
STEERING COMMITTEE: Nov 9, 2005, Taqueria Los Altos

- SC PRESENT (9, Quorum): Jennifer Elsner, David Greene, Rebecca Kohout, Jack Newman, Lex Dale Owens, Shani Snoddy, Heather Telo', Randall Terrell (presiding), Megan Woodburn

- SC NOT PRESENT: Chris Kadas, Kyle King, Maxwell McDaniel, Charlie Roadman

- OTHERS: Gordon Bennett, George Holcombe, Girard Kinney, Paula Ruiz

>> Next -- December 14 (Wed), 6:30p, Taqueria

****ACTIONS****

(1) Motion (failed 3-5) for CNA to publicize registered sexual offenders in our midst.

(2) Motion (passed unanimously) to elect four new officers for 2005-06: CHAIR, Jack Newman. VICE-CHAIR, Megan Woodburn. SECRETARY, Jennifer Elsner. TREASURER, Rebecca Kohout.

(3) Motion (passed unanimously) to support neighborhoods to our south who oppose Redeemer Presbyterian Church in America's petition for zoning variances.

1. REGISTERED SEXUAL OFENDERS (Rebecca)

Some neighbors have received an unsettling postcard. "DPS is sending you notice that this high risk offender [photo] has moved to the reported address reported below." Maybe it's a new law. We didn't used to get mailed notices. The now its info is on DPS's website:

< http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/___tmp/0~Registered_offender.pdf > It prompted Motion (1) above.

2. NEW OFFICERS

We are lucky again to attract both veterans and new blood. Randall and Alex served ably this past year as Chair and Treasurer. And CNA continues to enjoy the gift of leadership, now in the capable hands of Jack, Megan, Jennifer, and Rebecca. See Motion (2) above.

3. COMMUNICATIONS (Jennifer, David)

Jennifer Elsner volunteered to chair a revived Communications Committee. This will bolster our nerve centers -- Flea, NeighborNet, and Cherrywood.Org. The Flea always needs more volunteers, for both editorial chores and delivery (David Greene volunteered to take this task on). NeighborNet has grown to 550 members, and produces more traffic than in the past. The Web site is kept mostly up to date. Gordon (/g) is giving thought to handing over the reins to others, a piece at a time. So it might be good to move it off the UT server. Eli and Laura have responded already..

4. PLUG-IN AUSTIN (Randall)

The City is hoping to get more signatures on a petition asking auto manufacturers produce more gas-optional vehicles. The project "Plug-In Austin" is on the Austin Energy Web site: < <http://www.austinenergy.com/index.htm> >.

5. ASBURY SIGN (Girard)

Almost ready to go. There's still hope we might get the lighting donated, at least in part. We could also use the services of an electrician. Anyone know an electrician who could inspect the work, or who might be moved to contribute to a church and a neighborhood?

6. UTMB Academic Health Center AT MUELLER (Randall, Girard)

UT wants 25 acres of Mueller to build this campus next to the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. What we know sounds very good. But everyone who knows how aggressively UT tried to expand into residential Blackland a few years ago fears UT might get similarly imperialistic in Windsor Park someday. The way to keep abreast is to join the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition listserv < http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mueller_redevelopment/ >.

7. CAPITAL METRO "Future Connections" STUDY

This clumsy effort by CapMetro to forage for public input before deciding whether to put more rail on the Nov 2006 ballot is taking a downward turn. Internally they seem ready to eschew rail for better and faster busses -- "express," "fixed guideway," and "rapid." Their Board of Directors seems to anticipate less opposition from the highway lobby by going this route. These risk-averse Directors may kill Austin's chance in the future to have a really good regional system based on rail. We have relayed to them the results of our informal poll at Cherrywood.Org. Find their public comment form at < http://www.allsystemsgoconnections.org/get_involved/comment.asp >.

8. REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of America

CNA has taken no position on their petition for zoning changes (between Manor & MLK, along Alexander). The SC did decide to support neighboring NAs, all of which are opposed -- see Motion (3). There are hidden issues, and we haven't discussed them publicly in Cherrywood.

9. BOGGY CREEK BONDS (not discussed by the SC, but let me add this note... --g)

Our part of town has a direct interest in the City Bond Election next May. Depending on the tax rate City Council decides, somewhere between 35% and 75% of the \$770 worth of projects people have requested will be proposed for bond funding. One of these requests is for \$23 million to repair drainage and other problems along Boggy Creek. The Rosewood NA and the Austin Heights NA would like Cherrywood folks to join them in supporting this item. If you would like to help, contact Angela at < rosewoodteam@yahoo.com >.

For details on the issue, < <http://www.geocities.com/rosewoodteam/BCProject.htm> >.

The Bond Election Advisory Committee (BEAC) next meets at City Hall (301 W. 2nd Street, Room 1001) on Nov 14 (Mon) 6p, and Nov 29 (Tue) 6p.

10. CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR (not discussed by the SC, but the Cherrywood event of the year, < <http://www.cherrywoodartfair.org/> >)

All sorts of help would be welcome. It's a big and fun undertaking, and a fund-raiser for the School -- one of the City's recognized holiday season gift shopping venues -- Dec 10-11 (Sat & Sun) at Maplewood. Lots of interesting artists, local and from elsewhere, participate. Right now Priscilla needs someone who knows Photoshop "who would be willing to take the Cherrywood Art Fair graphic developed for this year's show (Dec 10th and 11th) and make necessary edits

and size as needed for various jobs? As in pronto?" Reply to <peboston@juno.com> .

NB: Cherrywood voter turnout was robust on Nov 8, 2005 -- 35% in 131 and 43% in 152, compared to 26% county-wide. High turnout amplifies our voice...