

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 - 6:30 PM

Zoom ID: 254 172 8972

Attendees

Jim Walker, Chair	Brandy Savarese
Jeri Sence	Adam Packer
Sharon Lynch, Secretary	Matt Harriger
Sean Griffin, Neighborhood Resident	Brendan Wittstruck, Guest brwittstruck@gmail.com
Allen Hah, Treasurer	Girard Kinney
Cara Breton	

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There is a quorum.
2. The agenda was provided via email and previously adopted.
3. Citizen Communication (3 min speaker, up to 5 speakers). There were no community presenters.
4. Approval of Previous SC Meeting Minutes. Brandy moved to adopt, Allen seconded. The minutes are approved.
5. Community Presenters: **Brenden Wittstruck**, NCINC3, long involved with planning with TXDoT. NCINC3 has worked with TXDoT for changes to IH-35 includes multiple neighborhoods and has been involved for years. Highway expansion project is funded and will enter environmental impact review this year. Plans are to lower lanes through downtown and maybe through our neighborhood as well. Downtown Austin Alliance has taken a leadership role and is trying to form community alliances. Our Future 35 (DAA) is trying to engage stakeholders and address the history of the highway that cast East Avenue as a line of segregation that unfortunately still exists.
<https://downtownaustin.com/what-we-do/current-projects/i35/>
<https://www.ourfuture35.org/> NCINC3 is not focused on the highway but on the environment around around the highway to increase inclusion and diversity and give voice to people who have long been denied a voice. Engagement with TXDoT may begin in fall. NEFA (environmental

impact) process? What will the plans look like? Sound barriers? E-W connections? The more we can give unified visions among all neighborhoods the more likely changes can and would be made by TXDoT but they won't w/o concerted consistent effort from the community. If we are divided, it is easier to ignore us. TXD will host a series of community engagement/input meetings and they are obligated to hear and respond to input (per Matt H). This issue will be a major article in the Flea and we will invite someone from TXD to the next GM--perhaps the chief engineer. PUMA, NINC3, TXDoT? Discussion: CB fewer rather than lots of presenters, JS help us understand the issues that are complex and lots of people are at 101 basics level. MH: schematic will represent the footprint of the project but not details so don't overinterpret the schematic.

6. Reports/Discussion/Action from Officers and Committees

- a. Allen Hah gave the Treasurer's Report. There have been no changes since last month. Ad billing has been delayed until October. Cash: \$2311.89. Net: \$3636.89
- b. Girard Kinney gave the Land Use/Transportation Committee Report. There has not been a meeting but there has been a site plan submitted to the City for the former Sears building in Hancock Center. Many have advocated for a rail transit stop at HC. At CWG a grant will be pursued to rebuild the staircase and add handrail. We have money held at PARC for a project, TBD. No new activity on SWC intersection. CB heard that Sears Bldg plan may be a minor HEB expansion. There continues to be a problem with obstructed views at intersections due to plants.
- c. Flea Report: can we expand editorial capacity of the Flea? Reach out to JPM. Resolve production and In-Design work processes. JS: are there job descriptions for IN-Design layout, content editor, etc. BS urged GK to prepare his article so it can be ready to go. JW will discuss processes with JPM
- d. Jim Walker gave the UBC Update. None.
- e. Jules Vieau gave the ANC Update: Jules not present.

7. Updates on CNA Programs and Projects (Discussion and Possible Action)

- a. IH-35 / NCINC3 planning
- b. LDC rewrite revisit, some ideas went out in March and when we took the forced breather we lost momentum and we need to refresh people's memories and get them excited again. BLCC owns and rents homes, GCC focuses on home ownership. One of our asks is if there is total demolition of a house the CNA gets to see the site plan. Now demos and site plans are administratively approved without us seeing them. To ensure trees are preserved, setbacks are honored, neighborhoods have input to ensure some affordable housing is preserved. We are not anti-demolition, we are not anti-density but we are pro-compatible design and affordable housing. CB thinks that enough neighborhoods are anti demo/anti-density and this process may create a chorus of nays from other neighborhoods. CB suggests using a demo notification process to approach developers and give input. JS what is the next step? CB: Flea article, LCD discussion. <https://abc.austintexas.gov/web/permit/index?reset=true>

8. Ongoing Business (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. Sidewalk Master Plan update: no update
 - b. NeighborNet phase out: JW will send out one more notice about NN going away. Groups.io membership jumped 150 persons, about 400 people bounced back as undeliverable.

9. New Business (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. Steering Committee elections in Nov: CB asks if there is an ask? Are there enough renters represented? Need representatives from the Grayson area by Mims Church.
 - b. What specific skills are needed. Maybe subcommittees on issues related to construction, realty, etc. Jeri will write an article for Flea about this topic.
 - c. Helping homeless: no discussion
 - d. Website update ideas: no discussion
 - e. Deed restrictions update initiative (MH): Our deeds contain racist restrictive language. These are not enforceable, it is symbolic. Is it worth it to change these? JW language is symbolic legally but the conversation it would engender would include corporations, owners, landlords, etc. It would not be wasted effort. CB: can we tie this to a fundraising effort for diversity? JS: making things right is important. GK: there are other restrictions that don't reflect the current neighborhood like selling alcohol or having two story buildings. How do you change the fundamental deed restrictions even when they are not enforceable. The conversation is the value. We will discuss further next month. MH puts to SC--do you want this as a SC issue or MH personal initiative? GK thinks it should be a CNA issue. AH wonders if there is a downside. GK: even if deed cannot be changed it will bring the prohibitions to the light. JW: we would have to write up what we are doing, knowing we may be criticised for the appearance of white saviorism.

10. Recommendations for Future SC Agenda Items and Meeting Date
 - a. SC: Wed, Oct. 14 and Wed, Nov. 11
 - b. Next GC: Wed, Nov. 18
 - c. SC November presentation – Project Connect?
 - d. General Meeting presentation – IH-35 and equity issues?

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07