
STEERING COMMITTEE: Feb 8, 2006, Taqueria Los Altos

- SC PRESENT (5, No quorum): Jennifer Elsner, David Greene, Rebecca Kohout, Jack Newman (presiding), Lex Dale Owens, Heather Telo'

- SC NOT PRESENT: Chris Kadas, Kyle King, Maxwell McDaniel, Charlie Roadman, Shani Snoddy , Randall Terrell, Megan Woodburn

- OTHERS: Gordon Bennett, George Holcombe, Girard Kinney, Pauline Porter, Mark Yznaga (HousingWorks)

(Jennifer Elsner recording)

>> Next -- Mar 8 (Wed), 6:30p, Los Altos

1) Mark Yznaga, a representative of the organization Housing Works (HW), came to inform us about their affordable housing initiative. HW anticipates a bond election in May, and wants to include their "sustainable" bond proposal. 40 neighborhoods in our community (including Cherrywood) were represented at last month's Austin Neighborhood Committee (ANC) meeting to discuss the need for Housing Bonds.

HW is looking to Cherrywood for continued support. CNASC agreed to support HW by educating the neighborhood about this issue, and HW's initiative, via including a link to their URL on cherrywood.org. HW hopes that when the time comes for the general public to support/vote on the proposal, CNA will come out in great numbers. HW will also give CNASC printed ephemera to distribute at the February's quarterly General Meeting. For links see < <http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/n-data.htm> >.

2) Pauline Porter, came to the CNASC meeting very curious and wanting to discuss how to create an outreach initiative to elicit more involvement from the neighborhood in CNA & CNASC. Pauline offered to take on this project by looking into ways of better understanding CNA and possible resistance of neighbors getting involved, but believes that CNA needs to clearly state its "purpose" to the neighborhood. Girard & Pauline agree to discuss this topic, take the "temperature of the neighborhood" and report back to us for future discussion/action.

Pauline also offered a vague report about the purchase of 4 square blocks behind East Side Cafe and a condo development going in? Girard will make some phone calls and report back.

3) Cherrywood Fountain Grant: Where are we on this? Girard reports that this project is moving along, only thing left is the building of the actual fountain. All the infrastructure is ready but awaiting the design of the actual fountain from the community artists.

54ompetitive bid. Good news is we will have the lights "tomorrow" and soon thereafter Girard & George, et al. will test the lighting options on site.

5) Rebecca & David met last month to look at the expenditures on CNASC last year and the proposed budget for 2006. We have approximately \$7,000 in the bank as of February 1, 2006. Expected income in 2006 is \$4,620, estimated expenditures is \$5,489. We are barely in the black and potentially overspending. We need to do something about this beyond posting this on cherrywood.org. Do we raise the rates of the Flea? Create other means of revenue such as CNA dues?

Discussion moved to the Cherrywood Art Fair (CAF). Originally it was created to support CNA, but as it stands CAF is fully supporting Maplewood Elementary. Wondering about CAF as an avenue of revenue for CNA.

George offered the idea of a focused fundraiser. Pointed to how musically talented our neighbors are and we should tap into that. Maybe connect it to SxSW?

Girard spoke to the potential lack of structure in the CNA and focusing more on supporting committees since they are so successful (e.g.: FoPP, Cherrywood Green, Traffic calming).

We all agreed that something needs to be done to create more involvement.

6) History Project: This past month Heather drove around all the neighborhood with Cherrywood neighbor Emily Bankston and George Smith of the Texas Historical Commission. Mr Smith speculated that Wilshire Woods, Giles Place & Duplex Nation were the most viable areas in Cherrywood for gaining National Historical District Status. French Place would be a harder "sell". George was excited about the potential of establishing the first mid-century historical district.

We should consider that this would cost almost \$5000 to pursue.

Debated was the idea that the only thing that determines if a neighborhood is "historical" was architectural cohesiveness.

7) Wireless Neighborhood Update: Open Door & Asbury Methodist are now Wireless Hot Spots. It is thought it will take months, if not years, before we can take this to the entire neighborhood.

8) UBC Report: Lex to report at General Meeting.

9) George offered what is up at Asbury Methodist: Creating a Muslim, Jewish, Christian dialogue in the neighborhood. A celebration is planned for AmeriCore, who came to Cherrywood to paint the "white house". Also Lenten/Bible Study service will be offered the 1st Tuesday of March.

