

**Austin Neighborhoods Council General Meeting
July 25, 2012 7:00 p.m. 721 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX.**

Meeting was called to order by Steven Aleman at 7:00 PM

Call to order and introductions.

Presentation: Wildfire Safety presented by Lt. Josh Portie, Firewise Program Coordinator, Austin Fire Dept. Lt. Portie informed the membership of the continued threat of fires in Austin, how agencies are better prepared, and the various prevention programs available to help people work together to prevent loss. Lt. Portie explained the Firewise Communities Program, the Ready, Set, Go! Your Wildland Action Guide, and prepared.ly, which are available online and also on the ANC website.

Presentation: Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Program. Presented by Renee Orr, Project Manager, COA Transportation Dept. Renee explained the procedures for requesting speed mitigation for neighborhood streets. This included the application process, eligibility, basic criteria required to initiate a traffic and volume study, and cost and funding.

2012 Bond Package Resolution. Steven explained that postponing the bond package resolution vote might be advantageous to ANC because the Council has not voted on commercial short term rentals (CSTRs), which the membership overwhelmingly opposes. Joan Bartz motioned to postpone the bond package resolution vote. Second by Lorraine Atherton. Vote was 18 yes, 0 no, and 4 abstaining. Motion passed. Steven recapped the ANC bond package resolution, which requested that Council approve the 2012 bond referendum in an amount of no more than \$457.3 million that includes the \$400 million bond package recommendations of the Bond Election Advisory Task Force. The ANC bond package identified specific neighborhood concerns for funding such as affordable housing; transportation and mobility funding dedicated to sidewalks, curbs, and improved gutters; North Lamar and Burnet corridor improvements; east 12th St. infrastructure improvements; and funding for neighborhood parks. The membership discussed adding more items to this list and refining and emphasizing requested items with caveats, such as was done with affordable housing that clearly states that funded projects must be equitably distributed across the city. Some members felt that listing dollar amounts for certain items falls short, and that the ANC list should be very specific on how and where funding is spent or those items should not be supported. Some members expressed concerns that the \$100.5 million funding amount for affordable housing is problematic because it is a generic block of money. Possible future inclusion in the resolution were transportation issues that are specific and prioritized, such as north Lamar sidewalks, rather than a blanket acceptance of highway projects, specific park and cemetery funding, and a specific list defining spending for affordable housing. It was suggested that ANC not underwrite the entire bond task force list but only support specific items relating to neighborhoods. Steven said an alternative version of the bond resolution would be posted when ANC is ready to take it up.

Update: Commercial Short Term Rentals. Tom Nuckols, Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, announced that STRs are on the Aug. 2 Council agenda. A group called Protect Austin Neighborhoods formed and is collecting signatures for a petition against the STR ordinance. Council has passed on 1st reading an ordinance legalizing owner occupied STRs as well as commercial STRs with a 3% cap in each zip code. There is no spacing requirement between rentals, and Council removed any conditional use permit requirements. There was a successful rally outside of Homeaway last Saturday, July 21. Jason Meeker, Great Hill

Neighborhood Association, explained that STRs mock all SF zoning and create hotels in neighborhoods, and the effects of this ordinance will be far reaching. Jason stressed a great effort must be made to get the word out because of the great support from the Austin Board of Realtors and commercial interests. While the protest brought good press, the membership is urged to get petition signatures and distribute flyers, make phone calls, and post wherever possible. Jason announced an upcoming press conference at City Hall July 30.

Announcements: Austinites for Geographic Representation update; Peck Young and Eliza May. Peck Young, representing Austinites for Geographic Representation, gave an update on the progress of the petition and the single member district initiative. A petition was filed with 33,000 names to place the 10-1 single district plan on the November ballot. The City Clerk has verified more than enough names to be on the ballot so Council cannot amend the 10-1 plan. Council has decided to place an alternative redistricting plan on the November ballot and, on first reading, council passed an 8-2-1 plan. Peck explained RECA's support of the plan and the political pressures driving its adoption, which would allow Council to write their own plan and draw the redistricting lines. In relation to the current affordable housing discussion, Peck said the message now is to get those pressuring council to put 8-2-1 on the ballot to get out of the way and let the citizens put real change in effect at the end of the year.

Eliza May, representing AGR, discussed how the political survival issue is affecting certain council members, whom many of us support, and forcing them to support the 8-2-1 alternative plan. Although ANC has endorsed 10-1, Eliza urged the membership to please get active and attend the AGR organizational meeting on Thursday, July 26, in preparation for the August 2 council meeting but also the fall campaign. She requests supporters please sign up against 8-2-1 at the August 2 council meeting and get your opinion on record.

Meeting Adjourned.