

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Asbury/Servant Church, 1605 East 38th 1/2 Street

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM

Members present

Jules Kniolek, Chair; Terry Dyke, Secretary; Amanda, Meaghan Bludau, Emlea Chanslor, Dolly Ensey, Marilyn Fenn, David Greene, Francie Greene, Brent Hay, Justin Irving, Andrew Klager, Nathan Lynch, Hernandez Marisa, Paull Martha, Stephanie Modlin, S.E. Nelson-Brown, Ryan Ofsthun, Dan Procter, Jason Schaub, Mark Schiff, Emily Schwartz, Mike Sullivan, Shane Tafares, Erin Tassoulas, Ioannis Tassoulas, Eric Vogt, DonJon Vonavitch, John Walthour, Wiccit

Guests present

Josh Blaine (Ingredients), Ken MacKenzie (Hoover's)

Reading of agenda

Printed copies distributed

Welcoming remarks from the Chair

Mr. Kniolek asked those in attendance to introduce themselves, highlighted some of the programs and events that the CNA can look forward to, and introduced the Steering Committee update on two of these. He also noted that the newly-built bulletin board kiosk at Cherrywood Green is now in service.

Steering Committee update

Hazardous Waste pickup. Mr. Vonavitch announced the first household hazardous waste collection event, Saturday May 25, 2015, 10 AM – 4 PM at Cherrywood Green, and described how it works. Members may bring items for disposal at the City of Austin Household Hazardous Waste Facility. The list of acceptable items is restricted to “BOPA” – batteries, oil, paint, and antifreeze. Mr. Vonavitch and other CNA volunteers will haul the collected items to the waste facility during its weekday hours.

Incorporation. Mr. Dyke reported the findings so far on the prospects of the CNA becoming a nonprofit corporation, seen as a step up in the standing and capability of the Association that would allow it to act as a legal entity to do business, own property and be protected from liability. Registration with the State creates the corporation, and then later it may be advisable to apply to the IRS for tax-exempt status, most likely under the 501(c)(4) exemption for “civic leagues.”

Elections for Steering Committee vacant seats

The chair announced that the Nominating Committee is not currently staffed and urged CNA members to consider volunteering to serve on it. He called for Steering Committee nominations from the floor, but none came forward.

Austin Neighborhoods Council resolutions

CNA representative to ANC Justin Irving reported on the two resolutions to be considered:

1. ANC Resolution on Clean, Affordable Energy

Motion from Meaghan Bludau for CNA to support the resolution (attached below).

Vote: 20 in favor; 9 against; 3 abstentions

Resolved: Motion passed

2. ANC Resolution on Flood Mitigation

Motion from Terry Dyke for CNA to support the resolution (attached below).

Vote: 28 in favor; 2 against; 3 abstentions

Resolved: Motion passed

Referendum on I-35 exit ramp

The chair asked the assembly to consider whether to support or oppose the Texas Dept. of Transportation plan to improve the northbound I-35 exit ramp leading to 38th½ St. The Steering Committee had sent TxDOT a letter earlier in opposition to the plan, but without a binding vote from the assembly.

Motion from Francie Greene to postpone.

Resolved: motion withdrawn after discussion

Motion from Emlea Chanslor to authorize the Steering Committee to send an additional letter to TxDOT and Austin City Council, with copies to the North Central I-35 Neighborhoods Coalition 2 (NCINC2), saying that the CNA has insufficient information to support or oppose the proposed TxDOT plan for the ramp, and that the CNA has repeatedly requested information on it and has not received any.

Vote: 23 in favor; 4 against; 4 abstentions

Resolved: motion passed

Presentation/program: Blackland Neighborhood Community Development Corporation

David Westenbarger spoke about Blackland CDC, which creates affordable housing in the Blackland neighborhood, just to the south of Cherrywood. Mr. Westenbarger described BCDC's operation, which now manages 47 housing units; also, background on its executive director Bo McCarver, and the history of its founding as a counter to UT Austin's eastward expansion.

