

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association - Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 11th, 2007

Place: Asbury Methodist Church

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Steering Committee Present: Gordon Bennett, Amy Brotman (recording), Rick Cofer, David Greene (presiding), Girard Kinney, Rebecca Kohout, Wade McElroy, Jack Newman, Mark Schiff

Steering Committee Absent: Harold Cook, Summer McKee, 2 Vacancies

Other Attendees: Beverly Schiff, George Holcombe, Tom Wald

Motions

- Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting made by Wade McElroy. Mark seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- Girard moved that we write a letter in support of the McMansion ordinance. Amy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- Girard moved to appoint Tom to the steering committee on an interim basis. Rebecca seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda

1. Agenda Setting

- Potential new steering committee meeting, announcements, approval of minutes, committee reports, climate plan strategy, old business (Ms. Firey, Cherrywood Green fountain), new business (general meeting planning, Tom Wald)

2. Announcements

- Film Night: We had a successful turnout once again. Kilowatt Ours was shown at Film night. Thanks again to Jim Reid for organizing this event. The Corporation is a suggestion for the next meeting, but it's quite lengthy, so they'll be looking to get it under an hour.
- Asbury Sign Dedication: The sign dedication event was successful. Look for pictures and an article in The Flea.
- Communication Idea: Have signs printed up to remind neighborhood of different events like the general meeting, steering committee meeting, movie night, etc... Rebecca will get a bid to see how much it would be to do this.
- Patterson Park: Lots of things going on this weekend for It's My Park day. Clean Sweep has been rescheduled to April 21st.
- Resignation: Rick Cofer is resigning from the Steering Committee, because he is leaving the neighborhood. We thank him for his service.
- The Flea: The deadline for submitting articles is this Sunday.
- Cherrywood Climate Action Meeting: Exploratory/visioning meeting will be held Saturday, April 14th at 4Pm at Quack's.

3. Old Business

Miss Firey: Girard will look into this and see what needs to be done.

Water Fountain for Cherrywood Green: We need a volunteer with plumbing and/or site planning experience. We need a licensed plumber to oversee the work. Girard will look into it.

4. ANC Report

- David attended the second half of the meeting. Report is as follows. There is a citywide initiative to have backyards certified as wildlife habitats. This will enable the city to become certified. There was a brief presentation on the electric lawnmower program – there is an incentive to trade-in your old gas powered mower. There is also a green lawn mowing service. Exterior lighting restrictions were a topic as well. In Austin, we have lighting ordinances for commercial properties that pollute residential areas, but there is nothing for residences to residences. The city is looking into changing this. Girard is helping from our neighborhood. There are bills at the state level that are looking into dismantling the McMansion ordinance. ANC has requested its members put together letters in support of the McMansion ordinance. Language has been crafted.

5. Other Agenda Items

Tornado Bus Company: The neighborhood met with the owners and agents of Tornado Bus Company and Longhorn Glass Company. The committee came up with some very specific concerns, and the owners agreed to the conditions. Legally, the businesses can operate if they get a conditional use permit. One challenge is that truckers pull up onto the property while they go to the Crazy Lady. Longhorn Glass has agreed to put up chains that will prevent this from happening during non-bus hours. Longhorn does has a ticket counter and facilities for the people to use. Girard and others have observed that this is true. New information has come up since the meeting. Tornado Bus Company missed the deadline for refilling their original paperwork. So, they will have to start the entire process again. In the meantime, Tornado Bus Company will continue to operate while their application is in process. Everyone keep your eyes and ears open. If you observe something going wrong, then bring it to the police and the Steering Committee.

30th Street Cell Tower: There will be a cell tower that will be built at the corner of I35 and 30th. It has passed through at the city level. All major carriers and a new wireless carrier will be on the tower, and it will improve cell phone coverage in the area.

VMU: If you're interested, please get involved in the taskforce. It was a hot topic at the ANC East meeting. There is going to be an east Austin forum on the subject. There is a lot of misinformation about VMU. There are misunderstandings about our choices. Get involved in the process. By June 4th, we have to have made our recommendations to the UBCPT so that they can deliver our recommendation to the city. The thing UPCPT has to agree on is the level of affordability that the 10% be. This number will be Upper Boggy Creek wide. Girard will do an article for The Flea.

Willowbrook Reach: A grant has been submitted to Keep Austin Beautiful proposing big plans for the Reach. Erosion control, planting, inventorying wildlife and plants, and a foot bridge are proposed.

Tom Wald: Tom from the Duplex Nation and is very interested in transit, traffic, and no-car alternatives. He is applying to be a member of the steering committee.

Responsible Growth for Northcross: They would like to come and speak to us and possibly gain our support. We will invite both sides of the argument to present their opinions.

6. Adjournment (about 8:00pm) – Next steering committee meeting is at Asbury on 5/9. Next general meeting at Maplewood on 5/16.