

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association - Steering Committee Meeting

Nov 14

SC Present (6): David Greene (chair), Glenn Reed, Girard Kinney, Emma Pickering (recording), Michael Bray, Tom Wald (arrive 7:00).

SC not present (5): Summer McKee, Amy Brotman, Rebecca Kohout, Wade McElroy, Mark Schiff

Others attending: Julie Winckler, Beverly Schiff

Announcements:

Chula: Cherrywood Art fair 12/8/07: call for volunteers to distribute postcards. Also a call for volunteers to solicit sponsors. There will be musical entertainment, fun for the kids, and arts and craft.

Tomorrow night: film night and neighborhood potluck: Asbury Cinema Draft-House. The film will be Sicko.

11/17: 9-12, downtown: Waller creek visioning: this project has been going on for about 25 years. This is the visioning of Waller creek tunnel. When water comes down the creek it will fall into a tunnel and go down about 80 feet and be redirected to the river. This will make for a more scenic water front area. Good for urban planning. Less water flooding.

Cesar Chavez project to create a two way road downtown: that starts on Monday so be prepared for traffic.

Old Business:

1. Minutes: Approval of all minutes prior to September. Approval of September minutes. No October minutes.
 - a. Side-note: our bylaws do say that we can vote electronically. Send out comments, everyone reads them and then we all vote.
2. Mrs. Firey's award update: no updates. Summer isn't present. This award will not be presented at the art fair. Not sure if it will be in January or what...
3. Gordon Bennett memorial planning process: still need a team lead for this: Girard suggested we should send out a special call for this. Chula is holding onto about 1000.00 in donations... waiting to spend it on a memorial.
4. David/Michael: Homelessness forum: outcomes: the object was to identify housing as central to physical and mental health. Our stated goals were to understand the dynamics of homelessness in Austin. Many are women and children. Some discussion of legislation, ordinances, mental health, emergency room cases (only one ER in Austin meets this need). There is a lack of political will, and awareness. Perhaps the church would take up a housing project and have it centered around a day-care. We are trying to develop a neighborhood approach. APD: distinction between good homeless people vs bad homeless people.
 - a. There are people who want homelessness for others it isn't voluntary: there are very few people that actually want it in their heart. This is a very complicated issue.
 - b. Can we do more for affordable housing? Blackland non-profit as a model. Would it be appropriate to seek out rental members? We've tried to do this, we've talked to land lords, left information for them: wonder if it is because they don't feel rooted.
 - c. Tax reform: built in insentive tax break: discourages sales to keep people in the neighborhood.

- d. Misc: one of the speakers at the homelessness forum: we shouldn't have projects: community shouldn't usher its homeless into shacks. 25% of housing in Mueller is going to be affordable: however if you don't qualify for affordable housing, you won't be able to afford living there. How could we include housing in your neighborhood: garage appt? boarders? 55mil dollars for homelessness: how does it get spent? Every lot in our neighborhood is SF3 zone: duplex zone: that size is just about ideal for helping out the homeless. If the money were to supplement the building costs then this might encourage people to start this process.
- e. What would be the possibility for a neighborhood version of this? Can't think of a public piece of property that is available to us: we can't use eminent domain: they got the land when it was cheap. You solve so little of the problem if you buy a single family lot for 250,000 dollars.
- f. VMU: add to them so that they have a higher percentage of affordability. When the city builds projects, they should have multifamily projects.
- g. Proposal: city council election coming up: three new council members: CNA should have a candidate forum: we want candidates to debate each other about the issue of homelessness in Austin: they will all be interested in solving the problem: we'll feed them ideas and they'll go to the city staff.
- h. Crecent drive neighbors are working with LifeWorks to identify volunteer opportunities: they were prompting other blocks to rise to the occasion.
- 5. Committees: revisit the reorganization – chairs for safety, parks? Other committees needed?
 - a. Glenn has taken co-chairmanship for P&Z
 - b. There are other vacancies in other committees.
 - c. We need help with parks: bring Lee forward? Girard would be happy to report on these issues until a replacement shows up.
- 6. George/Girard: Asbury Capital Improvement
 - a. Architect is tardy
 - b. Open Door folks have engaged their own architect: Christy Seals: she's doing the house on French place. It's important that they have a separate architect than the church as they have separate interests. The ramps are coming along and making good progress.

