

Austin Neighborhoods Council - Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2009

Minutes prepared by Lorraine Atherton, ANC Cosecretary

Present: Steven Aleman, Joyce Basciano, Mary Eichner, Linda Guerrero, Lisa Harris, Jolene Kiolbassa, Bo McCarver, Lou O'Hanlon, Patty Sprinkle, Terry Tevis, Cory Walton, Mike Meier, Lorraine Atherton

6:30pm Call to Order

6:31pm Minutes approved for 2009 July 8 executive, August 12 executive, and August 23 general meetings

6:40pm Officer/Committee/Sector Reports

- Treasurer's Report, Linda Guerrero reported that ANC has \$5,326.34 in the bank.
- ANCTalk new guideline vote – administrative messages to moderators only (Mark Boyden not present)
- Requests for Support
 - Nov 14 housingworks conference
- Liasons/Committee/Sponsorship Status
 - Heritage Tree Draft Ordinance schedule--Cory W. has asked City Arborist Michael Embesi for a copy of what staff are reviewing. Should go to boards and commissions beginning with Urban Forestry Sept 16 and arriving at City Council Nov. 5. Does not include Parks Board.
 - WQPL (Water Quality Protection Lands) Report--Mary E is keeping track, no change
 - ECHO-- Bo Mc, 1-Stop initiative for homeless services, trying to move all services to a single location outside downtown, or create several nodes?
 - CapMetro Comprehensive Operations Analysis, Patty S., no news
 - Single-member district task force-- Lorraine A., Mayor has agreed to sponsor resolution to create task force, will be looking for two co-sponsors, perhaps in October. Restructure group is meeting with CM Spelman on Sept. 17.
- Sector Issues
 - Monthly Meetings --Jolene K., Central sector is setting up a meeting with CM Riley
 - NUNA/Hancock telecommunications row
 - HPNA Elisbet Ney landscaping-- Lisa H., ask the City Council to rethink
 - APD Communications (for crime forum?)
 - ANC Central Resolution – Residential Registration (Code Enforcement)

7:20pm Meeting Planning

- September main topic –Crime & Safety Forum, 1 hour
- University Hills NA to discuss H.B. 216, recently passed by the Legislature. Joan Bartz-- could move to October, 15 min.
- CAMPO 2035 Transportation Plan, 15 min, send questions to Joyce
- 6 resolutions, see attached
- October Meeting Planning-- Greg Guernsey and Sue Edwards for main topic; Lou O. will ask Girard Kinney if he wants to present billboard issues. Will not have time for another Wildlife Habitat presentation

7:40pm Ongoing Business and Neighborhood Issues

- ANC Elections, nominees committee
- ANC CAN representative-- Patty S., but she will need a backup
- BS PUD
- Southshore PUD
- Comprehensive Plan
- Proposed residential remodel resolution --Mary Ingle, rollout in October
- Downtown Austin Plan, ANC role in Nov 14 housingworks conference: comprehensive planning for affordable housing --The conference could be a way to get options for family and singles housing on the planning table. Need to find out about getting speakers of our choice on the agenda.

8:00pm Adjourn

Austin Neighborhoods Council - Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2009

Requests for Time on Agenda

- Girard Kinney – billboards (Oct)
- Robert Goode – New Assistant CM over Aviation, Public Works and Solid Waste

Potential Program Topics/Agenda Items

- AISD – new superintendent (increase in age 1-5 kids yet elementary closings, involvement w/community, etc), Maybe January
- How get Rebates for Energy Efficiency
- Rob Spillar – New Transportation Director
- Howard Lazarus - New Director of Public Works
- Mike Daniel – redistricting, misuse of tax credits and other issues
- Platform of ANC Issues
- Presentation from Aging Services Council – demographics and needs of elderly population
- Avance – early childhood/family programs for low income families

ANC-East Resolutions, September 2009,
time-sensitive, to be voted on at September general meeting

Opposing an Increase in Property Taxes

Whereas, in the present recession many homeowners are facing defaults on their mortgages and having difficulty maintaining their homes due to economic circumstances beyond their control;
and

Whereas, many commercial properties are under-assessed by the appraisal district and consequently their owners are not paying their fair share of taxes; and

Whereas, the City Council is proposing a 5.5 percent tax increase on properties that would not be fully necessary if the tax burden among residential and commercial property owners was equitably distributed;

Therefore be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council opposes the proposed tax increase.

