

Austin Neighborhoods Council
Minutes of the General Meeting
Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd.
February 27, 2008
7:00pm to 9:00pm

7:05pm Call to Order and Introductions:

7:10pm AISD Interim School Bonds Discussion

Vincent Torres: AISD Board of Trustees, District 4, Vice President Robert Schneider: AISD Board of Trustees, District 7, Nan Clayton: Citizens Bond Advisory Committee, and Mark Yznaga: Citizens Bond Advisory Committee

This meeting was posted as an AISD board meeting so that a quorum of the trustees, including Moya, Guzman, Dulaney-Smith, and the board president, could attend.

Trustee Torres summarized the bond process. In response to a question about equity management, he indicated that no progress has been made on that issue since the previous bond election. (Mark Yznaga noted that the citizen advisory committee discussed it, but no assessment of functional equity was available to them.)

Trustee Schneider described the three propositions that the board voted (Monday, Feb. 25) to place on the May ballot [see bond proposition summary on AISD Web site]. He noted that Prop. 3 includes \$32 million for the land for a new high school located in the south, but he would not say whether it would be west or east of Bowie (over the aquifer or not). When asked why land acquisition for the south high school was so much costlier than for the elementary schools in Prop. 1, he replied that the high school will require 75 acres but the elementary schools require only 15 acres each.

Nan Clayton gave the reasons for considering an interim bond package (the last legislature passed a requirement for four years of science in all high schools and other unfunded technology mandates, and AISD had overcrowding problems that could not wait for the comprehensive bond package scheduled for 2010).

Mark Yznaga presented major elements of the advisory committee's recommendations: The package originally presented to the committee was staff-driven, not community-driven, so the committee had to mount its own effort to go out and bring the community in to the process. He wished that they had been able to hear the desperate pleas from McCallum and other schools much earlier in the process. The committee still does not know if the AISD demographics they relied on match the city's demographics. He noted that the ANC comprehensive growth planning resolution could serve as a good guide for bond planning. The distribution of the technology upgrades (hardware) funded by the bonds was not considered by the committee; that will have to be addressed by the Board of Trustees after the bonds pass. He suggested that AISD needs a better process for planning bond packages and that Livable Cities will be looking at the issue in the fall.

8:10pm Endorse Procedure for March City Council Candidate Forum (Mark Boyden) [handout attached] Suggestions included:

Candidates who do not answer the questionnaire will not be allowed to participate (original proposal was that they would not be eligible for endorsement but could participate in the forum) Candidates' answers should be posted on ANCWeb at least 7 days before the forum to give

members a chance to read them.

Candidates and the press will be asked to leave after the forum; only members of member organizations can participate in the endorsement meeting.

The membership chose (by a show of hands) to vote on endorsements by hand rather than paper ballots.

8:22pm Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools: Kathie Tovo reported that AISD collected about 1400 responses to the recent survey. A public hearing will be scheduled in March. A subcommittee will be meeting on Tuesday (Kathie will announce on ANCtalk), and it needs to gather more ideas from the community for initiatives such as how to help schools in decline.

8:30pm Texas Neighborhoods Together: Lisa Harris and Clare reported on TNT's lobbying efforts on behalf of neighborhood issues during the 2007 legislative session, including successful support of Austin's McMansion ordinance and expansion of certain county powers to regulate land use. TNT supports the disclosure of real estate sales prices to tax appraisal districts, a perennial legislative issue. TNT is reviewing its legislative agenda for the next session. Contact Lisa and Clare if you have ideas.

8:40pm Consideration of ANC-East Resolution regarding hiring for the Director of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development. Bo McCarver moved approval of Resolution A [attached]; Jane Rivera seconded. Motion passed with 24 in favor, 1 opposed.

8:45pm Updates on Ongoing Issues, Activities & Announcements

Wildlife Austin Update (Paige Hill/Dale Bula) See city Web site on Austin's effort to become a certified community wildlife habitat, at ci.austin.tx.us/parks/wildlifehabitat, or contact Alice Nance at 327-8181 ext. 29 or alice.nance@ci.austin.tx.us

Barton Springs Master Plan Schedule (Linda Guerrero) The Parks Board and Environmental Board will be working together on this and holding public hearings into August.

Long Range Parks Plan and stakeholder meetings (Linda Guerrero) Plan to be developed from February through April.

Park Name Recommendation (Linda Guerrero) Parks Board is recommending keeping the name "Town Lake Park" and naming various parts of the park after various individuals, such as Liz Carpenter Pond, Willie Wells Field, and Doug Sahn Hill.

Update on 222/300 Riverside Variances (Jeff Jack) Appeal postponed to April 24.

Update on Govalle/JT/OWANA/FixAustin/Poder Lawsuit (Lori Michel) Judge expected to rule on competing summary judgment requests in 30 days.

Affordable Housing Incentive Interim Ordinance (Danette Chimenti) Various measures approved as neighborhood planning tools. NP teams should acquaint themselves with the new tools.

Neighborhood Plan Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Issues (Danette Chimenti) New effort to standardize NP bylaws.

