
STEERING COMMITTEE. Nov 8, 2006. Quacks

- SC PRESENT (8 -- Quorum): Gordon Bennett, Amy (&Ella) Brotman, Jennifer Elsner, David Greene, Girard Kinney, Jack Newman (presiding), Pauline Porter, Mark Schiff,
 - SC NOT PRESENT: Rick Cofer, Harold Cook Rebecca Kohout (2 vacancies)
 - OTHERS: Patti Harrison & David Levy, George Holcombe, Brian Keenan, Mitzie & James Kocurek, Vanessa McMahon, Jane O'Brien, Pauline Porter, Trudie Redding, Ofc. Sheldon Salisbury, Beverly Schiff, Hannah Vaughn
(Jennifer Elsner recording)
- Next -- Dec 13 (Wed) 6:30p (venue to be decided)

- MOTION (approved unanimously): CNA should take necessary steps to extend the Open Container Law up IH35 from 7th Street to 51st Street.
- MOTION (approved unanimously): Cherrywood should write a letter to TxDOT describing the negative impact of their eminent domain on our stretch of IH35.

6:30 Call to Order. Introductions

1. MINUTES

< <http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/n-min2006.htm> > No corrections. Approved.

2. BUDGET

No report.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Chris Wilson, attorney/neighbor, proposing to sue neighborhood businesses that DO NOT clean up on security/crime issues. CNASC suggests he go at this as an individual as CNA does not have non-profit status, and it would not be wise to be a part of lawsuits. Individuals are welcome to contact Chris to join his crusade. Chris Wilson, also unearthed a 2.5 y/o article about empty bus stations in austin (Statesman, March 24, 2004). so this problem dates back at least that far. He has a "book" of stats and has been asked to create a summary. Chris agreed.

b. Steven Stepka, Manager of Quack's is introduced. He has cleaned up the place inside (decor/menu) and out (transients). He is building bridges with neighbors such as Maplewood. He is working on extending hours into the evening. Su-Th to 10 F & Sa to midnight. Live music (soft) and beer licensee pending. BYOB for now.

c. Pastor George Holcombe announces Asbury United Methodist's "Creating A Culture of Peace" workshop first week in December. Learn about how to apply this across nations and your dining table < http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/__cwd/21~CCP06.pdf >. Dedication of multilingual Peace Pole at Asbury that week as well. All invited.

4. SECURITY (Ofc. Salisbury)

Officer Salisbury reports about 3404 Robinson Ave property. Reports that the landlord was contacted months ago. Since no response happened APD should have arranged to board up the property. It wasn't, and thus the recent incident. Now they landlord has 30 days to respond or boarding will happen.

Also introduces the C.O.P.S. program. Sort of a an eyes and ears, auxiliary police force of neighbors who report activities in the neighborhood.

Communicates that drunks are not the favorite calls to respond to due to the "messy" nature of it. But if someone is running down the street fleeing, they are all over that.

Why aren't drunks picked up? The time and paperwork involved, plus it has to be defended in court why the drunk is a danger to others by being drunk... But this isnt a dismissive comment. APD is aware of the escalating concern in the neighborhood and meetings are being held to see what can be done. Cap Metro officers are on duty to respond to security issues at bus stops, but again its tricky. Are they waiting for the bus? Or are they doing "something"?

Officer Salisbury confirms the Open Container Law extending north of 7th Street, to our area, would be helpful. TABC legislates and writes the ordinance and the City determines the district where the ordinance is applied and also is responsible for enforcement. Girard adds that getting enough businesses along the east side IH-35 should not be a problem with all the development going on.

We probably can only get the ordinance to cover the IH-35 corridor. The ordinance can only be applied in an area that is 80% commercial. The ordinance only applies to public property. Also what is public property versus private?

The folks who are drinking know the difference and place themselves strategically to avoid getting tickets.

Burglary report on Crestwood property. Warrants out for arrests on juveniles involved. And is increase in robberies in Cherrywood related to gang activity? Sure! But hard core gang activity not here in Austin. Drug market is highest at 12 & Chicon (a lot of attention is on this location), but Fiesta is not on the list as a high drug arrest locale. Monthly meeting reporting on crime: Monday 12/4, at 812 Springdale (Substation), 6:30pm.

Question: Is the police force under staffed? If no one is sick, on vacation, they are at full staff: 1431 cops, but its top heavy. Lots of chiefs not enough indians.

Prostitution at the Chevron? First hand solicitation has been reported and witnessed. Maybe this is a budding problem?

What can we do as a community? Officer Salisbury recommends small groups of 6-8 houses of neighborhood watches. James Kocurek volunteers to be the point person for this.

