

**Austin Neighborhoods Council General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2009**

7:00 pm Call to Order and Introductions

7:10 pm Crime, Safety & Recidivism Forum with panelists Hon. Nancy Hohengarten, Judge, Travis County Court at Law #5; Claire Dawson Brown, Assistant District Attorney, Travis County District Attorney's Office; SPO Troy Schouest , APD; Juan-Carlos Otero, Incubator Director, Austin Social Innovation Hub; Claire Leonhart, Probation Officer, Travis County Adult Probation Department, member Policy Reform Committee, Austin/Travis County Reentry; and Moderator: Precinct 5 Constable Bruce Elfant

8:10 pm CAMPO 2035 Transportation Plan Options, Stevie Greathouse, Principal Planner

8:25 pm Resolutions:

Posted for a vote:

- 8:25 Universal Health Care (ANC-East, presented by Bo McCarver):
Terri Tevis moved passage, Delwin Goss seconded. Passed with 17 yeas, 3 nays and 2 abstentions

Whereas, lack of health care is a major cause of poverty in Austin, the state of Texas, and the nation;
and

Whereas, many neighborhoods in Austin experience recurrent and sustained poverty resulting from lack of health care; and

Whereas, present local efforts such as the Medical Assistance Program and community clinics are inadequate to address the need; and

Whereas, Congress is considering measures to assure every American has access to health care;
Be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council urges the City Council, the Texas Legislature, the Texas Congressional Delegation, and Congress to support and implement health care legislation that guarantees every American has health care.

- 8:30 Oppose Property Tax Increase (ANC-East, presented by Bo McCarver):
Steve Aleman moved passage, Terry Tevis seconded. Passed with 13 yeas, 1 nay and 7 abstentions

Whereas, in the present recession many homeowners are facing defaults on their mortgages and having difficulty maintaining their homes due to economic circumstances beyond their control; and
Whereas, many commercial properties are under-assessed by the appraisal district and consequently their owners are not paying their fair share of taxes; and

Whereas, the City Council is proposing a 5.5 percent tax increase on properties that would not be fully necessary if the tax burden among residential and commercial property owners was equitably distributed;

Therefore be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council opposes the proposed tax increase.

- 8:35 Early Zoning change notification(ANC-East, presented by Bo McCarver):
Mary Eichner moved passage, Terry Tevis seconded. 19 yeas, no nays and 3 abstentions

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Whereas, neighborhoods are vibrant communities with unique historic and architectural character; and
Whereas, neighborhood associations and planning teams are frequently availed of zoning changes and requests for variances for new projects only after the projects have been designed and are well under way; and

Whereas, early communication of pending zoning changes and variances would enhance and speed viable projects, benefiting both developers and neighborhoods;

Therefore be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council urges the city to revise rules for applying for zoning changes and variances to require documentation of the applicant's communications with affected neighborhood associations and neighborhood planning teams before an application is filed.

- **8:40 Affordability in Downtown Plan (ANC-East, presented by Bo McCarver):**
Bo McCarver moved to postpone, Terry Tevis seconded. Vote to postpone: 20 yeas, 0 nays and no abstentions

ANC-East urges the City Council to assure diversity in the downtown area by placing firm and progressive tools in the affordability requirements.

Specifically, we ask that the fee-in-lieu be placed at \$20 per square foot, per Seattle's Downtown Plan, and that those fees be placed on both commercial and residential properties.

Funds generated from the fees should go to affordable housing projects in the following priority order: downtown, transit-oriented developments, transit corridors serving the downtown area. This is in contrast to the plan that would press affordable units on nearby neighborhoods.

A total of 20 percent of the units should be affordable to households earning less than 80 percent of median family income (MFI) at roughly these levels: A minimum of 15 percent of the residential units should be rental units affordable to households earning less than 80 percent MFI, with a third of the units targeting households earning between 80 and 50 percent MFI, another third for households earning between 50 and 30 percent MFI, and another for households earning less than 30 percent MFI. Five percent of the total affordable units should be for-sale units affordable by households earning up to 80 percent MFI (total of 20 percent affordable). Funds should not be used to subsidize the 80-120 percent MFI market.

City housing funds, to include GO Bonds, should not be used to subsidize units costing more than \$150 per square foot.

The existing affordable units at Lakeside should be preserved.

Posted for discussion only:

- **8:45 Remodel Ordinance Definition recommendations (NUNA, presented by Mary Ingle):**

Whereas the City of Austin's Land Development Code has no written definition of the term "remodel," and the current unwritten rule of thumb has led to many abuses for remodels,

Therefore be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council supports the City Council's changes to the Land Development Code by adopting a definition for remodel in accordance with the resolution passed by the City Council December 6, 2007:

A remodel is limited to the following items; otherwise, it is a substantial remodel and must comply with the LDC, as if it were new construction:

1. The remodel pertains to the existing structure and shall not expand horizontally or vertically;
2. There may be removal of no more than 50% of the structure's complete exterior walls;
3. The finishing of one remodel and starting of a second on the same structure shall have a limited time constraint.

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- 8:50 Austin Cycling Association Complete Streets recommendations (ACA, presented by Lorraine Atherton):

The Austin Cycling Association (ACA) is trying to garner support for a Complete Streets policy, to make neighborhoods more accessible and easier to navigate for both pedestrians and cyclists. Here is the proposed policy language:

The Austin Cycling Association recommends the following policy for all Central Texas jurisdictions for roadway construction, reconstruction, and major rehabilitation projects for all roadways listed in the Roadway Plan of the CAMPO Long Range Transportation Plan (currently, the 2030 Regional Mobility Plan): If cost estimates for a standard sidewalk facility on both sides of the roadway and the appropriate bicycle facility show that they would add less than 20% to the cost of the entire roadway construction, reconstruction or major rehabilitation project and the average traffic speed of the roadway exceeds or is expected to exceed 30 miles per hour, standard sidewalk facilities and the bicycle facilities recommended for Group B (novice) cyclists by Federal Highway Administration guidelines must be added to the roadway during the roadway construction, reconstruction, or major rehabilitation project; those facilities must be funded out of the street construction, reconstruction, or major rehabilitation project itself. Deviations from this policy must be specifically stated in an approved bicycle plan. For the City of Austin, this policy is an additional requirement to the policy in Resolution 020418-40 and does not supersede that policy.

The above differs from the existing City of Austin policy in a couple of substantive ways. First, our proposal would apply to all arterials where the average traffic speed is above 30 mph. Current policy only applies to arterials included in the recently revised Austin Bike Plan. Second, our proposal specifies the use of Federal Highway Administration guidelines for Group B bicyclists for the design of the bicycle facilities.

- 8:55 pm Announcements and Updates on On-going Issues
 - ANC Holiday Party committee formation: Terry Tevis, Mark Boyden, Linda Guerrero
 - ANC Elections/nominations committee (Mary Eichner, Terry Tevis and Lou O'Hanlon)- seeking more nominees
 - Heritage Tree Ordinance
 - Waterfront Overlay and South Shore PUD Update at Council 9/24
 - 801 Barton Springs Pico PUD update- going into mediation
 - HousingWorks November 14th fall summit, focused on the housing section of the comprehensive plan.

9:00 pm Adjourn