

West Austin Neighborhood Group
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 18, 2023
Howson

These are the minutes of the meeting of the West Austin Neighborhood Group Board of Directors held Monday, April 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Howson.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Holly Reed. All Board members were present except George and Beth were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

III. Neighbor Communications/Announcements

- A. East MLK Combined Contact Team (Angela Benavides)—Ms. Benavides reported an uptick in churches selling, and a lot of people selling out. Have worked hard with good developers. They want to create affordable housing. She noted the changing landscape of area. The algorithm of land is changing, so that property is moving from the neighborhood association (NA) to HOAs. The NA has been able to negotiate benefits for the area. She refuted the perception that single-family zoning is racist. We noted our joint interests and goals, and she wants assistance from our group to speak for their residents who are unable to attend Council meetings. It was suggested that the NA should emphasize that east Austin has already accommodated enough density. Yet another concern is displacement.
- B. Reed Park Improvements/Watershed Protection Dept. Project. There will be a walking tour on 5/13; can take a vision planning survey. Friends of Reed Park wants to organize a volunteer weekend and remove invasive species. HOA will be a stakeholder in any vision planning.
- C. Parking Issue on Pecos (Flo's)—The city is conducting surveys and are issuing citations to those who are illegally parked on Pecos. The city is putting up “no-parking” signs at blind spots. Residential Parking Permits cannot be issued for streets unless there’s a house fronting the streets, and there are few in this category on Pecos near Flo’s. The restaurant offers a discount for walking/biking customers. Street parking is legal unless signage indicates otherwise.

IV. Land Matters

- A. State Zoning Bills Impacting Neighborhoods – Parkland Dedication bill has passed the House, and the Senate will also pass. There is a list of other bills affecting neighborhoods in the most recent WANG newsletter. Citizens comment on house bills online. HB 2867 to extend life of Save Hist MUNY will be heard on Wed, 4/19.

B. Proposed new zoning category TZ (Town Zoning)—another way of getting around LDC. Could be anywhere, not only along a transit corridor.

VI. Newsletter/E-Newsletter/Website

- A. We are working to make website more functional. Haidar Khazen is helping. We can upgrade to mailboxes rather than forwarding emails and send out new information.
- B. For the semi-annual print newsletter, need ads to go in by the end of the month.

VII. ANC Report

- A. Panel discussion on Women in Government, speakers:
 - 1. Brandy Mueller, Project Engage, which has helped reduce juvenile offenses.
 - 2. Rosa Santos, first Latina to run a construction company in Austin.
 - 3. Candace Hunter—AISD Bd of Trustees.
 - 4. Discussion of restorative justice.
- B. Discussion of bills before the legislature—for example, a proposed 15 hr STR.
- C. ANC approved a \$1000 donation to Communities Not Commodities
- D. ANC will host a 50th Anniversary on 5/7 at Star of India.

VIII. Treasurer Report –

Checking	\$ 14,112.17
July 4 th	\$ 509.89
<u>Oak Wilt</u>	<u>\$ 1,215.82</u>
TOTAL	\$ 15,837.88

IX. Board updates

- A. Zilker Park Visioning plan (Mike Cannatti): The plan is working its way through the boards and commissions review. Thinks is a good compromise, making the park greener and more sustainable.

IX. Old business

- A. Munny Conservancy—The Conservancy sponsors 5/4/23 Huston-Tillotson Alumni Golf Tournament, named for Dr. General Marshall and Marvin Douglas.
- B. Craig Lill contacted Austin City about several issues:
 - a. Pedestrian crossings are overgrown or are damaged.
 - b. Austin Energy—limited what city can do because Council does not oversee AE. But Jackie Sargent is stepping down in an encouraged retirement. Price increases? Does not see anymore coming down the pipe.
 - c. Police contract expired at the end of March. In 2020, 100 ret'd, 116 in 2021; 100 in 2022; have had 90 retire in the first three months of the year. 120

cadets came through last year. Leaving because of lack of support from City (mayor, DA, and Casar.

- d. Are not allowed to comment on Prop A and Prop B. Prop A—city attys say cannot implement. Election is May 2. Prop A is for more police oversight; B is from police union.

X. New Business

- A. Next meeting: 5/8/23 at 6 pm at Lions Municipal Golf Court Clubhouse or Howson.
- B. Adjournment: President Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.