

Austin Neighborhoods Council
Executive Committee Meeting
July 13, 2005

Present:

Susan Pascoe, President
Jeff Jack, 1st Vice President
Laura Morrison, 2nd Vice President
Joyce Basciano, 3rd Vice President
Linda Guerrero, Treasurer
Tim Mahoney, Communications Coordinator
Dana Lockler, Sector 2 Representative
Linda Moore, Sector 2 Representative
Mark Boyden, Sector 3 Representative
Bob Swaffer, Sector 5 Representative
Lorraine Atherton, Sector 7 Representative

Guest:

Bill Stoughton - Webmaster

1. Call to order at 7:05pm.
2. Minutes of June executive committee meeting accepted as written.
3. Linda Guerro, Treasurer, reported that currently ANC has \$1443.46.
4. Committee Reports

A. Communications (Tim Mahoney)

Work is continuing to develop more complete sector representation. Sector 6, covering East Austin, will be represented at the next meeting. The form of this representation will be left to the Sector 6 individuals, to work out what is most effective for them.

Tim recently attended the Police Community Conference. Previously this conference had a co-sponsor, but this year was sponsored only by the Austin Police Dept.

Tim has been in contact with the City's Division Manager of Solid Waste Services regarding the possibility of a presentation to ANC on code enforcement.

City staff (Ricardo Soliz) has provided Tim with a listing of individuals that participated in a neighborhood planning effort over the last 7 years. This listing of 3575 names includes addresses and phone numbers.

The Austin Moving Forward forum attracted approximately 500 people. Tim, as an organizer, attended.

B. General Meeting Process (Dana Lockler and Mark Boyden)

Dana presented the draft of a form for member neighborhoods to use in submitting motions or resolutions for ANC consideration and support. A rationale for the item would be included in a preamble. Some suggestions for modifications to the form were provided.

Previously, the Exec Comm had agreed that the general process for such consideration would require that the item be previously approved by the individual neighborhood association, and that it be submitted in writing to the Exec Comm prior to consideration by the ANC General Membership. This is all in an effort to encourage an organized and concise presentation by a neighborhood association to the General Membership.

Dana and Mark will write up the process and modify the form, and then send it to the Exec Comm for further review.

C. AMD Coalition Activities (Lorraine Atherton)

Lorraine, along with Marguerite Jones and Colin Clark, met with Travis County Commissioner Gomez to discuss how the AMD move would be detrimental to her district which covers East Austin. Commissioner Gomez provided support to the groups' effort by providing names for an upcoming meeting with East Austin leadership, which will raise awareness that the AMD move would result in job losses in East Austin.

5. Program Planning

July – Jackie Goodman will attend to discuss the topic “*Working with our city government – practical strategies*”.

Proposed for August –

- i. City Budget/Bond Election possibly with Mayor Pro Tem Thomas or Council Member Alvarez. (Council will vote on a draft budget at the end of July, with a final vote at the end of September, necessitating this timing for a presentation if one is to be made to ANC.)
- ii. Code Enforcement

Proposed for September

- i. Austin Energy, Roger Duncan on Strategies for Moving into the Future. (Susan Pascoe was contacted regarding a possible presentation to ANC on Plug-in Hybrids, which were considered by the Exec Comm to be one piece of a progressive agenda for Austin Energy.)
- ii. Neighborhood Planning Process with Daniel Llanes and possibly others.

6. Sector Representatives – Major Issues

Lorraine Atherton (Sector 7): The overwhelming amount of time needed by many activists to respond to issues and the undermining of Neighborhood Plans

Linda Moore (Sector 2): A zoning application to change MF to retail, to allow for an additional convenience store when already there are several both in the core and on the periphery of the area. This would require an amendment to the Neighborhood Plan. Planning Commission voted unanimously for the change.

Mark Boyden (Sector 3): The water tower was the topic of a meeting involving the City, all neighborhood associations, and other stakeholders such as the Austin Film Society. The City came to the meeting thinking that height was the issue, and was proposing a decrease from 200 feet to 170 feet. In fact that was not the major concern of those in attendance, but rather that the water tower be integrated into the community appropriately as a landmark. The City cited safety issues. Several more towers will be placed around Austin so this should be of interest city-wide.