In Support of Universal Health Care

Whereas, lack of health care is a major cause of poverty in Austin, the state of Texas, and the nation; and

Whereas, many neighborhoods in Austin experience recurrent and sustained poverty resulting from lack of health care; and

Whereas, present local efforts such as the Medical Assistance Program and community clinics are inadequate to address the need; and

Whereas, Congress is considering measures to assure every American has access to health care;

Be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council urges the City Council, the Texas Legislature, the Texas Congressional Delegation, and Congress to support and implement health care legislation that guarantees every American has health care.

For Early Notification of Zoning Changes

Whereas, neighborhoods are vibrant communities with unique historic and architectural character; and

Whereas, neighborhood associations and planning teams are frequently availed of zoning changes and requests for variances for new projects only after the projects have been designed and are well under way; and

Whereas, early communication of pending zoning changes and variances would enhance and speed viable projects, benefiting both developers and neighborhoods;

Therefore be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council urges the city to revise rules for applying for zoning changes and variances to require documentation of the applicant's communications with affected neighborhood associations and neighborhood planning teams before an application is filed.

Austin Neighborhoods Council - Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2009

ANC-East Position for Affordability in the Downtown Plan

ANC-East urges the City Council to assure diversity in the downtown area by placing firm and progressive tools in the affordability requirements.

Specifically, we ask that the fee-in-lieu be placed at \$20 per square foot, per Seattle's Downtown Plan, and that those fees be placed on both commercial and residential properties.

Funds generated from the fees should go to affordable housing projects in the following priority order: downtown, transit-oriented developments, transit corridors serving the downtown area. This is in contrast to the plan that would press affordable units on nearby neighborhoods.

A total of 20 percent of the units should be affordable to households earning less than 80 percent of median family income (MFI) at roughly these levels: A minimum of 15 percent of the residential units should be rental units affordable to households earning less than 80 percent MFI, with a third of the units targeting households earning between 80 and 50 percent MFI, another third for households earning between 50 and 30 percent MFI, and another for households earning less than 30 percent MFI. Five percent of the total affordable units should be for-sale units affordable by households earning up to 80 percent MFI (total of 20 percent affordable). Funds should not be used to subsidize the 80-120 percent MFI market.

City housing funds, to include GO Bonds, should not be used to subsidize units costing more than \$150 per square foot.

The existing affordable units at Lakeside should be preserved.

ANC Resolution, Remodel Definition (presentation only, not for a vote)

Whereas the City of Austin's Land Development Code has no written definition of the term "remodel," and the current unwritten rule of thumb has led to many abuses for remodels, Therefore be it resolved that the Austin Neighborhoods Council supports the City Council's changes to the Land Development Code by adopting a definition for remodel in accordance with the resolution passed by the City Council December 6, 2007:

A remodel is limited to the following items; otherwise, it is a substantial remodel and must comply with the LDC, as if it were new construction:

1. The remodel pertains to the existing structure and shall not expand horizontally or vertically;
2. There may be removal of no more than 50% of the structure's complete exterior walls;
3. The finishing of one remodel and starting of a second on the same structure shall have a limited time constraint.

Austin Cycling Association, Complete Streets Policy (presentation only, not for a vote)

The Austin Cycling Association (ACA) is trying to garner support for a Complete Streets policy, to make neighborhoods more accessible and easier to navigate for both pedestrians and cyclists. Here is the proposed policy language:

The Austin Cycling Association recommends the following policy for all Central Texas jurisdictions for roadway construction, reconstruction, and major rehabilitation projects for all roadways listed in the Roadway Plan of the CAMPO Long Range Transportation Plan (currently, the 2030 Regional Mobility Plan): If cost estimates for a standard sidewalk facility on both sides of the roadway and the appropriate bicycle facility show that they would add less than 20% to the cost of the entire roadway construction, reconstruction or major rehabilitation project and the average traffic speed of the roadway exceeds or is expected to exceed 30 miles per hour, standard sidewalk facilities and the bicycle facilities recommended for Group B (novice) cyclists by Federal Highway Administration guidelines must be added to the roadway during the roadway construction, reconstruction, or major rehabilitation project; those facilities must be funded out of the street construction, reconstruction, or major rehabilitation project itself. Deviations from this policy must be specifically stated in an approved bicycle plan. For the City of Austin, this policy is an additional requirement to the policy in Resolution 020418-40 and does not supersede that

Austin Neighborhoods Council - Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2009

policy.

The above differs from the existing City of Austin policy in a couple of substantive ways. First, our proposal would apply to all arterials where the average traffic speed is above 30 mph. Current policy only applies to arterials included in the recently revised Austin Bike Plan. Second, our proposal specifies the use of Federal Highway Administration guidelines for Group B bicyclists for the design of the bicycle facilities. We could attend ANC's next meeting to further discuss the details of our proposal and answer any questions ANC might have. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Wes Robinson
(512) 970-7845