

Austin Neighborhoods Council
Minutes of the General Meeting
Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd.
October 24, 2007
7:00pm to 9:00pm

7:04pm Call to Order, Laura Morrison, announced post-meeting celebration for outgoing and incoming officers. Introductions.

7:05pm Current and Future Changes at APD and Other Police Issues
Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo

8:15pm Identifying the Goals the Austin Human Rights Commission and ANC Share for our Neighborhoods, Sandra Serna, Chair, City of Austin Human Rights Commission. Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the incident of discrimination.

Lori Renteria offered a draft solicitation ordinance, attached.

Business Items

- 8:30pm Recommendation from the Executive Committee and Possible General Membership Action on ANC Participation in Govalle/Johnson Terrace, OWANA, PODER v City of Austin Lawsuit Concerning Animal Shelter (Jeff Jack)

Amicus brief approved ("The membership empowers the executive committee to file an amicus brief in support of the PODER lawsuit"), 2 nay votes

- 8:45pm Consideration of ANC Contribution to the Advocate Newspaper (Kirk Becker)
\$300 approved

- 8:50pm Update from ANC Growth Management Implementation Committee (Cynthia Keohane): finishing up meetings with council members, looking for 3 sponsors

- 8:55pm Election of ANC 2008 Executive Committee (Nominating Committee: Paige Hill, Linda MacNeilage, Kathie Tovo) The following slate was approved by acclamation:

President: Danette Chimenti

VPs: Joyce Basciano, Jeff Jack, Kathie Tovo

Treasurer: Linda Guerrero

Secretary: Lorraine Atherton

Communications Coordinator: Bill Stoughton

Sector Reps:

1: Laine Jastram

2: Katrina Daniel and Paige Hill

3: Mark Boyden and Barbara Mink

4: Susan Pascoe

5: Ambrose Krump

6: Stephanie Tsen and Daniel Llanes

7: Cory Walton and Dana Lockler

8: Donna Tiemann

9: OPEN

10: OPEN

9:00 pm Adjourn to Uncle Billy's Brew & Que (1530 Barton Springs Rd.) to Celebrate ANC Past and Future

SAMPLE RESOLUTION FROM THE EAST CESAR CHAVEZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING TEAM

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING THE ROADSIDE SOLICITATION ORDINANCE TO PROTECT NEIGHBORHOODS CITY-WIDE AND REQUEST TO EXAMINE DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION ORDINANCES FOR POSSIBLE REVISION

Whereas, the Downtown neighborhood has enjoyed positive improvements to quality of life for residents and visitors to the downtown area because of revisions to 9-4-13 Solicitation Prohibited Ordinance specifically Section C-7 "in the downtown business area described in Section 9-4-14 prohibiting aggressive and roadside solicitation between 7 pm and 7 am; and

Whereas, what is good for downtown, should be shared with neighborhoods city-wide; and

Whereas, the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood is host to the top two open air drug dealing and prostitution areas in the whole city (Chalmers Court and La Comal Park areas) and this would help police with the probable cause necessary to stop the pedestrian dopers and prostitutes and the cars that stop to deal with them. And because it is very expensive for police to initiate sting and undercover operations to suppress open air drug dealing and prostitution now occurring on a daily basis at over 30 intersection in the APD Central East Area Command, and because residents in East Austin do not call 911 about these suspicious vehicles and persons like more affluent neighborhoods do giving the police the probable cause they need to stop suspicious activity; and

Whereas, aggressive roadside solicitation by youth groups, squeegee men, mentally ill people, and some religious groups is intimidating to some drivers (especially seniors and women travelling alone at night) and creates traffic congestion and safety hazards at our intersections; and

Whereas, the term 'aggressive' is subjective and what seems aggressive to children and frail elderly and disabled people is far more intimidating than what a healthy adult might tolerate; and

