

Austin Neighborhoods Council – Executive Committee Meeting

March 9, 2005 – Austin Energy Building

Attendees:

Susan Pascoe, President
Laura Morrison, First Vice President
Jeff Jack, Second Vice President
Joyce Basciano, Third Vice President
Linda Guerrero, Treasurer
Doug DuBois, Secretary
Tim Mahoney, Communications Director
Lorraine Atherton, Sector 7 Rep
Mark Boyden, Sector 3 Rep
Linda Moore, Sector 2 Rep
Bob Swaffer, Sector 5 Rep
Mike Weier, Guest

1. Call to Order – 7:00 p.m.

2. Minutes from February meeting

Motion by Tim Mahoney to accept minutes; Second by Lorraine Atherton, all were in favor – motion PASSED.

3. Communications

A. Announcements

- i. TXDOT Trans-Texas Corridor hearings
- ii. April – new ways to access historic building and landscaping (4/20/05)
- iii. Austin Parks Foundation 3/20/05 – Movies in the park kick off.
- iv. WANG meeting – brochure regarding toll road map and CTRMA website.

4. Committees

A. Communications – Tim Mahoney

Texas Neighborhoods Together (TNT) Legislative Day Activities

- Building relationship with Texas Municipal League
- HB 1690 – Dallas opposed, TNT opposed, Amends Section 125.0015, Civil Practice and Remedies Code to change the degree of culpability from **knowingly** to **intentionally**, when applied to a person who maintains certain properties on which common nuisances occur.

Motion by Laura Morrison to oppose H 1690 as written and any further changes to the current law which would set the burden of proof any higher than it currently is. Second by Linda Guerrero – All in FAVOR.

B. Design Standards – Laura Morrison

Laura reported Councilman McCracken has presented proposed design standards to City Council with little discussion, but a revised version should be unveiled this week. Laura, Jeff Jack, and Kevin Lewis are on ANC Design

Standards sub-committee, possibly making contact with Austin Business Alliance.

Jeff added he had met with Councilman McCracken and he had responded to a request to look at historic data, regarding permitting of small lots and total number of permits issued.

A design charette is planned for 3/20/05. Jeff proposed looking at a 50 X 150 lot with revised impervious cover amount (greater) would now need 1/3 larger lot for same size building. Different for narrow lots which are deep.

Laura suggested ANC make clear what we can support on Design Standards and why. The group expressed a general feeling they will significantly increase cost for smaller business development. We need to wait for revised version, but fear Brewster does not have the votes.

5. Program Planning

A. March – Candidate’s Forum

The discussion jumped ahead to item 6.A 501 C(3) organizations and political activity: Neighborhood Associations should not qualify as 501 C(3) – should be 501 C (4). 501 C (3) may not attempt to influence political legislation. ANC is a Texas no-profit – not a 501 C(3), so we have no limitations on political activity, unless restricted by Articles of Incorporation.

- i. Forum Format – incorporate same format as for Mayor’s race.
 - Opening comments
 - Series of questions which would be prepared in advance, oriented to concerns of the organization. Ask hard questions and get them in writing, get written response before March meeting. Following questions, including questions from the audience, ask candidates to leave the room for ANC delegate discussion for recommendations.
- ii. Promotion status – no comments
- iii. Candidate Questionnaire – pose a situation or scenario, then ask a question to address the situation, typically yes or no questions. Topics to include:
 - Land Development Code Enforcement, covering accountability, accuracy, enforcement, tracking, staffing, frequency, & consistency.
 - Commercial Creep – how do you propose to maintain neighborhood integrity and support N.A. valid petition against re-zoning requests.
 - Budget Priorities – are you willing to set health & human services at same level as law enforcement.
 - Neighborhood Planning

- Will you vote against a zoning proposal which goes against an existing neighborhood plan or has not been approved by the N.P. amendment process?
- How can neighborhood planning process be more neighborhood centric?
- Are you willing to dedicate budget for competent staff to expedite the neighborhood planning process?
- Cost of Growth – Austin has gone from a very affordable town to one of the least affordable.
 - How do you get growth to pay for itself * not be subsidized by current taxpayers?
- Would you procted the Town Lake overlay to prevent massive buildup on Town Lake?
- ECT Bond package for 2006 with infrastructure epxansion for increased density; For or Against?
- How would you increase & distribute affordable housing without regressive funding mechanism?

B. April program Notes – Mike Aulik to discuss CAMPO plans

6. Old Business

- A. 501 C(3) organizations - Previously discussed
- B. Envision Central Texas – is in a new initiation phase with new Executive Director, new Chairman. The process is being driven by new urbanist. The new Board of 60 representatives is heavily stacked with business interests. Jeff Jack suggests ANC should pull out of ECT and write a letter in opposition to the process, to be sent to Mayor Wynn, ECT, City Council, County Commissioners, and the Austin Chronicle. Linda Guerrero seconded the motion. Passed with no opposition to the motion and with one abstention from Laura Morrison.
- C. Transit Oriented Development – No new developments

7. New Business

- A. CAMPO Draft Plan – comment period ends 3/18/05 and has been posted to ANC Talk. Jeff suggests sending a letter to CAMPO in support of re-designation of streets in the 2030 plan as recommended by the City of Austin.
- B. Big Box Conditional Use Permit – Resolution request from Susan Moffitt of Liveable City to be presented to ANC general meeting. There was a suggestion to craft own ANC resolution separate and apart from Liveable City's resolution. Motion by Lorraine Atherton and second by Jeff Jack – Passed with no opposition.

- C. Guidelines for bringing a resolution to ANC
 - i. Resolutions should first be presented to Executive Committee for review.
 - ii. Resolutions will be sponsored by an ANC member in good standing or by the ANC Executive Committee
 - iii. The draft resolution should have been endorsed by the neighborhood association, which is seeking support from ANC.

- D. Commuter Rail – mailer from Austin- San Antonio Municipal Rail Authority regarding planned hearings.

- E. Other Business
 - i. Laura Morrison brought up the berms vs. building height issue – city is re-writing Uniform Building Code regarding position from which to measure building height; not waiting on re-write of Land Development Code.
 - ii. Mark Boyden informed the group about HB 867, which is a proposal to restrict municipalities from providing wireless internet.
 - iii. Mark also reminded everyone of the Candidates Forum they were hosting at Windsor Park NA

8. Adjourned at 8:56 p.m.