Pauline makes motion. CNA will take whatever steps necessary to extend Open Container Law up from 7th Street / I-35 to 51st. Vote is unanimous.

5. IH35 EAST FRONTAGE ROAD (Pauline)

Because of eminent domain by TxDOT on the I-35 stretch between Dean Keaton & 38½ properties are not being developed. This has created a hardship on this neighborhood. TxDOT needs to know that holding onto this is causing problems. Girard expresses that we need an official Security Committee. No one at the meeting now is ready to be the lead on this, its put out there to motivate someone to lead this. A suggestion is made to create a job description and post it on Nnet. Pauline suggests that the 3 people on the SC take on this role. Girard says one person on the SC needs to be the liaison to this committee, and charges Jack to assign someone to this task.

Brian Keenan steps up and offers himself to be the liaison if in fact he is elected next week to be a member of the SC next week. Applause. Brian and James Kocurek connect, a committee is born.

Pauline makes a motion that Cherrywood write a letter to TxDOT describing the ill effects/negative impact of their eminent domain on our stretch I-35. Vote is unanimous. Jack agrees to write the letter to TxDOT. (He will need some help. A professional document with pictures could be advantageous.)

6. HISTORICAL STATUS (Hannah, from the State Historic Preservation Office)

Duplex Nation (Maplewood Duplexes) & Wilshire Woods are up for nomination to be listed with the Nation Park for Historical Status in December. In order for this to proceed, there is a meeting next week (Nov 15, 6:30p, Genesis Presbyterian). Hannah will come after the (concurrent) CNA Member meeting to report to us as well as notify OWNERS of the areas about National Registry. Attendance of this meeting would be most beneficial to those who OWN in Duplex Nation or Wilshire Woods. Hannah communicates regret at not properly coordinating the two neighborhood associations to be able to attend at the same time, which was a mistake.

One thing about this nomination that is unique is that it was suggested by students at UT versus Neighborhood Associations. This is one of the first encounters of its kind.

... Motion to extend the meeting 10 minutes. Moved. Secretary leaves at 8pm, no further documentation.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP. Nov 15, 2006. Maplewood Elementary.
±30 attending (Quorum=20)
Jack Newman (Chair) presiding.
Jennifer Elsner (Sec'y) recording.

• MOTION(s) (approved unanimously) Elect Gordon Bennett, Harold Cook, Wade McElroy, Brian Keenan, Summer McKee, and Mark Schiff to the CNA Steering Committee for a 2-year term. They will be the "Class of '08."

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. SECURITY (Ofc. Roger Jones)

a. Officer Sheldon Salisbury is not available to meet tonight, Officer Roger Jones is here representing APD. No immediate questions for Officer Jones from last week's SC meeting. Chris Wilson of Robinson Ave, is introduced as a neighbor who has on his own patrolled the Frontage Road and the I-35 and 38½ intersections to see what's going on regarding public drinking, prostitution, transients, crime in general.

b. Inspired by a slew of crimes that happened in recent history on Robinson and notes its getting out of control. Wilson illustrates his finding from neighbors, police and types of crimes: the race, age, etc. of the criminals varied but had 1 common denominator, DRUGS. Also adds that this is not a crusade to recklessly rid the transients and push them to another neighborhood. Harold Cook notes there is humor and sensitivity in his approach. CNA will be working with Chris in the lead. Girard Kinney clarifies that CNA is not a non-profit corporation and so does not enjoy limited liability; CNA and its officers should not expose themselves to legal action.

c. Chris has a plan in action to contact and involve local businesses to work with him to clean up the area around the freeway and the Fiesta/Chevron corner. Wilson shares his work with Fiesta's new manager (Tim Walthall) who is cleaning up the store as well as the parking lot. Drug sales are known to transpire in the Fiesta parking lot; however, an interesting fact is that more crimes are reported at HEB's back parking lot than at Fiesta.

d. Trying to get the 3 convenience stores at the intersection to voluntarily not sell alcohol to the transients. And to also call the police when they see some one intoxicated. Ofc. Jones suggests to ask the stores to stop selling single beers. That may be more successful. And confirms that it is illegal to sell alcohol to intoxicated persons. Chris welcomes feedback. Pauline, Mark, Brian, and/or Amy volunteer to support Chris at his Dec 20 meeting with businesses along the frontage road.

e. Citizens On Patrol (COPS) program is described by Ofc. Jones < <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/cpa.htm> >. Training is involved to help APD mainly by identifying problems. Being a part of this is similar to Neighborhood Watch. Most of its observing the activity in the neighborhood (nosy neighbor) and calling in if there are any problems. Question is asked to Ofc. Jones about the prostitution concern on 38½ & IH35. Ofc. Jones answers prostitution is not reported at this area.

f. The so-called “1157 Salina Gang” (APD designation from the apartment complex next to Kealing Middle School where they are centered
< <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=1157+Salina,+Austin+TX&ie=UTF8&z=17&ll=30.270246,-97.720032&spn=0.005884,0.013475&om=1> >. Known members are 13 Hispanic juveniles 13-16; five warrants are outstanding. Ofc. Jones requests that we be extra aware of youths acting suspiciously, especially during school hours, and alert 911.

g. Because Austin is one of the safest cities in the country, neighbors hesitate to get involved; we feel safe not threatened. 9 active Neighborhood Watch programs in central Austin registered and are successful when they are ACTIVE. To remain effective, they must designate a Block Captain, and stay in communication.