Whereas, the city should use this opportunity to strengthen the existing city-wide, door-to-door solicitation ordinance to require vendors and grass-roots organizers to register with the city and pull a solicitation permit to stop scammers and thieves from knocking on our doors at all hours to scope our property for break-ins. Credible groups that solicit or do outreach door-to-door like Buena Vista, Clean Water Action, Evangelicals, and vendors like pizza chains and realtors that go door-to-door should -- and usually do -- understand the current ordinance and they should not object to pulling a permit and being held accountable should one of their solicitors intimidate a resident. Many seniors and women who live alone are very afraid of strangers coming to their doors. When neighbors report suspicious strangers in their neighborhoods, it would be helpful if police could request a look at the person's solicitation permit when they stop them.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team supports expansion of the Solicitation Ordinance Section C-7 to include the entire jurisdiction of the City of Austin, or at least to add APD Patrol Sectors C-1 and C-2 which are already included in the jurisdiction of the Downtown Austin Community Court boundaries along with West Campus due to the push-out effect the solicitation ordinances have on these adjacent neighborhoods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we advise City Council to re-visit all solicitation ordinances to ensure a prohibition of any roadside solicitation AND door-to-door solicitation by any group, business or individual who is not exempt for political or religious reasons as shielded by the Constitution and who does not register with the City Clerk or its designee to obtain and carry a valid permit to conduct such activities on public streets, sidewalks, and/or private property; that the hours be revised to allow registered groups and individuals to solicit door-to-door only between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm. The permit should include a requirement that the solicitors are at least 16 years old, have been trained as to what "aggressive" means and to ensure traffic safety measures are understood. And that such permits should be granted without prejudice or purpose or tax exempt status and that any fees required to attain a solicitation permit be affordable and not exceed a \$50 license fee per \$3,000 collected as part of the door-to-door solicitation over the course of one year.

ADOPTED: October 17, 2007

BY: The East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team

ATTEST: _____ by Joseph A. Martinez, Chairperson

Yes, I want to regulate solicitation in my neighborhood!

Petition in SUPPORT of the Austin City Council revising all solicitation ordinances to prohibit individuals and groups from stopping or approaching cars on any public street or from knocking on residents' doors after 7 pm or before 7 am in our neighborhoods. We further request that the Austin City Council create and implement a solicitation permit program so that individuals and groups who do solicit from the roadside or knock on our doors during the daytime are registered and can be held accountable for inappropriate, aggressive, or illegal behaviors while soliciting in our neighborhoods.

PLEASE PRINT

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Bring these petitions with you to the City Council Public Hearing on Solicitation to be held at City Council Chambers, 201 W. 2nd Street, at 6 pm on Thursday, November 29th Or Mail or drop completed petitions to: Lori C-Renteria, ECC Crime and Safety Chair, 1511 Haskell St., 78702. Call her at 478-6770 for pickup or for more information.

Dear Austin Community Member:

AISD has 113 schools, but they are not all the same.

Some schools are performing better than others. The state may tell the district it has to replace teachers or principals, or even close a school if its performance doesn't improve. Some schools are crowded, while others are under-enrolled.

There may be some very important decisions that can impact a school and its neighborhood, and it is critical that citizens are aware, become involved, and make their concerns known. The AISD Board of Trustees has formed the Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools to make sure that this always happens.

We want to hear what you have to say. Your thoughts are very valuable to us. We'd like a little of your time to ask you some important questions to help us make recommendations to the Trustees. Thank you for your time and your comments.

Sincerely,

Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools Guiding Questions</p> |
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The following questions are numbered for reference and are not presented in any particular order of importance:

1. How should AISD inform and engage stakeholders regarding important school issues and concerns?
2. What do "over-enrollment" and "under-enrollment" mean to you, and how do you see these issues affecting your school and your neighborhood?
3. How should the district identify and consider alternatives for over-enrolled and under-enrolled schools? What steps should be included in the decision making process? Who should be involved and how? What is a reasonable length of time for this process?
4. Who in the community should be involved in helping neighborhood schools increase enrollment and performance?
5. Other than enrollment, what factors should AISD consider in making decisions about your school?

You can complete an online survey at www.austinisd.org/tellaisd

OR email Kathie Tavo at
kbtavo@earthlink.net