

Austin Neighborhoods Council - General Membership Meeting Minutes
Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd.
April 22, 2009 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM

7:00 PM Call to Order and Introductions

7:05 PM Intro of Neighborhood Assistants, Carol Gibbs and Jody Zemel, by Greg Guernsey, Director, Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department

7:30 PM Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams and Neighborhood Associations, by Greg Guernsey, Director, Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department. Discussion primarily on NP Contact teams. Discussion of the effort to turn neighborhood plan action items into capital improvement items. Described some amendments to code that are in the works regarding Neighborhood Plan Amendments, including amendments to clarify that plan amendments have expiration dates; to replace non-property owners” with “renters;” to require that bylaws be provided to the city each year; to require that bylaws define conflict of interest; to add provisions regarding notice of meetings; to state that if an amendment is denied it can't be refiled on the same property for 18 months.

7:50 PM APD Budget Issues, Art Acevedo, Austin Police Chief. He said he has increased efficiency to cut \$10 million from the budget in the past two years while increasing enforcement. One way was by reducing the 80% staffing requirement to better match staffing to the need. (Lower staff Monday morning than Friday evening.) 93% of his budget is personnel costs. If he has to cut the budget more he will have to eliminate programs. Austin has 400 fewer officers than other cities of its size. The contingency, if the city falls short in police staffing for patrol, the contingency plan is to pull people out of specialty units to deploy them in patrol.

Acevedo requested 50 officers from stimulus funds. If he gets them they will be used for targeted enforcement in hot spots for 3-6 weeks at a time. He wants to recruit seasoned officers for the 50 stimulus officer positions.

All crimes fusion center- crime analysts and interagency contract to share information and predict trends.

Acevedo announced that he had instituted a nighttime detective unit (12 night detectives), starting the following weekend.

8:30 PM Discussion of ANC-East resolution on Utility notifications:

Providing timely notices to neighborhoods about significant utility developments

Whereas, in recent months the Cherrywood, Windsor Park and numerous other neighborhoods have had encroachments on natural spaces by utility companies; and

Whereas, the neighborhoods were not given timely notices when city permits were issued for the projects; and

Whereas, the neighborhoods were left with no opportunity to mitigate damages;

Be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council calls on the city of Austin to afford timely notices of any significant encroachments on natural spaces to neighborhood associations and planning teams.

There was discussion on whether to define “natural spaces” and on whether “natural spaces”

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should be broadened to include encroachments on other facilities such as athletic facilities. Also a question of whether "significant encroachment" should be defined in the resolution..

8:40 PM Announcements and Updates on On-going Issues

Missy Bledsoe, new ANC rep to Save Austin Music, reported on Save Austin Music.

Live Music Issues- the ordinance to expedite change of use permits to be discussed at Council the following day would apply to about five venues.

Waterfront Overlay Task Force Recommendations on Parks and Planning Commission April 28th agendas and April 30th Council Agendas

Barton Springs Pool Tree Assessment- parks director is committed to a public process on Barton Springs tree removal. A series of public meetings will be scheduled. Briefing to Council on their April 23rd agenda.

Capitol View Corridors and the Downtown Plan on the April 23rd Council agenda
Comprehensive Plan Consultant on the April 23rd Council agenda

Parks Long Range Plan Input sought through the end of April
Families and Children on the April 23rd Council agenda

Planning Commission Capital Improvement subcommittee to solicit input from neighborhood plan contact teams.

9:00pm Adjourn