

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association - Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 14th, 2007

Place: Asbury

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Steering Committee Present: Gordon Bennett, Amy Brotman (recording), David Greene (presiding), Wade McElroy, Summer McKee, Mark Schiff, Jack Newman, Girard Kinney

Steering Committee Absent: Harold Cook, Rick Cofer, Rebecca Kohout, 2 Vacancies

Other Attendees: Beverly Schiff, Cid Galindo w/ City of Austin, Mike Damal, Leyla Cohlmia

Motions

- Motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes was made by Jack Newman. David seconded. The motion carried.

Agenda

1. Agenda Setting

2. Sustainable City Initiative

- Presented by Cid Galindo of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.
- By 2035, our population will grow significantly, and we need to understand and plan for absorbing the population growth in our city. They want to develop mixed-use activity centers (MAC) that will provide for density in a fixed geographic area. Then, they will create a sustainable city master plan.
- Why is this important? Currently, 188,666 acres in city limits and 401,992 acres total in our area. Current population is 8.4 in urban core, 3.7 in city limits, and then 2.5 outside of that. 1M population. Population doubles every 20 years at a 3.5% growth rate which we have sustained for the past 100 years. The US grows at 1%. Texas grows at 2%. And, Austin, 3.5%. If we do not become any denser, we will need to develop 451,000 acres that are not currently developed – these acres do not exist in our area, so we will have to grow in a more compact way.
- Reasons for well-planned, compact development. These people that are coming will bring another 1.6 million cars, but we can't continue to build Austin the way we have without a significant increase in traffic problems. Compact development means less traffic congestion. It also means cleaner air and water, there will be more public open space, and there will be more affordability in desirable places. It will lower the cost per capita of providing city services. There is growing demand for lower-maintenance housing -- Baby boomers are coming into the city to experience the urban lifestyle in their older years.
- The planning committee proposes that we grow to 2.5M within an area of 400,000 acres. Density on average would need to increase from 2.3 to 6.3 people per acre. Hyde Park's density today is 10+ people per acre. We are at 8+ people per acre in Cherrywood.
- Areas to the west of Mopac are protected watershed and takes up 37.2% of our acreage. The urban watershed zone is in central Austin and is a small % of our acreage. We want to encourage growth of this area, but preserve the character of single-family neighborhoods. We want to aim the majority of the growth into the desired development watershed zone which is east of Austin. The bad thing is that west Austin is growing faster than all the other areas, even though it is the protected zone. So, goal is to speed up growth in central and East Austin. You need at least 8 people per developable acre in order to have a viable transit system.
- Tools to help us do this are... transit-oriented developments (35 people per acre), core transit corridors (25 people per acre), and mixed-use activity centers which target 15+ people/acre.
- There are three scales of proposed mixed-use activity centers. Neighborhood Centers – 10-125 acres (The Triangle), Town Centers – 125-500 acres (West Campus), Regional Centers – 500-2000 acres (Mueller). We currently have examples of each of these that are in the works – The Triangle is a neighborhood center. West Campus is a town center. Mueller is a regional center.
- A MAC would have a core density zone, a midway density zone, and a transition zone -- this is similar to TOD overlay. This means there is high density in the center and it lessens as it gets

toward the edge. They should have a mix of uses in close proximity, employment and education components, connectivity and traffic flow capacity, and height, building massing, and public open spaces. We also need incentive-based, voluntary participation with development entitlements/incentives for desired features.

- So, how many of these types of developments do we need in order to meet these goals? A crazy number of them. An even crazier number in the desired watershed development zone. In the next 10 years, we'd need to add 7 transit-oriented developments, 100 miles of core transit corridor, 30 neighborhood centers, 10 town center, and 2 regional centers.
- A map was shown showing how the growth would work over the next 35 years. Highway 130 is a good step toward development in East Austin and lays the groundwork for growth. There is legislation planned that will allow for more development along 130.
- Next steps for the city are to write the MAC ordinance, formalize a master plan, and conduct a fiscal impact analysis of how this growth would impact us. They also need to build community support so that they build urban neighborhoods, public school districts, and other things that we will need in order to accommodate the growth and the people.
- Questions that were raised... Where will the hourly wage people live if we are only providing 10% of housing that is affordable - way more than 10% of the people fit that category. We think that at least one component of this plan needs to touch on addressing this point.

3. Announcements

Miss Firey: CAN voted last year to present Ms Firey with an award for her yard. The plaque is ready to be presented, and we need to schedule a time to present it to her. Her yard is in Wilshire Woods – it's the "Better Homes and Gardens" yard with all the beautiful azaleas. Jack would like to see if we can get the media there to take pictures, etc... We also need to involve Wilshire Wood in this.

Water Fountain for Cherrywood Green: We have volunteers to water and mow through May. They should be ready to install the fountain in the next couple of days. There is a creek clean-up for March 31st. This is a Keep Austin Beautiful larger event across the city. Summer is coordinating it for Cherrywood Green. There will be a party thrown by the city after the clean-up at Waterloo Park. They also want to coordinate with the private landowners so that they can clean up more of the creek. George suggested that we should post a reminder on the Asbury sign.

4. ANC Report

- No report. ANC rep not present at meeting.

5. Other Agenda Items

Asbury: For the sign dedication, they would like to have some people come and talk about what Cherrywood is like now and what it used to be like. George would like to have a poem or song or story. It might be hard to pull this off on such short notice. The date for the dedication is March 15th after morning services which are at 10:45 and last about 45 minutes. After the service, there will be a potluck to accompany the dedication. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

30th Street Cell Tower: It's going to planning commission on the 27th. Because there is a garage apartment that will need to be torn down in order to accommodate the tower, there is a current resident that they will pay to move, pay his rent, and store his belongings. In trade for our support, a bungalow that is also on the property will be fixed-up. All major carriers and a new wireless carrier will be on the tower, and it will improve cell phone coverage in the area.

VMU: The VMU task force is beginning to meet, and Girard recommends that the UBC reps vote the way the steering committee votes on the task force recommendation. Whatever UBC decides will be a recommendation to the City Council. The Cherrywood recommendation should be written up in the Flea so that it has some weight behind it and legitimacy to the City Council.

6. Adjournment (about 8:20pm) – next meeting at Asbury on 4/11.