

Austin Neighborhoods Council - Executive Committee Work Session

Austin Energy Building - February 9, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Susan Pascoe, President

Joyce Basciano, VP

Jeff Jack, VP

Laura Morrison, VP

Linda Guerrero, Treasurer

Tim Mahoney, Communications Coordinator

Linda Moore, Sector 2

Dana Lockler, Sector 2

Bob Swaffar, Sector 5, Acting Secretary

Lorraine Atherton, Sector 7

Mike Meier

1. Call to Order (7:00pm)

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Communications:

A. SOS and Bond Issues - Colin Clark, SOS Communications Director

There are two bond elections on the horizon: Travis County in November 2005 and City of Austin in May 2006. The Travis County election is proposing a new County Jail. There may be a possibility for adding an Open Space proposal to that election. The City of Austin election is tentatively to address Envision Central Texas proposals, which would likely concern Open Space and Densification issues.

SOS: Open Space = Water Quality

Previously passed Proposition 2 funds have been spent to acquire some 200,000 acres for \$65 million. Current development over the Edwards Aquifer amounts to 7% coverage. Environmental studies suggest that 10% coverage enters the danger zone.

SOS is promoting new land acquisition in Western Travis County and Northern Hayes County where recent arrangements by LCRA to provide water to new developments and CAMPO plans for additional roadways in the area are threatening to "leap-frog" the current green belt. The estimated costs of these projects by LCRA is \$250 million and by CAMPO is \$1.5 billion. The new roads would be toll ways.

SOS estimates that \$100-\$200 million would be enough to acquire several identified properties that are now scheduled for development. These are the particular properties that are prompting the plans by LCRA and CAMPO. Following a policy, for which some examples were seen in Proposition 2, of acquiring large tracts, adding trail easements, subdividing and reselling parcels with attractively low densities (e.g., one house per 200 acres), the City of Austin could add these properties to the green belt without a tax increase. LCRA and CAMPO would ostensibly then not need to complete their projects.

Details and maps of the SOS proposal are available on their web site.

B. Announcements - Susan Pascoe

Mesa Park neighborhood has declined renewing ANC membership, citing cost, waning membership and physical difficulties in attending ANC meetings. A dues waiver was discussed but not offered. Linda Moore will contact the neighborhood president and offer any ANC assistance that might be helpful.

Long Canyon neighborhood requests support against a development. A letter

will be sent.

Muellar Celebration: 19Feb05, 4-7pm at Juan in a Million. Note: snag in Muellar contract: apparently no appraisal was made on the 700 acres when the contract was made.

4. Committee Reports

A. Bylaws - Dana Lockler

A list of additional revisions was tabled. (There is a set of bylaw changes that are required to enable candidate endorsements on the agenda for the next general meeting. There is just enough time those bylaw changes to be approved before the Austin City Council candidate forum. The additional revisions would have delayed considerations another thirty days.)

B. Communications - Tim Mahoney

The member database is developing slowly. Letters are going out to encourage dues in time for the candidate forum.

C. Treasurer - Linda Guerrero

The current balance is \$1,227. Stamps for mail outs cost \$68.

5. Program Planning - Joyce Basciano

A. February - 23Feb05

Jeff Jack will be presiding in Susan Pascoe's absence. The agenda items are Oak Wilt, Bylaw Changes, Candidate Forum Format, and Design Standards.

B. March - 23Mar05

The Candidate Forum. Written questions will be sent to candidates on 10Mar05 with returned answers requested by 16Mar05. The answers will then

be distributed to members by email. Details of the format will be discussed at the next ANC Executive Committee meeting.

Preliminary format includes posing a problem scenario on the spot to the candidates as well as questions from the floor. (ANC members' questions will have precedence.) ANC members will vote on endorsements.

Media and public are invited.

6. Old Business - Susan Pascoe

The articles of Incorporation for ANC need revising. Susan will do this.

7. New Business

A. Texas Neighborhoods Together (TNT) - Tim Mahoney

Tim and Clare Berry have been contracts from the ANC to TNT. TNT is mostly organized in large cities right now (Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Austin) and there are some questions about TNT support for homeowner associations' ability to foreclose for unpaid dues, but there is an overlap of interests between ANC and TNT. Tim is to continue working with TNT (and encourage Clare to again participate in ANC.)

TNT is planning a Legislative Day, 28Feb05, to promote neighborhood interests at the Texas Legislature.

B. Book People - Laura Morrison

Book People has been nominated for the "Best Book Store" award by Publishers Weekly. ANC will send a letter in support.

C. OWANA - Laura Morrison

The neighborhood planning effort in the Old West Austin Neighborhood has two factions at odds over who speaks for the neighborhood. The first contact team (June) was very different from the second contact team (August). After much haggling where the city brought in facilitators the current contact team consists of one member from OWANA, one member from Clarksville group, and one member from the West End Alliance.

A warning to neighborhood groups to be sure who is being represented in the planning process.

D. Envision Central Texas - Jeff Jack

The Envision Central Texas project wants ANC to pay \$100 to be a participating member. Most business memberships start at \$2,500. The total budget for the organization is \$250,000. Major funders are Capitol Metro (\$175,000) the City of Austin (\$50,000), and various counties. There are seven active committees. The \$100 expenditure was approved.

E. Austin Area Human Services Organization - Jeff Jack

AAHSO wants ANC to pay \$75 to participate. The \$75 expenditure was approved.

8. Adjournment (8:55pm)