

**Austin Neighborhoods Council – General Meeting Minutes**  
**June 23, 2010 - 721 Barton Springs Rd.**  
**6:45 pm to 9:00pm**

Minutes prepared by Lisa Harris

- 7:00 PM Call to Order and Introductions
- 7:10 PM Ed Van Eenoo, City of Austin Budget Director
- 7:40 PM Panel discussion with City of Austin Comprehensive Plan  
Citizens Advisory Task Force members: Francine Ferguson, Perla  
Cavazos, Ora Houston, Scooter Cheatham, Carol Torgrimson and  
Jonathan Ogren
- 8:33 PM Texas Neighborhoods Together Legislative Platform overview. Lisa Harris
- 8:45 PM Resolutions  
E. 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Street Renewal (Vote)  
Passed: Jeff Jack moved adoption, Del Goss seconded. 21  
yeas, 4 abstentions  
Preserve Austin Libraries (Rollout)  
Spay/neuter ordinance (Rollout)  
Resolution on City Planning (Rollout)
- 9:00 PM ANC Updates  
Comprehensive Plan- Cory Walton  
Downtown Development Plan & Density Bonuses at Planning  
Commission- Cory Walton  
Residential Remodel Ordinance before Council June 24th- Jolene  
Kiobassa  
Rehab hospital as new zoning category- Greg Guernsey  
Permit Reactivation Ordinance before Council June 24th-  
Greg Guernsey  
Neighborhood partnership program- Carol Gibbs
- 9:14 PM Adjourn

**Resolution 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 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

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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.

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

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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 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.

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

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**Resolution to Preserve 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, there is an increase in use of libraries during economic downturns, 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, the Council-appointed Library Commission seeks restoration of library hours to the level Austin had in 2008.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Neighborhoods Council calls 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.