
STEERING COMMITTEE: May 10, 2006

= SC PRESENT: Jennifer Elsner, David Greene, Rebecca Kohout, Jack Newman (chairing), Lex Dale Owens, Pauline Porter, Shani Snoddy, Heather Telo', Randall Terrell

= SC NOT PRESENT: Chris Kadas, Kyle King, Maxwell McDaniel, Megan Woodburn

= OTHERS: Gordon Bennett

(Jennifer Elsner recording)

>> Next -- Jun 14 (Wed) 6:30p, Los Altos

*** ACTIONS ***

- (1) Recognize our local Police officers (Item 2d below)
- (2) Replace Lex with Gordon on the SC (2e)
- (3) Inform the Team of our 3 priority unfinished UBC Plan "Action Items" (2g)

1. BUDGET (Rebecca)

\$7,515 in bank as of today. Collections from Flea advertisers have not been included in this amount, but production costs are. Keep in mind that \$1000 to Asbury Methodist (for new sign) is pending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Jack)

a. Pastor George Holcombe (Asbury Methodist) has had a car accident, his car is totaled, and he is home... not in ship-shape. This is a good time to send well wishes if you are so inclined.

b. Asbury Methodist sign is supposed to arrive any day now, news about its installation to come soon thereafter.

c. Major burglarly on Bradwood on Tuesday, 9 May. Perpertrator entered via doggie dog (second time this unique mode of entry has been reported in our neighborhood). Resident was home at time of burglarly and a confrontation ensued. Owner is okay, BUT upon confronting the owner, perp saw home owner's car keys and fled the scene with his car. APD has not caught the perp yet, but car was found abandoned on Manor and 51st. A meeting was held on 5/10 at a neighborhood church with Officer Sheldon Salisbury and concerned neighbors to discuss.

d. Police Dept Award for East Central Austin. It has been suggested that Officer Sheldon Salisbury has "done good" by us and maybe we should nominate him for this honor. Motion was unanimously passed. Jack Newman will send a letter to APD expressing our praise. Lex adds that at anytime you have a positive interaction with a person of law, you can recommend that officer be nominated for this recognition.

e. Gordon Bennett has offered to make his participation and presence "official" by serving again as a member of the Steering Committee. Motion was unanimously approved. YEA! (Lex has moved out of the neighborhood, thus creating a vacancy.)

f. Storm damage. Beyond the homes, the creeks pose a problem. Any clean-up efforts done on the creeks thus far... have been undone. We need some action on creek clean-up as it will effect the creek's ability to drain, etc.. Actions to be discussed later tonight*.

g. UBC meets next Tuesday (5/16) at Asbury Methodist. Crosswalk at Robinson & 38½, Patterson Park & Mueller and sidewalks on 38½ are to be added to our UBC proposal. The flashing crosswalk at Maplewood & 38½ should already be part of the UBC plan.

h. Cherrywood Area Appreciation Award for the "Garden Lady" in Wilshire Neighborhood. 2 Oak trees were downed on her property during the storms and it was suggested we use some of the wood from these downed trees to make the actual award. Shani & Jennifer will work together with Marilyn Fenn who also has expressed interest in helping create the award. HIGH FIVE! Leslie Lawson may also be a good contact person to help arrange this.

3. NEIGHBORS OF 38½ (Pauline)

Pauline reports that between the Chevron & Bus Stop landscaping will be done in order to reclaim that area and make the gateway into our neighborhood more (upper case) Welcoming, while being less (lowercase) welcoming. It wasn't easy, but, finding stones that are visually appealing yet not comfortable to sit on have been found. These stones and yucca plants should be installed on 5/20. A notice will go out to ask for volunteers. Cap Metro is possibly getting on board with this initiative and attempts to get the person in charge of Art in Public Places are in the works. It's suggested that maybe Austin Energy gets involved? The thinking here is, showing our initiative will encourage the city to get more involved. Having the first Public Art Bus Stop is an exciting prospect and involvement will be needed to make this dream a reality. Calling all dreamers! Pauline also gets a feel for if CNA will give money for landscaping. She has raised \$585 on her own and is asking for approximately \$200 more. Pauline will get an actual number to the SC via email by week's end to vote on.

*Pauline also reported that she discovered that the creeks stay filthy due to storm drains. Every time it rains the creeks gets worse. What is the solution? Pauline suggests CDS Technologies give a presentation on their filtering resolution. But we also need someone in the CNA (not necessarily from the SC) to represent Cherrywood in "pollution retention from storm drains" via capital improvement bonds. \$23,000,000 designated for Boggy Creek. Can we get us some of that?

