

Austin Neighborhoods Council
General Meeting
February 28, 2007
721 Barton Springs Rd.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Lewis and Lorraine Atherton, ANC Secretaries

7:00pm Call to Order

7:01pm The 2007 Legislative Session

Sen. Kirk Watson

The Senate was unexpectedly called into session and Sen. Watson was unable to attend. An alternate opportunity to meet will be requested.

Capitol View Corridors: Relaxation or Protection?

Jeb Boyd, Downtown Commission

Chris Riley, Downtown Austin NA (DANA), Old Austin NA, Downtown Commission

John Donisi, Heritage Society of Austin

The Capitol view corridors restrict construction of buildings that would affect the ability to view the Texas Capitol from various points in the city. Between City ordinances and State laws, there are about 30 protected corridors. This has the benefit of allowing views of this historic building, but the cost of foregone capacity on restricted properties.

One important aspect of this is Travis County's desire to build a new courthouse. The County is looking at Block 126, between Guadalupe and Lavaca, 10th & 11th St. , just east of the current courthouse. The Wooldridge Park view corridor places severe limits on new construction on that block. DANA and the Old Austin Neighborhood Assn. would like to see some modification or elimination of the Wooldridge Park view corridor to allow building a new courthouse there.

The Heritage Society is concerned about the two processes currently operating to review the Capitol view corridors. The Heritage Society suggests that the County's ideas for the courthouse be described by a specific plan. They further request that any process of review be conducted in an open, public fashion.

The Downtown Commission (DC) has been studying various Capitol view corridors and working on a report. The DC subcommittee studying this meets in afternoons and specific times and places posted according to public meeting laws.

Town Lake Corridor to Town Lake Canyon: Defending the Integrity of the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance

Scott Hendler, SaveTownLake.org, President [??] and General Counsel

The Waterfront Overlay Ordinance (WO) was created in 1986 to describe acceptable development adjacent to Town Lake. In 1999 the City of Austin did what was described as a "non-substantive, plain English" rewrite with the intention of making it easier to understand. That rewrite eliminated the right of appeal to a variance approval, and also affected height descriptions relative to the base zonings.

SaveTownLake.org evolved from neighborhood volunteers became concerned about new developments proposed along the Town Lake waterfront. They are continuing to advocate for enforcement of the protections in the WOL. The project at 222 and 300 East Riverside Drive, in the South River City Citizens area, planned by CWS Partners was one of the key projects that triggered concern, requesting a significant variance from the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance.

SaveTownLake.org continues to pursue enforcement, and it will likely be significantly through legal action. They need continuing support to continue their efforts.

Introduction of Carol Haywood, Manager, CoA Neighborhood Planning

Carol is the new manager (as of last November) of the City of Austin's Comprehensive Planning process, often called Neighborhood Planning. Several planners have recently left the City. Hiring has been ongoing to replace those planners, as well as to fill four new positions that have been funded in Neighborhood Planning department.

Those four planners will be described thus:

- The position of Implementation Planner will be filled by Katie Hallorhan, who is currently working on University Hills/Windsor Park NP.
- They will use one funding of one position as needed to draw on facilitators of the City's Human Resources department.
- The other two positions are for "pre-planners", or "education planners".

The next area to enter the planning process is Windsor Road-Tarrytown.

Carol Haywood can be contacted at Carol.Haywood@ci.austin.tx.us or 974-7685.

Updates and Announcements , Laura Morrison

The Single Family Compatibility Regulations Task Force (McMansion task force) is studying the maximum occupancy rules, which may come up for revision soon.

Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force Report, Bo McCarver
The AHITF focused narrowly on providing incentives to developers that would encourage them to build new affordable housing or include it in their projects. This was established under the auspices of Council Member Kim's office. The final report is viewable on the ANC website. There are several aspects that could override other protections in the code, but only if passed by Council and then only if adopted into a Neighborhood Plan.

Banff Film Festival, Kevin Lewis
The Banff Mountain Film Festival will be presented March 25 at the Paramount Theatre. It is documentary and experimental short films centered on mountain culture. All proceeds benefit the American Youthworks' Environmental Corps.

9:00pm Adjourn

Join or Renew or your ANC Membership for 2007

See Linda Guerrero, Treasurer or another ANC Officer tonight, or mail in.
Forms & Credit Card Payment Available at http://www.ancweb.org/join_anc.htm

For More Information on Tonight's Agenda Items

Senator Kirk Watson
www.watson.senate.state.tx.us/
www.kirkwatson.com

Downtown Commission Memo re:Capitol View Corridors
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/downloads/Downtown%20Development.pdf>

Heritage Society re: Capitol View Corridors
www.heritagesocietyaustin.org/CapitolViewCorridors.html

Save Town Lake
www.SaveTownLake.org

Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force
www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/ahitf.htm

Banff Film Festival
www.wholeearthprovision.com/calendar.html