3. UPPER BOGGY CREEK PLANNING TEAM (Stephen Kreger)

Development of property on Airport from Patterson Park to Cherrywood is an upcoming if not current, hot spot. Stringent zoning of this area exists and a banding of neighbors need to get together to effect getting more lenience in order to get this property developed mindfully. Get in involved, come to the event that will be jointly planned by Stephen and Girard Kinney early in the new year. Reference map < http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/__map/4040Airport.pdf >.

More on the UBC Neighborhood Plan < <http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/n-UBC.htm> >.

4. CNA STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION

4 of the 5 nominees are present and introduce themselves as well as share their platforms: Summer McKee, Brian Keenan, Mark Schiff, Harold Cook; Wade McElroy is not present. Motion made to elect the 4 present, second. Unanimous vote. Additional discussion about Wade McElroy and affording him the courtesy of electing him in absentia. At this time Gordon Bennett throws in his hat in. Motion to elect the 2 otherss, second. Unanimous. 6 new Members elected!

5. TREASURY (Rebecca Kohout)

Cash on hand, \$7,686.60. Some is still collectible. Some FLEA ad revenue is annual (4 issues discount). One issue costs approximately \$1000 to produce.

6. PARKS (Girard Kinney)

a. “Friends of Patterson Park” (fondly, FoPP) led by Isabelle Headrick is a model of how concerned neighbors can encourage park improvements. Thanks to FoPP, PattPark has shade over the toddler pool, a new playscape, a jogging trail around the perimeter, and replacement bollards to keep vehicles out (though the Schieffer side stills need them). An outsized regional tennis center with 18 courts and more parking was stymied (too big for a small neighborhood park). A “Skate Spot” is planned for gravity-defying young people
< http://www.thenervemagazine.com/2005/07/article_template.php?id=14 >. The next push will be for a bigger pool.

b. Corresponding “friends” are needed for Cherrywood Green and Willowbrook Reach. Contact Girard if you may be interested <girard@kinneyarchitects.com>.

c. The non-profit Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts League (CHULA) needs members. Memberships is just \$5 (details are in the FLEA)! CHULA sponsors the annual Cherrywood Art Fair (Dec 9-10) supports our park and green spaces and other neighborhood and school art projects. Non-profits need dues-paying members, officers, tax accounting, and formalities. Help them comply. CHULA will seek grants, and already has contributed modest sums.

7. ASBURY (Rev. George Holcombe)

a. The Asbury/Cherrywood collaborative marquee sign may be up in a couple of weeks. Look for a dedication celebration.

b. A film series may start up following the success of "An Inconvenient Truth." Terry Dyke may coordinate. Another volunteer or two would be helpful to bring this off. Suggestions include "The End of Suburbia" < <http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0446320/> > and "Outfoxed" < <http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0418038/> >.

c. Asbury's interfaith Peace Pole will be dedicated this Saturday (watch for time).

d. A "Creating a Culture of Peace" workshop will occur Dec 1-2. See Cherrywood.Org for details.

e. Asbury and Cherrywood have been teaming up to give monthly donations to the Capital Area Food Bank. Stocks regularly run low. Clients most in need are single moms and babies. It's a satisfying charity. We do it every Second Sunday < http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/___cwd/1-Second-Sunday.pdf >.

8. MEETING SUGGESTION (Girard Kinney)

1½ hours a quarter for the membership to meet is too short. Put this up for SC discussion.

10. HISTORICAL STATUS (Hannah Vaughn, Historian, National Register Programs, Texas Historical Commission)

Duplex Nation is being nominated for registry. Pros and cons of registry were discussed. For this, owners not residents are key. A Public Informational meeting is set for Dec 4 (Mon) 5:30p at the Texas Historical Commission Library, 1510 Congress Ave. The State Board of Review meeting will be Jan 20, 2007 (Sat) 8:30a at the Stephen F. Austin Bldg, 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Committee Room 170-First Floor. Contact <Hannah.Vaughan@thc.state.tx.us>.

8:00 Meeting Adjourned.