
CNA Steering Committee

September 14, 2005, Taqueria Los Altos

- SC ATTENDING: (8, quorum) Jennifer Elsner, Alexandria Garcia, Chris Kadas, Girard Kinney, Rebecca Kohout, Jack Newman, Randall Terrell (presiding), Dave Westenbarger

- SC NOT ATTENDING: (5) Scott Chasteen, Kyle King, Maxwell McDaniel, Lex Dale Owens, Charlie Roadman

- OTHERS: Gordon Bennett, David Green, George Holcombe (Asbury), Shani Snoddy, Heather Telo', Megan Woodburn

****ACTIONS****

(1) Motion (passed 8-0) to request membership endorsement-- at the Oct 19 CNA Member Meeting -- of contributing half of the cost or \$1000, whichever is less, of a yard sign announcing Asbury Methodist and CNA events.

(2) Motion (passed 8-0) to endorse candidates put forward by the Nominations Committee for election -- at the Oct 19 Member Meeting -- to the CNA Steering Committee.

(3) Letter to CapMetro. After surveying members' interest in the first commuter rail line being routed through Mueller and extended to Seaholm, request they proceed with engineering studies. Ways to survey include an on-line poll, NeighborNet discussion, and Member discussion Oct 19.

(4) Letter to the Traffic Division. Request they study lowering speed limits on our residential streets to 25 mph.

1. MUELLER (Girard)

a. The City will build several water towers around town. One will be next to the Austin Film Studios at Mueller. Because it will 175-200 feet tall, it will dominate the site visually. The engineers' first proposal was to go for simple functionality and least cost. It would have been ugly. A neighborhood effort, prominently by adjacent Windsor Park, has convinced the City to hire an architect, and to shift to a much better (and inevitably more expensive) design. This is wonderful. The last thing a signature Mueller redevelopment needs is an unsightly "aquabarn" overshadowing the central-east Austin skyline. Thank you Priscilla Boston for representing Cherrywood in this successful initiative.

b. The Mueller master developer, formerly Catellus now ProLogis (but the same local team), has launched a monthly e-newsletter, "LiveWire." Sign up at < <http://147.202.37.202/register.html> >. To keep abreast of our interests in the project, join the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition listserv at < http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mueller_redevelopment/ >.

2. CAPITAL METRO (Randall)

They are getting cold feet about making a rail connection to Mueller, and about extending the downtown end of their starter rail so it could seamlessly connect to an north-south line. Public meetings have ended. But they are still inviting written feedback at < http://www.allsystemsgoconnections.org/get_involved/comment.asp >. Our Steering

Committee would like to contribute a CNA response if sufficient consensus can be determined before the October 19 Member Meeting. Look for a e-survey soon. CapMetro's dazzling public education materials are at < http://allsystemsgo.capmetro.org/news_info_public_education.asp >. Their Board's risk-averse approach to planning, however, probably most of us would agree is discouraging.

3. TRAFFIC CALMING (Gordon)

a. The Traffic division has selected a bid to recommend for City Council approval at their September 29 meeting. If all goes well, construction will begin around Halloween. One unsuccessful bidder has protested, and further progress awaits a hearing. More will follow on NeighborNet as we learn the outcome.

b. A question was raised about available money for adding some sidewalks to Cherrywood. No one knew the answer. This will have to be more energetically pursued to see if there's any touchable pot of gold.

c. CNA will send a letter encouraging the Traffic Division to study changing some Cherrywood and Wilshire Wood speed limits from 35 mph to 25 mph. A new state law makes the reduction possible if conditions are met.

4. REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN (Randall)

This congregation has bought 11 acres of the old Featherlite Tract next to the RR tracks between Manor Road and MLK. The area is in the Rosewood planning area adjacent to Upper Boggy Creek < <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/rosewood.htm> >. Should we be involved?

Some of us had hoped for a mixed-use transit-oriented development surrounding the planned commuter rail station at MLK. And to this end, the City had been studying a TOD Overlay District for the whole district.

Redeemer "based on who we are as a church and what God has called us to be," is proposing a regional church with a 500-seat sanctuary and a school. They are seeking suitable zoning < http://www.redeemerpres.org/building_faq.html >. They have two advantages. State law exempts churches from some zoning and building rules (I'm not sure which ones). And they have been buying properties along Alexander Ave, so when neighbors within a 300' radius are polled Redeemer itself will be many of those votes.

5. ASBURY SIGN (Gordon)

Asbury Methodist is planning to refurbish its front yard sign to display announcements. They ask if we would like to make it a joint church/neighborhood project. We could include notices of CNA happenings. A budget workup suggests it might cost as much as \$4500, but donations and discounts are being solicited. Asbury already has \$1400 dedicated. If this project succeeds it will add a great asset. The shady corner where traffics stops at Cherrywood and 38½ is one of the most visible sites in the neighborhood. We could remind folks of meetings, plant swaps, potlucks, the Safety Fair, the Art Fair, etc. It would be a "community builder."

6. SAFETY FAIR (for Lex, who could not be present) -

== NOV 5 (Sat) 11-2 at Maplewood Elem ==

The idea to DEMONSTRATE for neighbors various types locks and alarms for home or car, window & door security devices, security systems, and personal defense techniques. Lex has already lined up participation from Home Depot, Cothran's, McBride's, the Health Dept, and the Fire Dept, EMS, the Women's Center, and the Dept of Homeland Security. There will be kids safety programs outside and in the gym. APD will bring McGruff the Crime Dog.

Lex would like to add food, either offered by PTA as a fundraiser or catered by a local eatery. Each UBC neighborhood is invited to join in, and to help out with publicity and on-site chores. Lex is preparing a very interesting event, a first-of-its-kind for us. He will need some help at each phase -- <lexdale@hotmail.com> , 477-6555.