Update on Restructuring City Government (Lorraine Atherton) City legal recently announced that no charter amendments can be placed on the May ballot because of the 2-year rule, so the item on tomorrow's city council agenda to consider placing single-member districts on the May ballot is essentially moot. Opponents of council districts have placed another item on the agenda to require Justice Dept. preapproval and other unattainable criteria for any charter amendment

regarding council election districts. ANC members are instead supporting a much improved public process to place a hybrid election system on the November ballot.

McMansion Ordinance 6-month review recommendations (Danette Chimenti)

Harthan Street Local Historic District (Danette Chimenti) Postponed till March 20.

9:00pm Adjourn

Resolution A: ANC-East (sector 6) proposes the following resolution concerning the replacement of Paul Hilgers, Director of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development:

We ask that the City of Austin seek a person for the vacant position of Director of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development who has a proven record of

- (1) preserving existing affordable housing stock for middle and low income households; and
- (2) effectively addressing gentrification so as to preserve diversity; and
- (3) developing affordable housing in all areas of a municipality; and
- (4) open communications and policy making.

Attachment: **Candidate Forum protocol handout, February 27, 2008**

At tonight's meeting, among other things, we'll discuss the Candidates Forum and ANC Endorsement Process. We are looking for your feedback to make this successful, so if you can't make the meeting, feel free to pass it along here to either me, the list, or your ANC officers. FYI, to make these, we incorporated past ANC practices with practices that other groups use and have developed this basic process. We just want to make sure it's clear how this will occur as the process will not be changed the night of the meeting.

There will be two distinct meetings, the first (the forum) is open to the public, and the second (the endorsement meeting) is open only to ANC members (the press, candidates, and other non-members will be asked to leave). Below is the proposed process that we'll discuss at tonight's meeting. We're looking for input as to how to make it better overall, so please help. A final version will be nailed down and approved at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Candidate's Forum (6-8:15p)

- Only candidates who have officially filed in the City Clerk's office by the filing deadline will be asked to participate. We will obtain a list of candidates from the City Clerk's office the day after the filing deadline and notify them of our forum that same day.
- Candidates must arrive at their scheduled time for briefing and instructions or they will not be allowed to participate.
- Candidates may provide literature at the designated tables.
- The forum will be moderated by a moderator chosen by the Forum Committee
- We will have a timer with cue cards viewable by the speaker
- Each candidate will have the opportunity to make an opening statement (3 minutes)
- Each candidate will have the same amount of time to speak (30-90 seconds/question) for each question
- Questions from the audience may be provided via notecards to the question gatherer(s) who will assist the moderator in framing the issues and the questions.
- A pre-forum questionnaire of questions will be sent to each candidate with the invitation. Candidates must provide an answer to every question to be eligible to receive an ANC endorsement.
- The time available for each Council Seat (Place) will depend upon the total number of candidates for each seat (and all seats) and may be adjusted at the forum.

ANC Endorsement Process

The endorsement process will be broken into two major sections: the vote, and the statements. We will do the voting part first, and then the statements part second. This may (will likely) be a lengthy process, so be prepared to stay if you want to provide input into either or both of these. Members are free to leave at any time during the process, but will be unable to provide input if they are not in attendance.

- Candidate Endorsement Proceedings
 - We will hold proceedings for all candidates for each Place
 - First Round (aka Initial Vote) - we will take an initial vote for each place to see if the body already has an endorsement choice
 - Second Round (no 2/3 endorsement)
 - There will be a discussion period of up to 20 minutes
 - The top 2 candidates from the First Round and "No Endorsement" may be discussed

- Another vote will be taken
- Third Round (still no endorsement)
- There will be a final discussion period of up to 10 minutes
- The top candidate and "No Endorsement" will be discussed unless a dual-endorsement motion is made for consideration
- A final vote will be taken
- If still stalemated, no endorsement
- Discussion
- Each person speaking may have up to 60 seconds
- The moderator shall ask for speakers to alternate candidates (and for or against) (if possible)
- Another vote is taken
- Endorsement Statement Proceedings
 - We will hold proceedings for all candidates for each Place
 - Any member may propose a positional statement to be added to the endorsement statement.
 - Each individual statement will be voted on separately after all statements have been proposed.
 - The statement proposal and discussion period will last no more than 30 minutes total after which votes shall be taken
- Voting
 - A vote shall be held for each Place (council seat) including the option of "No Endorsement" and for each statement
 - An endorsement vote (candidate and/or statement) requires a 2/3 majority (present and voting, so abstentions are not counted)
 - Voting shall be by hand ballot using identifying cards (unless we feel we need paper ballots)
 - No proxy voting is allowed
- Chair
 - The chair/moderator shall be chosen by the Forum Committee and shall not be someone directly involved in any candidacy (includes candidacy, paid capacity, relative)
- Volunteers Needed: Check-in for Candidates, Sergeant-at-Arms (Room/Door Monitor), Voting Cards Monitor, Vote Counters, Timer, Questions Gatherer/Moderator Assistant, Setup/Break-Down, Food/Snacks (provide)
- Candidates Usage of Endorsements
 - May use in campaign literature, speeches, and other appropriate campaign-related ways
 - ANC and its officers shall make public a copy of the endorsements and any statements passed (but not those not passed or any other deliberation aspects)

Thanks,
Mark Boyden
Windsor Park, ANC Sector 3 (NE) Rep
ANC Candidates Forum Member