

Minutes of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association General Meeting
Wednesday November 20, 2019
Asbury/Servant Church, 1605 E 38 ½ Street, Austin, Texas 78722

Forty-nine residents and 3 guests attended the meeting. See attachment.

The agenda had been provided by email and was available as a print copy at the meeting.

Agenda Items:

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. It was noted that this is a much larger crowd than usual. The Chair asked how people heard about the meeting; a large majority said they had seen (the newly designed) signs placed at intersections.
2. There were no previous general meeting action items to approve.
3. Steering Committee Reports were presented with an introduction by the Chair to inform attendees of the ongoing work done by the Steering Committee.
 - a. Chair Report: Yahoo is discontinuing support of Yahoo Groups. Yahoo Groups has housed 25 years of digital history of our neighborhood interactions. The Chair (Jim Walker) asks for assistance to help rehome and preserve this history.
 - b. Treasurer Report: Allen Hah reports that our Well Fargo cash balance is \$4313.04. Our net balance is \$2639.87 which is +\$300 over last month. The Flea is a profit center.
 - c. Flea Report: The Flea is a major means of communication in our neighborhood. It reaches 1800 households. Jennifer Potter-Miller requests information and events be sent to flea@cherrywood.org The Flea needs a managing editor, please apply!
 - d. Steering Committee actions taken since last general meeting include:
 - i. Withdrawal of support for zoning changes at 3201 Merrie Lynn.
 - ii. Letter sent to Safe Routes to Schools related to commercial truck traffic on 38 ½ Street. There should not be commercial truck traffic on this street, but the restriction is not enforced.
 - iii. A Letter of Support was sent for the Mueller PUD amendment.
 - iv. Residential Parking Permit was approved for E. 28th Street from Lafayette Avenue to French Place.
 - v. An affidavit was filed for a property on Werner that requested deed restrictions carry with the deed, not the owner. The Chair stated that neighbors are those most likely to witness code/development irregularities they may bring these irregularities to the Steering Committee as Neighborhood Associations carry some weight.
4. Community Presenters:
 - a. Jessica Mangrum is running for Judge of 200th District Court.
<https://www.jessicamangrum.com>
 - b. Kennon Wooten is running for Judge of 53rd District Court.
<https://www.kennonwooten.com/about>

- c. Alexa, a member of Jose Garza for District Attorney.
<https://realjusticepac.org/endorsements/jose-garza/>
 - d. Coyotes: The Chair asked if anyone has seen a coyote recently. A few raised their hands but there has been some discussion on Nextdoor. Some discussion followed, and an inter-neighborhood event will be planned.
5. Committee and Neighborhood Projects Reports:
- a. Land Use and Transportation (LUT) Committee: Girard Kinney reports the committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:15 p.m. at Taqueria Los Altos. Many years ago, a philosophy related to neighborhood safety and walkability was developed. The committee will be sending out a survey requesting comments and feedback on how well that philosophy has aged to meet the demands of the neighborhood.
 - b. Green Spaces: Lindsey Olinde reported that the Grackle Green, despite setbacks related to permitting, is progressing. Jennifer Potter-Miller reported on the numerous upgrades, improvements and added amenities at Patterson Park.
6. New Business:
- a. AISD school changes/Maplewood Elementary School. Stephanie Perone, co-PTA chair of Maplewood Elementary School (MES) PTA addressed the potential school closures and consolidations that affect our community which includes MES, Campbell Elementary and Blackshear Elementary. While several schools will be closed, these three schools have been taken off of the list slated for closure in 2023 and moved to the list of schools that need more community input and evaluation. This does not mean MES is safe from closure. Ms. Perone stated that community involvement and engagement is needed. The formal Campus Advisory Committee will write a letter to AISD asking for clarification of timelines and how decisions will be made.
 - b. Land Use Development Code (LDC) Rewrite. Shannon Halley of Council Member Tovo's office attended the meeting and answered questions. There is broad agreement that the City of Austin needs a comprehensive plan to address growth and that a code rewrite is long overdue. Ms. Halley stated that there has been much work done over the past seven years to update the LDC and while officials have received substantial feedback from the community and there is much ongoing dialogue there is a strong will to move forward during a special City Council meeting that will be held after the 12/7/2109 Public Hearing. The CNA Steering Committee has sent a letter to Council Member Tovo outlining concerns which include poorly defined mapping of some areas in our neighborhood and a timeline that is too compressed to allow for adequate understanding of and feedback on the changes.
 - i. The Chair facilitated discussion among attendees. Mr. Walker stated some "givens" before opening the floor for discussion. Givens include:
 - 1. The City has to update the code.
 - 2. Requesting no change is not a realistic scenario.
 - 3. Presenting ourselves as a reasonable partner will achieve the best outcome.
 - 4. It was proposed that in the months of December-January we define the general principles under which we will shape growth in our neighborhood. This will include (re)defining how changes will look and development of specific

suggestions prior to the meeting that will be held in late January to early February to have second/third readings.

- ii. The floor was opened, and attendees expressed their concerns.
 - 1. Development on the traffic corridors must consider pedestrian safety, especially for children going to school. Manor Road was specifically cited as an area of concern.
 - 2. Attendees asked if these sorts of changes have been tested elsewhere and the cities of Portland, OR, Denver and Minneapolis were named.
 - 3. Many people expressed concern about issues related to traffic and transportation, including:
 - a. Parking is not addressed by the LDC rewrite. Dense housing on the perimeter without parking will make the already significant problems worse.
 - b. It was stated that the City is pushing for a 50% mode shift to the use of public transportation (Project Connect, the Strategic Mobility Plan) but that the infrastructure is not yet developed.
 - 4. Infrastructure must be improved to keep pace with growth. Aging sewer lines will not stand up to significant increases in units and residents. More housing units and impervious coverage will increase flooding.
 - 5. Affordability is a stated goal of the LDC rewrite but there was much discussion that these plans do not really address affordability. Cherrywood is a neighborhood with many long-time renters and they may be driven out. The effect these changes will have on property taxes was a concern that could directly and adversely affect affordability.
- iii. After discussion, it was proposed that meetings be held, preferably as an actual rather than a virtual group.
 - 1. The emphasis will be to discuss how we will shape and define our future more than to create an alternative map.
 - 2. We want to ensure that there are braking mechanisms to prevent speculative behavior from developers and perhaps promote more family or owner development of lots.
 - 3. Attendance at the Public Hearing is encouraged as is contacting Tovo's office.

7. Steering Committee Membership Annual Election.

- a. Three positions are open on the Steering Committee and a request was made for nominees.
- b. Cara Breton, resident on Lafayette Avenue volunteered.
- c. Requests will be ongoing until positions are filled.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Notes recorded by Sharon Lynch