

**Austin Neighborhoods Council
General Meeting
July 27, 2005**

Agenda:

1. Call to order and review of agenda (7:00 p.m.)
2. Roll Call of member associations (7:01 p.m.)
3. Program (7:10 p.m.)

*“Working With Our City Government – Practical Strategies”
Presented by*

Former Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Goodman

4. Announcements (8:10 p.m.)
 - a. Austin Human Rights Commission community forum on APD’s use of tasers – August 11, 2005; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Registration required.
 - b. Capital Metro Public Meetings on Rapid bus service
 - i. Wednesday, July 27, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - ii. Thursday, July 28, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., City Hall
 - iii. Thursday, July 28, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church
5. Business and discussion items
 - a. ANC Support of Maverick Miller preservation
 - b. City Bond Package – Neighborhood plan issues – Jeff Jack
 - c. Town Lake Park update – Jeff Jack
 - d. NACA Neighborhood Plan amendment - Linda Moore
 - e. Neighborhood Association Structure – Carol Gibbs
6. Adjourn (9:00 p.m.)

**ANC General Meeting
July 27, 2005**

MINUTES:

1. Call to Order – 7:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call 7:05 – 7:10 p.m. 23 member associations in attendance
3. **Program:** *(Notes & sound bites taken as best as possible with limited audio)*

Neighborhood friendly City Council Members: Raul Alvarez & Lee Leffingwell

Knowledge of Land Development Ordinances is not as good as it should be.

City Council does not have a good understanding of Neighborhood issues.

Neighborhoods in the past had all the facts and figures on implications of proposed projects. Now it will take a new approach to deal with City Council

City Staff – ZAP Commissioners – Board of Adjustment

Think – Marketing – Research – No Emotion – Sound Bites

Get Neighborhoods to make presentation to City Council before City Staff makes their presentation to establish a point of reference. Try to OUT PRESENT the developer reps.

Don't be whiners or nay sayers, against all change...be realistic.

Over 11,000 city employees are not elected and are well established in their positions and usually do not follow the pyramid of authority:

People
City Council
City Manager
City Staff

There is very little, if any turnover in City Staff.

Austin has only been progressive in the last 15 years and new progressiveness is taking place now with sustainable growth – mixed use developments.

City Staff has a culture different from neighborhoods – looking solely at economic development. Where does city staff live? How is their neighborhood changing and expanding the tax base?

Neighborhoods need to become the good guys again – looking for solutions, not just arguments. Ms. Goodman expressed concern about the sustainable future of neighborhoods, who are often lumped in with environmentalists and those who approach City Council with nothing but objections and complaints.

Council Members' staff can become allies and a way to reach council members.

F.L.U.M. – Future Land Use Map: create from neighborhood plans & need to be recorded well and used as a resource for defining future use.

In all recent history in Austin, there is no precedent for tearing down a building which violates numerous city codes.

Question: Besides suing the developer, should you sue city staff/council?

Ms. Goodman does not feel there be a time limit for city manager position, as there needs to be some continuity, but there should also be accountability for performance.

4 **Announcements**

- a. Austin Human Rights Commission Community on APD's use of Tasers – One Texas Center August 11, 2005 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.; Ramona.roeberg@ci.austin.tx.us
- b. CAP Metro Meetings on Rapid Bus Service
Wednesday, July 27 & Thursday, July 28th
- c. Austin Parks Foundation www.austinparks.org
A self-mailer quick survey to determine which parks need help was passed out to attendees.

5. **Business and Discussion Items**

- a. Austin Police Community Conference – Nana Hairston
Alternate dispute resolution: looking at changing yourself, not trying to change others. Annual event addressing community outreach with different divisions of the Austin Police Department – Youth/Gangs/Drugs – need better way to spread the word.
- b. Maverick Mill House – ANC Executive Committee voted to support the neighborhood association in their effort to preserve the historic designation of the land & building on the land.
- c. City Bond Package – ECT Bond Package worth \$768 million. Looking at needs assessment for bond package. Was it relative to neighborhood planning process? No idea. Will city do analysis comparing bond needs assessment with neighborhood plans? Proposed letter to Neighborhood Plan contact teams.
- d. Town Lake Park – Plans were approved in 1998 – now it is 2005. Phase II landscaping 2002 - \$5.3 million budget. \$450K under budget – tabled due to lack of money for operations and maintenance. Project has been re-bid and now will cost \$8.6 million, so park amenities must be reduced to meet budget.
- e. NACA Neighborhood Plan Amendment – Hearing August 4, NACA will request a postponement until August 25. The Neighborhood Plan is 5 years old, one of the first in the city...now developer is seeking re-zoning of vacant land and amendment

to neighborhood plan of a c-store with gas (already 25 in the plan area). Planning commission voted in favor of the amendment to the neighborhood plan. Support is appreciated.

- f. Neighborhood Association Structure – Carol Gibbs request for information. Performance bond with cooperative developer. Unincorporated neighborhood association should register with Secretary of State. Another option, which takes more time, for incorporated non-profit organization seeking 501 (c) (4) status.

- g. Bluebonnet Lane @ Lamar – South Lamar Neighborhood Association Example of multi-use light residential – commercial development with Walgreens and Taco Express. SLNA worked with developers, proactively, not as protagonists. Passed ZAP – going to City Council Thursday, 7.28.05.

6. **Adjourned 9:05 p.m.**