Announcements

Josh Blaine of In.gredients natural food store announced that his store and several others on Manor Road are considering forming a merchant's association under a new City of Austin incubator program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Submitted by Terry Dyke, Secretary

Attachments:

1. ANC Resolution on Clean, Affordable Energy
2. ANC Resolution on Flood Mitigation

AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL CLEAN AFFORDABLE ENERGY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, energy produced at the coal-fired Fayette power plant and natural gas-fired Decker power plant causes environmental degradation in the form of air and water pollution; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy has proposed to build a new natural gas-fired power plant that would emit air pollutants locally, contribute to air and water pollution in other parts of Texas by using natural gas that is obtained partly through hydraulic fracturing (fracking), and contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force recommended increasing the goal for energy efficiency and demand response¹; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force recommended replacing the existing highly polluting Decker natural gas-fired power plant with west Texas solar generation²; and

WHEREAS, large quantities of precious and scarce water or wastewater would be used to cool a new natural gas-fired power plant³; and

WHEREAS, investing in clean energy produces more jobs per dollar invested compared to fossil fuels⁴; and

WHEREAS, the proposed natural gas-fired power plant would be built on the east side of Austin, adding emissions harmful to health and adding to the significant past and current environmental injustices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Neighborhoods Council, in order to create and restore trust for public transparency, requests that the Austin City Council ensure that the consultant selected to conduct the independent Generation Gap Study for Austin Energy provide to the public all unadulterated drafts and the final version of the report, which shall be based on unbiased and accurate data and assumptions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Austin Neighborhoods Council requests that the Austin City Council retire the Fayette Power Project coal-fired power plant and the existing Decker Creek gas-fired power plant as quickly as possible; and not approve construction of any new fossil fuel-burning power plants, in keeping with the Austin Energy affordability goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Austin Neighborhoods Council requests that the Austin City Council direct Austin Energy to invest in clean energy, including solar, wind, energy storage, energy efficiency, and demand response to meet Austin's energy needs, protect public health, and keep electric rates affordable.

Presented to ANC Membership: April 22, 2015

Membership Approved:

Sponsor Contact: Marion Mlotok, ANC Sector 8 Representative and ANC Environmental Chair;
mmlotok@austin.rr.com

¹ The Report of the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force. July 2014. Pg 23.
www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=215527

² The Report of the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force. July 2014. Pg 18.
www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=215527

³ NREL. A Review of Operational Water Consumption and Withdrawal Factors for Electricity Generating Technologies. March 2011. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy11osti/50900.pdf>.

⁴ Pollin, Robert, et al. The Economic Benefits of Investing in Clean Energy. June 2009. bit.ly/CleanEJobs

RESOLUTION OF THE AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL REGARDING FLOOD MITIGATION

WHEREAS, The neighborhoods along Onion Creek, Williamson Creek, Shoal Creek, Walnut Creek and Bull Creek have all experienced flooding in the past several years; and

WHEREAS, continuing development has increased the potential for flooding and expanded the floodplain; and

WHEREAS, destructive floods that cause the loss of both life and property can occur anywhere previously approved development has occurred in the current or redefined 100-year floodplain; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Austin Neighborhoods Council requests that the City Council appropriate sufficient resources to:

1. Reduce the number of variances granted for impervious cover, detention ponds, and watershed restrictions for new developments within the city limits and also the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction areas. Any variances granted should have a corresponding Regional Storm Water Management Project. Fee-in-lieu funds should be used for flood mitigation projects.
2. Direct City of Austin staff to work with other Central Texas counties and agencies to plan flood abatement projects.
3. Use residential and commercial drainage fees to fund flood abatement projects and to supplement federal funding to remove highest risk residents from the flood plain through buyout programs that comply with Uniform Relocation Act standards. Make drainage fees and fee-in-lieu funds available for review on the City of Austin website.
4. Direct the Watershed Protection Department, the Parks Department, and the Public Works Department to remove the obstructions created by flood debris in a timely manner.
5. Work with other cities to enact state legislation that will give counties more control over inappropriate development in flood prone areas.
6. Evaluate and remediate inadequate storm drain infrastructure in existing neighborhoods.
7. Add a flood hazard and wild fire hazard overlay to CodeNext.

Presented to ANC Membership: [2/25/2015]

Membership Approved: [date]

Sponsor Contact: Malcolm Yeatts, ANC Sector 9 Representative

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