

CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES 11 MARCH 2009

1. Call to order, introductions. (6:40)

—SC Present: Jeremy Mazur, Girard Kinney, Eve Richter, Robin Peeples, Jack Newman, Rebecca Kohout

—Non SC: Justin Irving, Kathy Goodman, Jennifer Hicks (Foundation Communities; left at 7:05), Priscilla Boston (CHULA; left at 7:10)

2. Foundation Communities (via Jennifer Hicks)

—Proposing to build an affordable housing tax credit near our neighborhood (in the area bounded by Metrorail line, MLK, Airport, and Manor). Meant for working families, 1-3 bedroom units, 10% for income >\$21,000, 80% for \$22,000-40,000 at \$700/mo, 10% for anyone else at market rate rent. Childcare facilities and supportive services. Access to public transit and schools. Green and sustainable building.

—They already have the support of all the other surrounding neighborhoods.

—CNA voiced support for the project but concerns about traffic and pedestrian flow. The only vehicular entrances are at the ends of Manor and MLK.

—Girard moved that we write a letter in support of the development. Unanimously approved. Jeremy read a draft that we will send with some slight edits, including a suggestion to build more footbridges across Boggy Creek.

3. CHULA update by Priscilla Boston

—presentation of the list of current CHULA goals and projects

4. Update on Cherrywood Green situation by Girard Kinney

—ATT has been much more cooperative than was anticipated (or than they were at the outset), and many of our goals for the Green have been achieved. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

—The boxes have been moved to the west side.

—Conduits have been placed such that when funds are available, wires may be moved below ground.

—They have agreed to help us find funding for the moving of the wire.

—They have not agreed to notify the neighborhood about future projects because it should be the city's responsibility.

—Jeremy moved we grant the task force permission to act on behalf of the CNA on the ATT situation.

5. FROG: Friends of the Green

—New group to watch over Cherrywood Green and continue the rehabilitation goals touched upon above.

—Will be headed by Michael (?) and vice-chaired by Girard Kinney. Will be funded by CHULA (pending approval by CHULA) because of their account system and non-profit status.

—The Green is officially designated as a park, and the city never should have allowed the installations in the first place.

—FROG will work to get a park designation.

—Jeremy moved to establish a Cherrywood Green committee (FROG) and that it be allowed to select its own leadership. Unanimously approved.

6. Consideration of neighborhood action regarding nightly freight rail noise (issue represented by Justin Irving and Kathy Goodman)

—Noise has increased since the introduction of MetroRail because the tracks have been tightened to accommodate the precision demands of passenger rail cars. Capital Metro is planning to try oiling the tracks.

—The area is on a downward grade which requires breaking. People are investigating sound muffling break requirements.

—Trains are stopping at some point, blocking intersections in the neighborhood. No reason has been found as yet.

—Interested parties will contact the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) about collaborating with other neighborhoods to press this issue further.

—The ultimate goal is to have freight lines moved outside of town.

—Girard Kinney moved that whereas the neighborhood is concerned about freight train noise, Justin Irving and Kathy Goodman join the steering committee and form a task force on the issue, and that the CNASC officially contact UBC, other neighborhoods, and ANC about the issue. Jeremy added to the motion that CNA write a formal letter of complaint encompassing all these things, to be sent to CapMetro.

7. CNA-SC membership

—Jeremy Mazur moved that Justin Irving become accepted as a member of the SC. Justin will complete his application later.

8. Consideration of CNA's participation in a April neighborhood forum for Austin City Council candidates

—Participation will be in lending CNA's name only

—Unanimously approved

9. Other business:

—Girard Kinney: Report on ANC East meeting

—Girard will take the issue of the Cherrywood Green to the ANC. Girard will also connect the Freight Noise task force with ANC contacts.

—Deb will have the FLEA coming out in March. 10. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 unanimously.