

**Austin Neighborhoods Council**

Draft Minutes of the City Council Candidate Forum and Endorsement Meeting

Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd.

March 26, 2008

6:00pm City Council Candidate Forum, moderated by Marceline Alaster

6:25pm Place 4 candidate Cid Galindo answered 13 questions

6:40pm Place 4 candidate Robin Cravey, 13 questions

6:55pm Place 4 candidate Laura Morrison, 12 questions

7:19pm Place 1 candidate Lee Leffingwell (incumbent), 10 questions

7:34pm Place 1 candidate Allen Demling, 11 questions

7:46pm Place 1 candidate Jason Meeker, 11 questions

8:09pm Place 3 candidate Ken Weiss, 11 questions

8:25pm Place 3 candidate Randi Shade, 12 questions

8:40pm Place 3 candidate Jennifer Kim (incumbent), 13 questions

9:00pm The Forum was adjourned. ANC president Danette Chimenti called the Endorsement Meeting to order in executive session and turned it over to moderator Mark Boyden. Mark explained the endorsement rules (attachment 1). The voting cards were distributed to designated representatives of eligible members. The meeting produced the attached statement and endorsements.

12:10a.m: Meeting adjourned.

## ANC City Council Candidate Endorsement Statement, March 27, 2008

The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) set a high bar for its 2008 City Council endorsements, requiring that a candidate earn at least two-thirds of the membership's vote at the endorsement meeting. The endorsement meeting was held Wednesday night, March 26, following ANC's City Council Candidate Forum.

ANC is grateful to the nine candidates who completed our lengthy questionnaire and attended the forum: Allen Demling, Lee Leffingwell and Jason Meeker in Place 1; Jennifer Kim, Randi Shade and Ken Weiss in Place 3; Robin Cravey, Cid Galindo and Laura Morrison in Place 4. Their responses to the questionnaire are posted on ANC's Web site: [www.ancweb.org](http://www.ancweb.org).

We appreciate the opportunity to engage nine thoughtful candidates in a discussion of the city's future, and we respect the dedication to public service represented by their participation in ANC's endorsement process. They are all worthy candidates, and ANC would be pleased to work with any of them on the City Council.

ANC's endorsements in the three City Council races are as follows:

### **PLACE 1: No Endorsement**

The membership was split between incumbent Lee Leffingwell and newcomer Jason Meeker. The incumbent's disappointing performance on neighborhood and planning issues led to the conclusion that he has not lived up to ANC's 2005 endorsement. ANC is not confident that his challenger has an adequate grasp of city government and neighborhood issues.

### **PLACE 3: Jennifer Kim**

ANC was initially divided between Jennifer Kim and Randi Shade. Although concerns remain about Kim's accessibility and consistency, ANC recognizes her voting record and behind-the-scenes problem-solving in support of individual neighborhoods. ANC is optimistic that Kim will continue to evolve as an advocate for neighborhood issues.

### **PLACE 4: Laura Morrison**

Laura Morrison garnered a unanimous endorsement from ANC. She demonstrates a vast knowledge and grasp of the intricacies of city government. Her record of bringing together disparate stakeholders and building consensus-based solutions will serve Austin well throughout the broad range of challenges that face the community.