4. AGGRESSIVE PETS (Jack). Suggested order of action:

- a. Talk to your neighbor about problem. If that doesn't work...
- b. Official Cherrywood letter is available on line for you to send to offending "neighbor". If that doesn't work...
- c. Go through City Enforcement avenues
- d. Keep a detailed record of pet "misbehavior". Should we make a form available on line for neighbors to use? To be discussed.

5. NOMINATING/RECRUITMENT of SC (open discussion)

Challenges include, we are asking folks to join a group that is loosely defined. We are recruiting upside down. We need a better plan for recruiting and retainment. SO! Jack has an idea... what if the SC be made up largely of chairs of individual committees as well as at large members would be included too. We need to try to include our neighbors via of their personal interests.

Pauline adds: some people are against neighborhood associations for whatever reasons. Also comments CNA/CNASC needs a clarity of purpose and be a place of support.

David agrees: recruiting via interest and topic is a good idea. But maybe not limit it to chair of committee, each committee should have representation on SC.

Jack: What if, we meet for 1 hour monthly and each committee doesn't spend the hour giving a lengthy reports on every exchange that has occurred that past month, but use that time to appeal for funds or resources, etc..What constitutes a committee?

Jack: A group of people come to SC and ask for committee status and with that there is representation.

Randall/David: Maybe the group don't even have to appeal to the SC for committee status, its more grass roots than that.

Randall: Is there a minimum number required to make a committee official? Veto power of "at large" members?Heather: Doesn't think neighborhood at large knows we have funds to offer. And believes we need to get the word out about SC purpose and function.

Pauline: clarifies that the SC needs to draft a purpose.Two issues are apparent to Gordon: 1) recruitment by interest and 2) structuring by interest. Recruitment by interest is able to be accomplished w/o modifying the bylaws. Re-structuring is more complicated and long-term.

Shani adds: that we appeal to the greater Cherrywood neighborhood for \$2 per month (\$24 annually) that will help keep our budget healthy and ability to be an effective committee. This money could go towards the extra funds needed to keep lifeguards at Patterson Park through Labor Day, Landscaping of common areas, Clean-up of creeks, etc..

Randall: We need to make a decision if the SC is going to ask the neighborhood for money, rather than ask if its a good idea.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00pm.

MEMBERSHIP: May 17, 2006
Jack Newman (chairing)
Some 15 attending (No quorum)
(Jennifer Elsner recording)
>> Next -- Aug 17 (Wed) 6:30p, Maplewood

*** ACTIONS ***

(None)

1. BUDGET:

Rebecca Kohout not in attendance. Jennifer Elsner read budget notes from last weeks SC Meeting. Long story short, we have approximately \$6k in the bank after all recent expenditures are considered. But this number is deceiving as we will use this money over the coming year for the Flea and other earmarked annual costs. There is talk about ways in which to keep our bank account healthy for etcetera neighborhood items such as Asbury Sign, SxSE Austin Party even lifeguards for the pool...

2. SECURITY UPDATE:

Ofc. William Beck, APD district representative for Booker area, in attendance in lieu of Sheldon Salisbury, who's on vacation. Reporting about local crime issues including recent "doggie door" break in. There are some suspects they are "looking" at, but thing definitive yet.

Q: Blackland has reported gang activity recently, any news on that?

WB: There are some gang taggings on Manor closer to Airport, so there IS some gang presence in Cherrywood. Burgularies primarily, no personal injurioes/assaults as of yet.

Q: Are you familir on the situation on 12th & Chicon regarding the bar, status? credibility of bar owner? can you fill in the blanks?

WB: its been 1.5 years since a bar was on this area. This intersection has been trying for 30 years to clean up (by APD). Over the years it has gotten better. Crime rate has gone down, but more needs, and is, to happen.

JN: CNASC was in contact with the neighborhood representation there and the impression is that they were in support of the bar. Their logic is if they dont have place to drink, they'll drink in the street. Also, if you drink in a bar you will drink less. Also this being a private establishment, the owner can set their own rules of conduct. They have a vested interest in enforcing them too. The owner of the bar has shown to be professional and on the up-and-up.

Q: News on the Princeton Apartments, specifically teenagers and crime in this area?

WB: Not aware of anythign but will alert sheldon & APD detectives to this and report back.

JN: We need to work with dellwood & on this.

Q: Word on MS 13 (Central American Prison Gang)?

WB: There have been some MS 13 markings in Austin. MS 13 is ranked as one of the deadliest gangs (they are known to be in the US, Europe and Central America), comprised of ex-cons from Honduras and El Salvador. 2 tags have been discovered in East Austin, east of Airport on Manor. "MS13", "MS" or "MSXIII".

Q: Could it be copy cats?

WB: Could be, but APD is still taking this seriously. I seriously dont think they have a foot hold in Austin, no need to be scared.

Q: Light on Concordia & Edgewood is out.

