

WANG July Meeting Minutes 7/10/23

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m at the Howson Public Library. Board Members In attendance: Holly Reed, David Bolduc, Heidi Gibbons, Mary Arnold, Sarah Cain, Joyce Basciano, Mike Cannatti & Blake Tollett. Board Members Joe Bennett, George Edwards, Bob Hamilton, Cathy Kyle and Craig Lill were not present.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes was made by Mary and seconded by Heidi, approved unanimously. We will approve the March, April & May minutes at the next meeting.

Neighborhood Communications & Announcements:

- The Tarrytown Park Playground is being completed and is closed until September.
- Concerning the 4th of July Parade, next year we need a “head start” for WANG to be engaged. Zach Knight was the planner for this year’s parade. WANG Board member Sarah Cain has volunteered to help next year.

Land Matters:

A. Blake reported the Board of Adjustment postponed hearing the case for 15 Margrantita Crescent’s variance request.

B. Council Resolution to Modify Site Development Regulations for Single Family Zoning

- There is an important City Council Meeting on **July 20**. Joyce talked about CM Pool’s **Item 126 Resolution**, to allow smaller minimum lot sizes (2500 sf) and allow three units per lot in single family zoning. Greater height and impervious cover entitlements and removal of compatibility setbacks are proposed for building 3 units on currently zoned SF lots.
- Holly says WANG should come out and support the McMansion ordinance; Mike says we need to try to find ways to say “yes” (to more housing). Holly says this is an opportunity for developers and will not result in more affordable housing.
- Question: is the structure compatible with the neighborhood? How will trees be protected?.
- It’s being compared to the Mueller development. The resolution doesn’t require affordable housing and could just result in 3 market rate units per lot with no yards and no trees.
- Holly was concerned that no input from environmental studies and Watershed Protection Dept. were sought before this resolution was brought forward, and is worried about flooding. She will try to meet with CM Alter. Blake says we should insist that affordable housing be part of the resolution.
- WANG discussed sending a letter to Council prior to July 20th.

Newsletter / Website:

The newsletter will be printed in August instead of June – “Back to School” advertisers will be in the E-Newsletters in the meantime. Heidi will contact those she sold ads to for the June newsletter to let them know it’s been moved to August. We need to follow up with an ad from HEB.

Haidar Khazen continuing to work on the new WANG website and it is almost complete.

ANC Report:

An update was given on the land use resolutions the City Council is considering again on July 20th. The resolutions are modeled after the land use bills that were defeated recently in the State Legislature. These resolutions will allow for much more density, a great reduction in compatibility, the elimination of all minimum parking requirements, and more opportunity to establish music venues in all of our neighborhoods. Links to the detailed summary of the resolutions presented will be posted on ANCTalk and the ANC website.

Scientific studies have shown that, in urban areas, an increase in density and tall buildings causes a 10 to 20 degree higher temperature, and a considerable increase in flooding due to higher impervious cover. An update on the Zilker Park Vision Plan was given with a recommendation to visit the Zilker Rewilding Plan for more a comprehensive study of Zilker Park. Mayor Watson has publicly come out in opposition to some of the more objectionable proposals of the plan.

The Borden Tract Case that was before City Council earlier this month was discussed. It was passed on the first reading and will be voted on again July 20th. The neighborhood is asking the developer to build within the existing zoning criteria and to provide an affordable housing component. There are potential ethical issues associated with this case.

ANC South Central Sector is organizing a “transit team” of people knowledgeable in Austin’s transportation planning/infrastructure. The team would research and provide data on issues like transit infrastructure financing and transit for people with disabilities to ANC members.

Treasurer’s report: Checking Account: \$11,218.88

Savings Account: 1,218.92

4th of July Parade: 511.19

Total \$13,024.09

Next Meeting: Monday August 14, 2023 Location TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.