

Austin Neighborhoods Council - General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2009

7:00 pm Call to Order and Introductions

7:10 pm **Greg Guernsey**, Director, City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department, on Comprehensive Plan and role of Neighborhood Plans, Zoning & Variance notification, Design Standards, etc. Q&A

Adopted neighborhood plans will be attached to the Comprehensive Plan.

Community forum series on Comprehensive Plan, Nov. 9-12, see cityofaustin.org/compplan for schedule and survey.

Carol Gibbs asked that people interested in volunteering to test the new electronic notification system contact her (carol.gibbs@austin.rr.com).

7:50 pm **Gordon Derr**, Assistant Director, Austin Transportation Department on Strategic Mobility Plan vis-à-vis CAMPO, Comp Plan, Cap Metro plans

Strategic Mobility Survey will be identifying gaps in the transportation system (see ci.austin.tx.us/transportation/). The department will use it to make recommendations for bond election projects in fall 2010. Also looking at urban rail.

8:10 pm **ANC Officer Elections**, Mary Eichner introduced the slate of nominees:

President: Cory Walton, Vice Presidents: Lou O'Hanlon, Bo McCarver, Joyce Basciano, Secretary: Lisa Harris, Treasurer: Linda Guerrero, Communications Director: Mark Boyden, Sector reps: 1 Terry Tevis, 2 Cynthia Keohane, 3 Cheryl Cheatham, 4 Kay Gall, 5 Jolene Kiolbassa, 6 Steven Aleman, 7 Lorraine Atherton, 8 Mary Eichner, 9 Lupe Sosa, 10 Susana Almanza. The slate was approved by acclamation.

8:20 pm **Resolutions, Announcements and Updates** on On-going Issues

8:20 Austin Interfaith, proposed Livable Wage Resolution, presented by Gina Hinojosa of Austin Interfaith (see attached), to be voted on in January

8:30 Vote on Affordability resolution, presented by Bo McCarver (see attached). Delwin Goss moved approval as written. Motion seconded. Motion passed with 26 in favor, 4 opposed, 6 abstained.

8:40 Vote on Heritage Tree Ordinance Resolution, presented by Cory Walton (see attached). Lorraine Atherton moved approval as written. Motion seconded. Motion passed with 33 in favor, 2 abstained.

8:50 David Kobierowski-KOOP Radio a Friendly Neighborhood Chat. ANC programming "A Neighborly Conversation" every Wednesday noon-1 pm, 91.7 FM, streaming live at www.koop.org.

8:52 Capital Metro routing revisions, Patty Sprinkle, bus routes 10, 109, 12, and 21 scheduled to be dropped. Check the CapMetro Web site for further meetings.

8:54 801 Barton Springs Rd. PUD, Cory Walton, mediation is over with no change. Scheduled for Planning Commission hearing Nov. 10.

8:55 Waterfront Overlay and South Shore PUD Update. Passed on 2nd reading. 3rd reading in two weeks.

8:56 HousingWorks Nov 14 Forum: Affordable Housing in the Comprehensive Plan, Kathy Echols presented. Register via e-mail HousingWorksSummit@yahoo.com.

9:00 ANC Holiday Party Dec. 9, at the Vortex (same as last year), 6:30-9. Annual Membership Dues due by Jan 27. No more meetings this year. Bring your dues to the party Dec. 9.

9:10 pm Adjourn

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Austin Interfaith Resolution on Living Wages for tax-abated businesses (For a vote in January 2010)

WHEREAS most major employers cite an educated work force, quality schools, safety and quality of life as the most important factors when deciding where to locate;

WHEREAS the high price of real estate within the city of Austin has priced many Austinites, both homeowners and renters, out of housing;

WHEREAS tax abatements potentially limit the general revenue that the city of Austin has to spend on road improvements, traffic calming, parks, social services, and other services traditionally provided by the City, and;

WHEREAS, rather than subsidizing a low-wage strategy, Austin should give incentives solely to companies that pay their workers well in wages and benefits and offer workers the opportunity for advancement, thereby increasing productivity and reducing labor costs over time by retaining talent and experience and in so doing, strengthening our community and our neighborhoods.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Austin Neighborhoods Council endorses the enactment of an ordinance that would require any business receiving tax abatements to: 1) pay all of its employees a wage tied to an index that would allow a typical Austin family to adequately meet the basic needs of living in Austin; 2) provide all employees health care benefits; 3) provide all employees a career path; 4) have a strong program to recruit locally.

ANC Position for Affordability in the Downtown Plan (Approved at October 28, 2009, meeting)

ANC- 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 city should require a mix of affordable unit sizes that assure that at least half the units be two-bedroom or more and accommodate families.

The existing affordable units at Lakeside should be preserved.

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Resolution on Heritage Tree Ordinance (Approved at October 28, 2009, meeting)

WHEREAS neighborhood representatives, environmental groups, the Tree Task Force, the Environmental Board, the Urban Forestry Board, and other stakeholders have previously recommended certain measures to enhance tree preservation in the city, and preservation of Heritage Trees in particular;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Austin Neighborhoods Council recommends that the proposed Heritage Tree Ordinance be adopted with the following provisions:

1. Any variances to the ordinance that contemplate removal of a Heritage Tree 24" DBH or above should be reviewed publicly by an appointed board or commission rather than approved administratively, and any appeal rights should apply both to applicant and objecting parties.
2. Variances allowing Heritage Tree removal should only be granted when their preservation prevents all reasonable property uses, rather than simply the desired use in a particular site plan, and subjective criteria such as "dying" should not be allowed to justify removal.
3. The method of calculating the diameter for Heritage Trees should be consistent with the method currently applied by the City in its Protected Trees ordinance.
4. A comprehensive mitigation and compliance incentive program higher than that currently applied to Protected Trees should include an explicit mitigation formula, such as 3- or 4- to 1, or be based on the basal area of the removed tree, and should include penalties sufficient to serve as a strong deterrent to non-compliance with the application and permitting process.
5. In addition, the City should consider protecting additional native species that are important to the region's natural heritage but that may never reach 24" DBH.

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