Maverick-Miller House (Sector 5): Susan Pascoe stated that CANPAC has submitted a letter to the Historic Landmark Commission urging that Historic zoning be retained and that no compromise be entered into for removal of a portion of the property from landmark status. A motion made by Jeff Jack, seconded by Lorraine Atherton, that ANC support the CANPAC position, passed unanimously. The action will be shared with the General Membership at the upcoming meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. City Bond Election

Jeff Jack reported that he and Kevin Lewis met with affordable housing activists Frank Fernandez and colleague Francine to discuss the push for bond money in the upcoming election. This is currently set at \$25M but they are pushing for \$50M. Jeff expressed concern that a bond solution is based on regressive taxation of the low and middle income population, and urged them to identify additional and alternate solutions. Because the demand will outstrip the supply of affordable housing even with bond money backing, this one bond election would not solve the problem. Jeff stated that an overall strategy is needed before ANC can support bond money for affordable housing.

At the recent South Austin Democrats meeting, Mayor Wynn agreed to Jeff Jack's request to do an analysis of the bond proposal to compare the projects to the needs identified in Neighborhood Plans. Jeff subsequently attended meetings of the Neighborhood Planning Subcommittee of the Planning Commission and the Transportation and Drainage Subcommittee of the Bond Advisory Committee to inform them of the upcoming analysis.

- Susan Pascoe will send a letter from ANC to Mayor Wynn and Council members stating ANC's support of the analysis.

- Tim Mahoney will gather contact information from Ricardo Soliz for all Neighborhood Plan Contact Team members. Tim, Lorraine and Jeff will coordinate to send letters to these individuals to inform them of the analyses.
- Jeff Jack will identify where the list of staff-proposed bond projects can be accessed.

B. Family Eldercare Donation

ANC has collected \$678 from neighborhood associations to donate to the Family Eldercare Fan Drive. A motion made by Linda Moore, seconded by Tim Mahoney, to contribute an additional \$122 from ANC funds, passed unanimously. This will bring the total contribution to \$800.

C. Meeting with Jennifer Kim

Despite repeated requests for an introductory meeting between ANC and newly elected Council Member Kim, Susan Pascoe has not received any response. Susan will continue efforts to get a response.

Jeff Jack will set up a meeting with Council Member Leffingwell.

8. New Business

A. Town Lake Park

Jeff Jack noted that 6 years ago, \$5M was budgeted for this park, and a reasonable, \$4.5M bid was received. At that time, City Mgr. Futrell overestimated additional O&M costs and as a result, it did not go forward although at the time, the City assured stakeholders that it would handle any increase in cost from delaying the project. Now, a bid of \$8M has been received, with \$500K covered by Public Works, leaving a deficit of \$2.5M. The City has asked stakeholders what should be removed from the park, and is not standing by its previous assurance.

B. CANPAC Concerns over Code Rewrite Company

Linda Guerro relayed experience that CANPAC had with Duncan Associates, which is the staff-recommended company for the code rewrite RFP. During the CANPAC planning process, J. Duncan represented a developer that was in conflict with the neighborhood, and he appeared to present misinformation and to be generally anti-neighborhood. Jeff Jack will discuss this concern with Council Member Leffingwell.

9. Announcements

A. Susan Pascoe stated that Lisa Siciliani, who volunteered to help with the integrity database development, has been working with Bill Stoughton, webmaster on a web submittal form. Lisa will maintain the entries submitted in a spreadsheet format for the excomm to review and analyze.

B. Jeff Jack explained that the Board of Adjustment recently approved the 4th variance for Lippincott's property on South Congress, allowing a height, which is limited to 40 feet by the compatibility standards, to increase to 57 feet. The Board's finding of fact as to hardship was that having to comply with the compatibility standards is a hardship, which is of serious concern.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Minutes taken by Laura Morrison