A: Call 311

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. George Holcomb, pastor of Asbury Methodist, also in attendance, this is noteworthy in light of his recent car accident (totaled) and personal injuries. He is feeling better.

b. "All Systems Go", new plan for street cars/trollies meeting this week. Route is down Manor to UT and then to downtown. No news on stops yet. More on this during Girard's presentation later.

c. Shani Snoodly doesnt have too many details about this but someone set someone's car on fire, yesterday evening, on 34th east of Cherrywood.

d. 590 folks on NeighborNet! NN is good resource for crime reduction/retention as well as getting information spread. Gordon Bennett (web master) shows some recent highlights from cherrywood.org and how to subscribe to NN.

4. McMANSION/REDEEMER/CAP METRO/MEULLER/TRAFFIC:

GK: Cap Metro/All Systems Go. you can go on line to see the proposed trolley route from 51st & Airport, down 51st to Meuller, turn west on manor, veer off to Dean Keeton under the highway left on San Jacinto down to Congress ave and ending at Seaholm.

Q: Will the trolley will be run on existing streets?

A: yes, save for the new roads in Mueller. It will share lanes with automobiles, they do not require their own lane. They are articulated cars (2), can carry 100 people and use overhead power. 2009 is their projected date to "go live" with this.

GK: McMansion ordinance reflects limiting the scale of houses that can be built on single family lots. It wants to limit the size via sq footage (largest can be 2000 sq ft or .4 FAR or increase of 20%). This info and more was included in the McMansion article in the Statesman yesterday. Our neighborhood supports this ordinance and we are requesting input in developing the ordinance's language.

GK: Redeemer Church build out is on hold because of Cap Metro transit oriented issues (commuter rail & train stations bookend their property). Redeemer's property is more valuable because of this, boding well for their pocketbook but not their build out.

GK: Mueller. Dell has allotted \$50 million for health sciences in Austin (\$38 million to Mueller). So its a go that UT will have a research facility at Mueller. Our neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods have been skeptical of their presence at Mueller based on past experiences, BUT, in GK's opinion they seem to be working well with the surrounding communities and responsive to the neighborhoods inquiries/requests.

GK: Traffic calming tests after the humps.. they have decreased speed by 21%. The highest recorded. 16% was predicted. So this is a HUGE success.

5. GRAFFITI/TRASH:

PP: The TLC on 38.5 is transforming the street from being described as one of the ugliest in Austin to something less harsh. 1x a week cleaning by PP and a neighbor has been successful. So much so as there have been some weeks that they were able to not do it! They are planning landscaping on 38.5 between Robinson & the Chevron station later this month. This pocket, beyond being a bus stop, is the only shaded area in that vicinity, and thus a magnet for transients. Memorial Day Weekend is the proposed installation, a call for volunteers. Meet at Robinson Ave/38.5 bus stop 9:30 am. Chris Martin has volunteered his talents and services and is getting plantings at wholesale. CHULA, run by Pricilla Boston (neighbor), has donated \$250 to the cause. CNA donated \$200. KAB sponsored in part the mosaics on traffic islands. Generally the plan is to raise the "vibration" of 38.5 and make it more beautiful to influence a move away from trashing it. Fiesta has not been helpful in this plan, Monarch & Royal Touch have been excellent neighborhoods on this front... Quack's, so-so.

PP: The creek at 38.5 & Lafayette is trashed with bags from HEB & Fiesta. We need money, via bond election, for filtration of the creek. The SC has written/sent a letter to the city/bond election task force encouraging them to attach some \$ for this.

6. CNA POLICY/SC CONSIDERING/SC RECRUITMENT:

JN: Why be cynical? Cherrywood residents and CNA pulls a lot of money for our east side nabe, due to our passion and insistence. AND We are getting results, so our involvement works! Get involved and/or feel proud.

JN: Lets start thinking about how we recruit SC members! What interests you, what is the topic that puts your pants on fire? Sure you care about traffic calming but is it the trash that will motivate you step up and do something about it? What are the categories that matter to the neighborhood?

- Neighborhood Aesthetics
- Security
- Walkable Streets
- Environmental Health
- Community Building
- Diversity & Population
- Homeless/Transients
- Volunteerism
- Sustainable Transportation

[The above categories were placed on separate pieces of papers/tables and the group was asked to go to the table that represented a topic that was of most interest. We just formed committees of common interests! This exercise effectively illustrated that we make choices about what is of interest to us. This is also gave us a tangible template as to how we should consider recruiting for the SC going forth.]

JN: How do you feel about form a common interest groups? You form a committee with a "chair" and that chair is the liaison for the committee and a member of the SC. This is a start of reinventing the SC and how we can get more of the community involved. This plan maybe a more natural entree into Cherrywood involvement.

Meeting Adjourned sometime around 8:15.