

Austin Neighborhoods Council – Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2010 - 721 Barton Springs Road

Minutes prepared by Lisa Harris

Present: Lou O'Hanlon, Cory Walton, Bo McCarver, Mark Boyden, Linda Guerrero, Joyce Basciano, Lisa Harris, Jolene Kiolbassa and Lupe Sosa

6:30pm Call to Order

6:31 Approval of Minutes

6:35 Officer/Committee/Sector Reports

6:40 Treasurer's Report

6:42 Membership renewals update. Decision to discuss ANC membership criteria at retreat

6:50 Requests for Support (Updates, new additions)

- Spay/neuter ordinance
- Austin Libraries Resolution
- Planning resolution

(Text of the proposed resolutions, with additions/revisions in italics, and EC decisions regarding them are at end of minutes.)

7:05 Sector Issues

7:05 Meeting Planning

Marc Ott or other on City budget?? Ott will be on vacation during the June general meeting. Ed Van Eenoo, city budget officer, has offered to come in June. 30 min. for Ed Van Eenoo. (5 min. for intro and 25 for Q&A.)

Garner Stoll and Donna Tiemann, comprehensive plan. Invite Greg Guernsey but not as speaker. 45 minutes.

TNT Legislative agenda- Lisa and Terry, 10-15 minutes. Put the draft agenda on the ANC website and Cory send out notifications that it's on the website.

Resolutions – 10 minutes

Resolution for 11th and 12th Street- 5 minutes

Announcements- 5 minutes

7:30 Ongoing Business and Neighborhood Issues

- Comprehensive Plan- chip exercise.
- Downtown Plan-Density bonuses,
- Residential remodel ordinance
- Authority of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams
- Reactivating Building Permits
- New Zoning category for Rehab Hospitals
- WTP #4 tunnel drilling & rock removal trucking
- ANC EC Planning Session: Potluck and retreat tentatively scheduled for Sat., Nov. 20.
- ANC Bylaws

8:00 Adjourn

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Preserving Austin’s Public Library Services

WHEREAS, the “Austin Public Library” (here forward referred to as “APL”), has a mission to provide a wide range of information and services to enrich the lives of all members of our community including providing its customers with accessible, secure, and well-maintained library facilities and technology; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, 524,187 Austin citizens were registered card holders and checked out 3,791,515 items.

WHEREAS, Austin is known for its desirable quality of life and an educated population that values life-long learning; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is entering its budget review season; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin bears a unique responsibility to maintain these public services as many citizens face financial hardships; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Library Commission notes that the APL’s base funding remains among the lowest in the country for similar-size cities; and

WHEREAS, the current APL materials budget is well below average. Reports show that among cities of comparable size, the lowest quartile of spending on library materials is \$3.58 per capita. Austin astonishingly spends only \$2.83 per capita; and

WHEREAS, any potential new cuts to the APL’s budget will result in severely weakened services for the people of Austin; and

WHEREAS, our goal is to work toward restoration of library hours to the level Austin had in 2008.

WHEREAS, there is an increase in use of libraries during economic downturns.

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the _____, call upon City of Austin officials responsible for the APL budget to oppose additional reductions in hours at any branches and work toward restoring library hours to their 2008 level *and toward increasing funding for library materials to that spent by cities of comparable size.*

Action: Decision to ask David Kobierowski to revise based on italicized additions and on adding a clause regarding not increasing fees for library users. Review the library facilities in the context of facilities available within PARD centers and neighborhood centers.

Resolution on City Planning

Whereas neighborhood zoning is enabled by the adoption of a neighborhood plan, which is an amendment to the adopted comprehensive plan, per state law;

Therefore be it resolved that the ANC requests that the City respect and reflect on adopted

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neighborhood plans as well as the adopted comprehensive plan when interpreting adopted neighborhood zoning overlays.

Action: Bo moved approval, Joyce seconded. Unanimously adopted by the EC.

Resolution Supporting a Spay/Neuter Ordinance for Austin

Whereas the City Of Austin's City Council has adopted the "No Kill Resolution;" and

Whereas the intended purpose of the "No Kill Resolution" is to end the killing of healthy adoptable cats and dogs at the City of Austin's animal shelter; and

Whereas there is no mechanism in the "No Kill Resolution" to limit the number of healthy adoptable cats and dogs entering the City of Austin's animal shelter; and

Whereas the absence of a mechanism in the "No Kill Resolution" to limit the number of healthy adoptable cats and dogs entering the City of Austin's animal shelter will take an ever-increasing number of tax dollars to fund an ever-increasing number of adoptions for healthy adoptable cats and dogs entering the City of Austin's animal shelter; and

Whereas the City has had to allocate an additional \$1,000,000.00 in tax dollars to fund the goal of not killing any healthy adoptable cat or dog at the City of Austin's animal shelter; and

Whereas that additional \$1,000,000.00 will have to come from a general fund that is already under funded; and

Whereas the citizens of Austin were asked to make some very hard choices in Town Hall Budget meetings involving making cuts to other programs; and

Whereas funds that could instead go to more needful programs such as affordable housing, education, health care, programs for "at risk" youth, public safety in our more impoverished neighborhoods, parks and trails through out the City of Austin, and the Arts; and

Whereas more than 30 other cities including San Antonio, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Plano, Arlington and El Paso, Seattle, Los Angeles, California, Denver, Colorado, Las Vegas, Nevada and Albuquerque, have funded research and all of them reached the same conclusion to adopt mandatory spay/neuter ordinances;

Whereas abandoned animals create health hazards to both humans and animals in neighborhoods throughout Austin.

Therefore, the Austin Neighborhoods Council asks the City Council direct the Animal Advisory Council and city staff to take public input and draft a working and enforceable spay/neuter ordinance that would address the following provisions:

(1)allow owners who show their cats and/or dogs at cat and/or dog shows accredited by the American Kennel Club and/or the American Cat Society, which require that the dog and/or cat

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- being shown to be intact, be allowed to keep their cats or dogs intact upon providing proof that their cats or dogs are being shown with out fear of being penalized; and
- (2)allow a dog or cat owner who is willing to pay an annual “intact fee” of \$100.00 and microchip their cat or dog to keep their cat or dog intact; and
 - (3)an animal cannot be seized solely because it is intact; and
 - (4)prohibit the City of Austin from collecting fines and penalties from cat and/or dog owners who upon being found in violation of this ordinance; on their first offense, have their cat and/or dogs spayed within 45 days of the date of being cited and provide proof of the spay/neuter to the appropriate city official; and
 - (5)Reasonable exemptions shall be made in cases where a licensed veterinarian is of the opinion that spay/neuter surgery could cause harm and that written proof of opinion is provided to the proper authority; and
 - (6)include a schedule of fees, fines and penalties for those found in violation of this ordinance
 - (7)provide a clear provision as to which city department(s) is to provide enforcement of this ordinance and how it is to be enforced
 - (8)include a clear statement of the intent of the ordinance.

Action: Bo moved rollout, Joyce seconded. Unanimous vote to rollout.