MEMBERSHIP: Feb 15, 2006, Maplewood Elementary

22-24 members attending (Quorum=21)

Jack Newman, CNA Chair presiding

>> Next -- May 17 (Wed), 6:30p, Maplewood

(Gordon Bennett reporting, substituting for Secretary Jennifer Elsner)

Chairman Jack in characteristic high spirits kept the agenda moving at a heart-pumping pace. Several new members came for the first time, which is always good to see. Some candidates for City Council or a gueship introduced themselves and offered literature.

****ACTIONS****

(1) Motion (passed unanimously) to appropriate \$1000 previously earmarked for the Asbury/Cherrywood joint sign that will announce Church and CNA events (see Item 6b).

1. TREASURY (Rebecca Kohout arrived shortly)

The Steering Committee is discussing several inter-related issues -- among them budgeting, fundraising, and applying for non-profit (501c3) status. The biggest possible item presently on the radar screen is applying for historical status (see Item 4).

2. SECURITY (APD Lieutenant Robert Jones, Sergeant Bob Jones, Senior Officer -- and District Representative -- Sheldon Salisbury)

- a. A new problem is illegal dumping behind the old Value Sky Park.
- b. Last fall's peeping tom in the duplex area has not been apprehended.
- c. "Salway" (?) might help with 38½ St and other trash pick-ups.
- d. APD is ticketing speeders on 38½ St.
- e. Look for "Operation Clean Streets" targeting graffiti in early April.
- f. Neighbors' phone calls to 311/911 are counted. APD targets high call areas.
- g. APD is opposing TABC granting a liquor license to Aristocrat Bar near Kealing. Call 206-3360 for info on the hearing. 12th and Chicon is a notorious drug market.
- h. VIN etching will occur again Feb 24 (Fri) at Disch Falk Stadium, 10a-1p.
- i. Maplewood's annual Spring Fling will feature APD cooperation QQ a "burning house" demo by AFD, recording kids' fingerprints and photos for ID purposes, and a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog.

3. SPRING FLING at Maplewood Elementary (Saturday, April 8, 10a-1p)

All welcome to join in the fun. (See Item 2g)

4. NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORICAL DESIGNATION (Heather Telo')

Lisa Tipps (lisa@lisatipps.com) and several others are exploring what would be involved in having some parts of 78722 registered as national "historical sites." One benefit would be to slow unfavorable development. Needed would be a professional survey, help from UT students, many volunteer hours, and fundraisers. But interest is lively.

5. FOOD BANK (Melvin Walenta)

Asbury Methodist's monthly "Second Sunday" non-perishable food, baby food, and diaper donations to the Capital Area Food Bank have doubled since Cherrywood neighbors have joined the effort. Melvin gathered pledges for the annual Crop Walk, in which he himself will participate .<<http://www.main.org/cropwalk/intro.htm>>.

6. BUILDING COMMUNITY, Asbury Methodist and Cherrywood (Gordon Bennett). This evolving collaboration is growing more interesting by the month. Asbury's pastor, Rev. George Holcombe, is vigorously in support. Asbury aspires to be a genuine community church. Our "Building Community: initiative has several strands:

a. POTLUCK SUPPER. Feb 22 (Wed) 6p at Asbury Methodist. Come. Bring a dish or dessert. Bring the kids. Socialize. Have fun.

b. MARQUEE SIGN. Long planned, it's about ready to happen! A work party will be called. When up, it will announce (or more accurately remind everyone of) both Church and CNA events. This will be a big addition.

c. COMMUNITY WIRELESS. Still in the planning stage, but edging forward. The objective is to make it possible for the whole neighborhood to be on-line at minimal cost.

d. "SECOND SUNDAY" food donations (See Item 5)

George himself is an impressively committed and scholarly partner (watch a 30-second clip of a sermon < http://www.gbmg-umc.org/asburyumc_austin/George.mov >). He is offering a Bible Study course reflecting recent historical finds. Contact him at <geowanda@earthlink.net>.

7. 38½ STREET CLEANUP (Pauline Porter)

Billy Hamborsky has been hired to police the area part-time as funds permit. Neighbors, CNA, and merchants east of IH35 are appreciative and contribute. If you would like to help, contact <pbporter@sbcglobal.net>. This is a work in progress, but already much progress is visible.

8. TRAFFIC CALMING (addressing a question from the floor)

The City will review the effects of the sign reversals, cushions, medians (islands), sidewalks, speed limit changes, and enforcement measures. They will consider necessary modifications.

9. WATER TOWER (Priscilla Boston)

A Citizens' Advisory Committee has recommended a very interesting design for the 200-ft-high reclaimed water tower to be built at Mueller
< http://www.windsorpark.info/uploads/newbb/3_43e1b1c163b2c.gif >. No City decision yet.

Adjourn...