

Austin Neighborhoods Council - General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2010 - 721 Barton Springs Road
6:45 pm to 9:00pm

Prepared by Lisa Harris, Secretary

7:00 Call to Order and Introductions

7:10 City of Austin Chief of Police Art Acevedo - with assistant chiefs David Carter, Al Ellis, Patty Robinson, Sean Manix, John Hutto.

- Relationship between police and neighborhood residents.
- Preservation of life standard- officer-involved shootings in Austin are much rarer than in cities that have preservation of life standard. Departments that use deadly force more often have more need to come up with this sort of standard. Per Sean Manix, APD policy on response to resistance already contains all the elements in the preservation of life standard.
- Noise ordinance- APD has met with city staff on updating APD training on the noise ordinance. Need neighbors to communicate how the training is working.
- Challenges in getting to lower-priority 911 calls quickly. Hope to improve with proposed Austin Regional Intelligence Center (To be discussed City Hall at 10 AM May 27th.) Gather data on lower-priority calls.
- David Carter on priorities: life-threatening calls are highest priority.
- Crime convictions- APD gets frustrated with serious crimes and repeat crimes being punished lightly. Talking to District Attorney Lehmborg about identifying and targeting repeat offenders.

8:12 Gerard Kinney on Billboard Ordinance. May 2008 Austin Design Commission Proposed Signage and Wayfinding Vision and Policy. Requests that ANC in future consider endorsing.

8:30 Resolutions- text at end of minutes

E. 11th & 12th Streets Urban Renewal Project (Rollout)- Swede Hill, Robertson Hill and Guadalupe N.A.'s and OCEAN have asked for ANC support for this resolution.

8:35 ANC Updates

8:35 Education Impact Statements- Lisa Harris

8:43 Progress of Hyde Park Local Historic District nomination effort- Lisa Harris

8:45 Legal liabilities of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams- Lou O'Hanlon and Jeff Jack. City legal has now issued an opinion that there are circumstances in which the city could/would defend a NP Contact Team member.

8:50 City Comprehensive Plan Chip Exercise. Jeff Jack and Cory Walton. Meetings are June 1st at Mexican-American Culture Center or June 3rd at One Texas Center. Both at 6:30 PM. Meetings are scheduled to last 2 hours.

9:00 Downtown Development Plan & Density Bonuses. Cory Walton and Jeff Jack.

9:03 Residential "Remodel Ordinance" (grandfathering of nonconforming uses). Cory Walton. Ordinance to go before Council in June.

9:04 Rehab hospital as new zoning category- Cory Walton and Joyce Basciano. The proposed new zoning category is not moving forward. Developers are still working on developing a rehab hospital.

9:05 Permit Reactivation Ordinance- Cory Walton

9:06 McMansion Ordinance- Cory Walton. Ordinance was expanded (geographically).

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9:07 Adjourned

Resolution of the Austin Neighborhoods Council in support of a New Approach to Redevelopment of the East 11th and 12th Street Corridors

WHEREAS, the City of Austin (City), the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) and Austin Revitalization Authority (ARA) entered into a Tri-Party Agreement, to undertake the East 11th and 12th Street Redevelopment Project as an Urban Renewal project, in October 1999, providing \$9 million in funding for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Party Agreement and subsequent agreements between the City and ARA have conveyed to ARA exclusive status in the project via annual operational funding from the City, exclusive development rights to a substantial sector of the project, powers to amend to the Urban Renewal Plan (URP), and to collect fees from private development entities in the Renewal area; and

WHEREAS, these exclusive powers are at odds with the spirit and intent of Chapter 374 of the Texas Local Government Code (Texas Urban Renewal Law), which mandates that a municipality exercising Urban Renewal project powers shall use public resources to “afford the maximum opportunity...for the rehabilitation or redevelopment of the urban renewal area by private enterprise;” and

WHEREAS, the execution of these arrangements has resulted in \$38 million expended, a 27:1 debt-to-net asset ratio for ARA, \$4.9 million in ARA debt service due in December 2012, a compromised city investment in East 11th Street, should ARA default in its obligations, major blocks of East 11th Street still vacant and the majority of the project, the East 12th Street corridor, hardly begun; and

WHEREAS, a November 3, 2009 City Auditors report on the Project concludes that all Tri-Party members share responsibility for the lack of progress and the precarious financial position of the project; and

WHEREAS, resolutions prescribing curative measures have been passed by Stakeholder neighborhoods including Swede Hill, Robertson Hill, and Guadalupe, and affirmed by the Central East Austin Neighborhood contact team (O.C.E.A.N); and

WHEREAS, ARA removed from its board representatives of stakeholder neighborhoods after these resolutions were circulated;

Therefore, the Austin Neighborhoods Council urges the City Council to bring City Urban Renewal efforts into line with the spirit, intent and letter of Texas Urban Renewal Law: by not renewing the Tri-Party Agreement or entering into any new, similar arrangement; by adopting more fiscally sound, timely and transparent use of City taxpayer dollars in the 11th and 12th Street revitalization, such as the curative measures articulated in stakeholder neighborhoods’ resolutions; and by setting a new model for future City Urban Renewal efforts that precludes exclusive or other special status to any development entity in any project.