Committees and Reps

- 1. Hyde park gym at GM
 - a. The owner contacted Summer and may want to present at the meeting: wants to hand out coupons: is there any precedent for this?
 - i. If it's a promotion, then no. The key is the agenda: if we have a policy that allows businesses to leave their advertisements on the table, there is no harm. But not a good idea to have them take up their time on the agenda. We are now at the CNA meeting proceeding the 1/4ly. This is the time to talk about it.
 - b. What is the process for applying to present at the CNA quarterly? There is no specific process.
 - i. Political comments: we could have a 10 minute open floor/soap box. However if more than one candidates show up we should divide the time fairly but otherwise, it's a great idea.

2. Randall: ANC (various): no one attended. ANC talk: some people came on to talk about Laura Morrison: she was running for place 4 on City Council: people that were supporting her were using ANC talk as a forum for showing their support.
 - a. Neighbornet: great place to debate: would like to suppress trying to use it as a forum for “stumping” for candidates. Announcements are fine, but support doesn’t seem like a good idea.
3. P&Z: long meeting: did a recap with VMU for those who weren’t familiar with it. Since our neighborhood requested MF zoning, the suggested zoning from the city is GO/MU: problem: MU would allow you to have a business and only a business: people could tear down their house and create a single person office building. We should not have this, the only potential commercial property should come through VMU: the city should preserve this intention. We want a zoning change to get rid of this loop-hole. Motion to support this statement as a SC.
 - a. Talked about transporter destination.
 - b. 37/17 Robinson: we voted 8 to 1 to instigate a comprehensive plan for 38.5 st. Until we have a plan for a commercial area, we oppose it. The applicant may elect to wait. If what they are doing is consistent to what we want in the neighborhood needs, we’ll reconsider later
 - i. there should be a comprehensive plan from 1-35 to Railroad track and create a 30 year vision: do we want to widen, have transportation, etc
 - ii. 3717 Robinson: on this particular property we opposed the re-zoning from residential to commercial.
 - iii. Motion to agree to with the P&Z Commission. Passes unanimously.
 - c. Talked about zoning change at 30th and i-35 for cell tower. The property owner is leasing the place for a cell-tower that is 100feet tall (we supported it). If the cell tower is over a certain height, within 200 feet there cannot be more than 2 residential properties. The owners want to make a zoning change: it opens the door to all kinds of other changes: we decided not to take action on this request: we asked for info on health effects of the cell tower, we want feed back from the occupants remaining in the 200feet zone, we want to see if the owners would support us in a parking permit program on 38th and Robinson. We want to solve a problem that exists in return for the potential impacts: we need to talk about commercial encroachment, which might be brought on by new zoning. There was a garage appt that was removed so there are only three pieces of property, they would need to move one of them out. The owner hasn’t said they aren’t doing it to redevelop the property. They need to agree that they will commit to a negative stance on development.
 - i. We thought that this tower will be temporary: the owner made clear they never thought it would be temporary. St Davids is not willing to repost.
4. Transportation: Trying to understand the airport issues: crossings. Mueller transportation committee on Nov 28th. If there is something that comes up, please take the opportunity to bring it up.
5. SC nominations: five people up for re-election and seven spaces (Amy is not running again, and Emma just announced she also is not running again). Two vacancies on even-year cohort of six. Mark Schiff is stepping down, leaving three vacancies in that cohort, five vacancies total once new slate is approved.

Agenda for quarterly

1. Cap metro is offering speakers on the rail line. See if we can get them to come talk to us on
2. Planning and zoning.
3. Tom – transportation
- 4.

Girard: airport report didn't make it into the Flea, he will distribute via Neighbornet.

Next meeting on December 12