

**Austin Neighborhoods Council**  
Minutes of the General Meeting  
Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd.  
September 24, 2008  
7:00pm to 9:00pm

7:00pm Call to Order and Introductions

Announcement: Texas Neighborhoods Together meets last Saturday in October in Garland to work on legislative agenda. We need a second rep to attend with Lisa Harris, so we can use both of our votes.

7:05pm Residential Code Enforcement and Permitting Process

City staff: Leon Barba, Bobby Ray, Matt Christianson

City code enforcement now has 46 inspectors. There were only 3 for the entire city three years ago, when ANC made modernization of the department a priority. When a violation is identified, there are four options for achieving compliance: Voluntary; Municipal Court; Building and Standards Commission (BSC); District Court. Note that violations are handled as criminal cases in the courts. Citations are written if the same violation reoccurs within one year of the first notice. The department is looking for volunteers to survey areas for abatement violations; meeting with University of Texas concerning trash left by student tenants at the beginning and end of semesters; considering annual registration of rental units for biannual inspections and crime prevention standards, based on the Fort Worth model. (Distributed a large packet of material from the Fort Worth program. LA got the hard copy but not the CD. Can the CD be posted on ANCWeb?)

The presentation looked at several properties suggested beforehand by ANC members, including five in the 1900 block of David St. and three in the 5100 block of Caswell Ave.

Unresolved Questions from members: How does an unpermitted building get utility service without a certificate of occupancy? How can inspectors be made aware of restrictive covenants and conditional overlays?

8:05pm Austin 3-1-1 Community Outreach

City staff: Frances Hargrove

Austin 311 receives 4000 calls a day, 800-1000 service requests; call volume doubled during the hurricane.

8:20pm ANC East Resolutions (see attached)

(1) Comprehensive analysis and review process (moved by Sector Rep Aleman, second by Terry; passed with one abstention)

(2) City property information to NP areas (moved by VP Jack, second by Terry; two amendments accepted as shown in brackets, passed with one abstention)

(3) Review and clarification of appointments to the CDC (discussion only; Bo McCarver and Fred McGhee of Montopolis? explained the makeup of the Community Development Commission and inconsistencies in the selection of representatives)

8:45pm Updates on neighborhood issues, activities and announcements

Nominating Committee for ANC Elections: Jeff Jack, Bryan King, Lou O'Hanlon. Committee will report in October, nominations can be taken from the floor.

TCHD closure of NE health clinic, Frances XXX from Gracywoods: Case is C14-2008-0131, goes to Zoning and Platting Commission on Nov. 4. The neighbors are reviewing about 12,000 pages from their open records request. They are hoping to block the zoning change requested on the new site, conducting petition drive. The other issue is the wisdom of closing down the northeast clinic when 50% of eligible Austinites are not being served by the clinic system. ANC needs to look at the membership of the health district board; Travis County Comm. Court appoints four and City Council appoints four, and one member is a joint appointment.

Downtown Street Closure Task Force Update, Kathie Tovo update, this task force meets every Monday 5-7 pm at city's Waller Creek offices, Room 104. Needs more neighborhood input, especially concerning notification and signature requirements for events. Most attendees have been race organizers and their supporters, so far.

Prop. 2, Stop Domain Subsidies, Travis County Democrats have voted to endorse it.

Planning Commission backup materials should be online sometime in October. Thanks to Lauren XXX.

Heritage Society is working on having city property counted as a contributor to local historic districts.

The new Parks and Rec. director will be Sara Hensly, from Phoenix, scheduled to start in December.

East Riverside PUD, Jeff Jack update. Thanks to Save Town Lake efforts, the 200-foot towers proposed for this project have been reduced to one building of 96 feet. Related update, the appellate court ruled in Save Town Lake's favor regarding the suit about the city's plain-English rewrite of the Land Development Code. The suit is set to go to court, but meanwhile the city has set up a task force to rewrite the Waterfront Overlay, which we hope will restore the height and other restrictions that were removed in the plain-English rewrite.

9:00pm Adjourn

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## **Proposed ANC East Resolutions:**

### **(1) Resolution to Establish Comprehensive Project Impact Analyses and Review Process**

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has no process to obtain comprehensive analyses of proposed developments that include impacts on schools, parks, segregation patterns, taxes, businesses, housing or infrastructural support such as traffic, parking, sewer and water; and

WHEREAS, the city departments do not coordinate their assessments and their combined assessments do not address the full impacts of developments; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhoods of Austin bear the long and short-term impact of major developments; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhoods should be involved in designing the process and components of any comprehensive analysis that would assess potential impacts;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council initiate efforts that include full public participation, to design a comprehensive project impact analysis and review process for any development involving the development, or redevelopment, of properties of 10,000 or more square feet.

### **(2) Publishing Maps of City-Owned Properties for Neighborhood Planning Areas**

WHEREAS, the City owns numerous tracts of land in all quadrants of the city; and

WHEREAS, even small parcels of land may be utilized for public purposes such as recycling stations, pocket parks and other projects; and

WHEREAS, those tracts present opportunities for neighborhood planning areas to propose and foster developments that help realize their plans,

BE IT RESOLVED that the city provide each neighborhood planning area with maps **both electronic and hardcopy** that clearly show all parcels of city-owned land **and, if available, all parcels of land owned by other governmental bodies** in the neighborhood planning area's boundaries.

### **(3) Review and Clarification of Appointments to the CDC (discussion only)**

WHEREAS, there are inconsistencies in the method by which representatives for the Community Development Commission are selected by the neighborhood centers; and

WHEREAS, there are inconsistencies in staff challenges for representatives nominated by Council Members; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Commission provides important oversight for housing, neighborhood centers and social welfare programs,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Neighborhoods Council recommends that the Ethics Commission review, clarify and publish rules and procedures for appointment and election of representatives for the Community Development Commission.