws revisions as recommended by the bylaws revision committee. Lorraine Atherton seconded the motion and the resolution passed with no opposition.

B. **ANC Articles of Incorporation**

Prior to a motion to approve, there was discussion regarding the ability of a member of a neighborhood association which is a 501(C)(3) legally vote on an ANC motion to endorse a candidate. It was related that in an e-mail exchange on ANCEXEC, President Susan Pascoe had reported her positive findings when researching the subject with the office of the Texas Secretary of State. There being no further discussion there was a motion (**Resolution No. 4; 2.23.05**) by Tim Mahoney with a second by Laura Morrison. The resolution passed with no opposition.

5. **New Business**

A. **Development of questionnaire for City Council candidates**

It was suggested to have questions e-mailed to the ANC Executive Committee, who would be charged with developing the questions, centered on key areas of concern:

- Code Enforcement
- Environmental Protection
- Commercial Creep
- Neighborhood Planning Process
- Transportation
 - * Bus
 - * Toll Roads
- Cost of Growth
- Budget Priorities
- Tax Abatements
- Noise Ordinance Enforcement
- NPP Amendment Process
- Zoning
- Neighborhood Ombudsman
- Bond Election (Mayor, etc.)

There was a motion (**Resolution No. 5; 3.23.05**) by Tim Mahoney to empower the ANC Exec. Committee to coordinate the questions and format for the candidate endorsing candidate forum. There was a second to the motion by Linda Moore and the resolution passed with no opposition.

B. **Galindo Elementary NA (GENA)**

Katherine Kawazoe of GENA addressed the meeting to seek support for their position, which is to oppose expansion of the South Austin Tennis Center, located in South Austin Park (1100 Cumberland Rd. at 5th Street). The proposal is going to Zoning and Planning March 15, 2005, so support is needed now. There was a suggestion for GENA to pattern their opposition similar to Friends of Patterson Park, which successfully prevented the expansion of tennis courts. There was a motion (**Resolution No. 6; 3.23.05**) by Dale Henry, a second by Linda McNeilage, and the resolution passed with no opposition.

C. **Bouldin Creek NA**

Corey Walton of BCNA brought to our attention the PPT Residential Site Plan SP-02-0247C, which applies to a project on Barton Springs Rd. @ Dawson St. The developer has leveraged a cut and fill loophole to gain approval of a site plan which violates current code. There was a motion (**Resolution 7; 2.23.05**) by Lorraine Atherton with a second by Kevin Lewis for ANC to request the city to reconsider its approval of the PPT Residential Site Plan SP-02-0247C, which is a misinterpretation of land development code and a violation of the waterfront overlay. The resolution passed with one abstention and no opposition.

D. **OWANA**

Linda McNeilage addressed the meeting with two issues for consideration:

- i. The first dealt with proposed rezoning of the northeast corner of 6th and Lamar, between 601 – 711 N. Lamar. This is the property from the old Whole Foods Market, north to the Nokona. Plans are to convert Whole Foods to an REI store, Book People will remain, next to the Nokona will be built a parking garage, and just south of that a 120' tower. This construction would be in violation of the current CS zoning. Such rezoning and construction will severely affect property owners on Baylor St., west of N. Lamar. Linda made a motion (**Resolution 8, 2.23.05**) in opposition to the rezoning, as spelled out in a petition they submitted. Dale Henry provided a second to the motion. There being no opposition, the motion passed.
- ii. The second situation affecting OWANA was proposed demolition of two properties and the potential for more. These actions could adversely affect the efforts of creating an Historic Landmark District. There was a motion (**Resolution 9; 2.23.05**) to impose a moratorium on demolition permits, following language presented on a petition. Joyce Basciano provided the second; there being no opposition, the resolution passed.

6. **Announcements**

Due to the length of the meeting there were no announcements

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

