

Austin Neighborhoods Council
General Meeting
August 23, 2006
721 Barton Springs Rd.

7:06pm Call to Order—Vice President Katrina Daniel

Programs:

Understanding the City Budget—Greg Canally, City of Austin Budget Officer

Explanation of the City of Austin budget process. The city manager's office recently proposed the draft budget to City Council.

(See handouts for more details.)

Fiscal Year 2006-07 General Fund revenues and expenditures total \$525.3 million.

Sources of funds – General Fund:

Property Tax = 29.8%

Sales Tax = 28.7%

Other = 21.2%

Transfers (including from Enterprise Funds, e.g. Austin Energy) = 20.3%

Uses of Funds – General Fund:

Public Safety = 65.8%

Transfers/others = 12.8%

Parks & Library = 10%

Health = 5.9%

Neighborhood Planning & Zoning, Watershed Protection/Development Review = 3.6%

The draft budget included three added positions for zoning review.

The draft budget has a recommended property tax rate. The proposed expenditures reflect an assumption of increasing revenue from sales tax and property tax.

If the City Council adopted a higher-than recommended tax rate, that would allow for additional "add-backs" to budget. If that happened, the City Manager's suggestions for include five new positions for Neighborhood Planning and new positions for animal welfare.

Long-Term Planning Audit—Colleen Waring, Deputy City Auditor

The city auditor's office has conducted an audit to review long-term planning efforts of the City of Austin, published May 16, 2006.

Audit objectives included reviewing:

- Long-term planning efforts among City departments
- integration into the city's budgeting and planning processes
- other cities' best practices regarding long-term planning

Audit results:

- The City would benefit from a more comprehensive planning approach guided by an overarching vision for growth.
- Existing planning efforts would benefit from a greater degree of integration and accessibility.

You can see the audit report at www.ci.austin.tx.us/auditor

Announcements and reports:

Austin-Travis County Health Department Health Survey—Camden Hallmark, Intern

The A.-T.C. Health Dept. is looking for volunteers for a survey project studying the health habits of residents living in these zip codes: 78726, 78733, 78739, 78753, 78660. The survey is anonymous and takes 5-10 minutes to complete.

For more information contact Sabrina McCarty, 972-5463
Sabrina.McCarty@ci.austin.tx.us.

Day Labor Advisory Board—Lori Renteria, East Cesar Chavez NPT

The advisory board has met 3 times. They have focused on the question of a proposal for a site for a new day labor center. City staff has proposed locating a new center at 2101 East Ben White at Woodward St. It's currently a Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice parole office and parolee re-entry facility.

There was virtually no involvement of the advisory board or public input in the selection of this site. Therefore, the advisory board has decided to refrain at this time from taking a position supporting or opposed to this site.

There will be a hearing September 28 at City Council to present the staff recommendation to a community meeting. Community input is possible at that time.

AISSD and Neighborhoods—Kathie Tovo

No report available but will be given in future.

Streetcar Workshop—Bo McCarver

The workshop on September 5 was set up by neighborhoods to gather input regarding possible siting and planning issues around the proposed streetcar line. Representatives of Capital Metro, the City of Austin, and others studied the proposed site and alternatives. No conclusions were drawn but Capital Metro agreed to include the input in future considerations.

PARD: Parkland Dedication Fee Ordinance—Linda Guerrero

Report was postponed.

New Environmental Ordinance Committee—Jeff Jack, Zilker NA

Council Member Leffingwell's proposed ordinance on environmental protection.

New Open Government Ordinance Committee—Jeff Jack

No movement yet. Focus has been on environmental ordinance.

City Budget—Jeff Jack

8:35 Meeting adjourned