

**Austin Neighborhoods Council**  
General Meeting  
March 28, 2007  
Austin Energy Building; 721 Barton Springs Rd.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Lewis, ANC Secretary

Call to Order and introductions

**Land Use Commissions & the Board of Adjustment: Their Roles & Responsibilities and How to Work Effectively with them as Concerned Citizens**

Betty Baker, Zoning & Platting Commission Chair  
Saundra Kirk, Planning Commissioner  
Bryan King, Board of Adjustment Member

See handout for more information.

**Liveable City – An Introduction**

Bill Spellman, Liveable City, Board Member, was unable to attend.  
Jim Walker, Board Member  
Susan Moffat, Board Member

**Community Wildlife Habitats Program**

Council Member Lee Leffingwell  
Jane Tillman, Travis Audubon Society

See handouts for more information.

**Electric Lawn Mower Program**

Scott Johnson, Central Texas Electric Lawn Mower Program

**Issues and Updates from ANC Representatives**

WANG Exterior Lighting Resolution (Susan Pascoe)

West Austin Neighborhood Group has proposed a resolution on exterior lighting standards for residential development. \*\*See text in appendix A following.\*\* Susan Pascoe read the resolution. Kevin Lewis moved approval. Motion seconded. There was discussion. Some residents expressed concern that limits on exterior lights would compromise safety, especially in higher-crime areas. Motion passed.

EMS Advisory Board (Susan Pascoe) If citizens have questions or concerns about EMS service provision you can contact Susan at 708-9232 or [Spascoe@grandecom.net](mailto:Spascoe@grandecom.net) .

Legislative Update (Laura Morrison)

Parkland Dedication Ordinance Revisions (Danette Chimenti)

Danette read the resolution passed by the ANC Executive Committee at their March 14 meeting. See text—Appendix B.

Announcements:

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

---

**For More Information on Tonight's Agenda Items**

Community Wildlife Habitat Certification: [www.nwf.org/community/](http://www.nwf.org/community/)

Liveable City: [www.liveablecity.org/](http://www.liveablecity.org/)

Central Texas Electric Lawn Mower Program: [www.cmpbs.org/electriclawnmower](http://www.cmpbs.org/electriclawnmower)

APPENDIX A – A Resolution on Residential Exterior Lighting Standards

RESOLUTION FOR EXTERIOR RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING STANDARDS

March 27, 2007

Whereas, there exists a need in the City of Austin for exterior residential lighting standards, and

Whereas, other communities, including neighboring municipalities, have recognized the need for and have subsequently enacted exterior residential lighting standards, and

Whereas, such an exterior residential lighting standard can be worded so as to balance the needs of residential property owners for safety, security and aesthetic enjoyment with the adjacent residential property owners' peaceable enjoyment of their property free from exterior light trespass, and

Whereas, such an ordinance dealing with exterior residential lighting standard can be written in such a way as to be enforceable without undue burden upon the City of Austin,

Be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council:

Urges the City of Austin to sponsor an ordinance to regulate exterior residential lighting standards. Said ordinance shall be written in such a way as to balance the needs of residential property owners for safety, security and aesthetic enjoyment with the adjacent residential property owners' peaceable enjoyment of their property free from exterior light trespass. In addition, the ordinance shall be written in such a way as to be enforceable without undue burden upon the City of Austin.

Laura Morrison  
President  
Austin Neighborhoods Council

## APPENDIX B – A Resolution on Parkland Dedication Ordinance

### **ANC Support of Modifications to Parkland Dedication Ordinance**

March 27, 2007

The Austin Neighborhoods Council supports the concept of parkland dedication for all new residential developments. We see this as a means to fairly distribute contributions to the growth and enhancement of parks in Austin to serve new residents.

If a fee is to be assessed on a per unit basis, we believe that the fee should be at least \$750 per unit. This value is still far below per unit fees in comparable cities like Portland and Seattle where the fees range into several thousand per unit and is also well under the per unit fee in Texas cities such as El Paso and Arlington. It reflects the needs that we have in Austin.

We do however have concerns that setting a simple per unit flat fee is regressive, and think that it is appropriate to consider, instead, a fee that is based upon the valuation or square footage of a unit. If a fee structure based on valuation or square footage is utilized then the fee for an average sized unit should equate to at least \$750 per unit.

We support the proposal to provide an exemption to a parkland dedication fee for units that qualify as “affordable” under a City program. We oppose the waiver of parkland dedication fees for non-affordable units in a project. Because the Commercial Design Standards ordinance currently provides a complete waiver to the current parkland dedication fee for a Vertical Mixed Use project, it should be updated to be consistent with this approach.

Finally, ANC would like to recognize the importance and need to provide for neighborhood parks. We feel that establishing small neighborhood “pocket” parks should be a high priority for PARD and the City of Austin and strongly encourage an implementation/application of the Parkland Dedication ordinance which focuses on taking and providing neighborhood parkland whenever possible.

Laura Morrison  
President  
Austin Neighborhoods Council