

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee Minutes: Final

Wednesday, 10/13/2021 | 6:30 PM

Location: Zoom ID: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2541728972>

Attendees:

P	Jim Walker, Chair	A	Cara Breton, Member
P	Allen Hah, Treasurer	A	Jeri Spence, Member
P	Sharon Lynch, Secretary	P	Brandy Savarese, Member
P	Girard Kinney, Member	A	Matt Harriger, Member
P	Jules Vieau, Member	P	Sean Griffin, Member
A	Adam Packer, Member	V	Dave Westenberger
G	Chas Moore, No Way Prop A	V	Bill Wallace
G	Soyla Luna, Austin Justice Coalition	G	Chris Harris, Austin Justice Coalition
G	Cameron Jacox, Save Austin Now	V	Mari Russ
V	Eggy Comb	V	Karen Paup

P = Present A = Absent V = Visitor (resident) G = Guest

Agenda:

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. There is a quorum.
2. The agenda was submitted prior to the meeting for additions and adoption, the agenda was adopted.
3. The minutes of the previous SC August meeting were not reviewed due to time constraints.
4. Citizen Communication (3 min speaker, up to 5 speakers):
5. Community Presenters:
 - a. Pro/Con presentations and Q&A about [Proposition A](#), the “Police Policies on Minimum Number of Officers, Training Requirements, and Demographic Representation Initiative” on the Nov 2, 2021 ballot.
 - i. Each side will have 8 min to present their side uninterrupted, then 3 min to rebut uninterrupted
 - ii. Then we’ll open to questions from Cherrywooders with each side having 2 min to respond uninterrupted to each question

- iii. The CNA Steering Committee does not make endorsements of political candidates or positions. The purpose of this discussion is to provide information on issues that affect our neighborhood.
- b. Cameron Jacox of Save Austin Now favors Prop A. The stand is based on a perceived shortage of APD personnel, increasing response time and rising violent crime in face of decreased funding for police--which has been restored. They contend there is concern about safety from the community and emboldening for criminals due to reduced police presence. Prop A will double training time for APD and have 2 police officers per 1000 residents, will enact police reforms and increase minority police hires.
- c. Chris Harris of the Austin Justice Coalition and Chas Moore of No Way, Prop A, oppose Prop A and there is large support from community based groups. They state that Prop A is not police reform and it does not enhance public safety, police oversight, transparency and accountability. It is expensive and it does not address the fundamental problems of APD. Now, APD has its highest budget ever so there has not been a loss of funding affecting performance. Leading cause of homicide and violent crime is interpersonal dispute which is not well addressed by current funding; community interventionists do address this problem. Prop A will give nearly half the city budget to police at the loss of firefighters, park staff, library staff, etc. We cannot police our way out of crime.
- d. Rebuttal:
 - i. C. Jacox, the trend is troubling. We had a cut without reform. There is reform written into Prop A.
 - ii. C. Harris and C. Moore: this proposition was built on fear and lies and would harm those things we love in Austin such as parks, animal shelters and libraries.
- e. Questions from committee:
 - i. Did COVID have an effect on the last cadet class? CH: the COA was sued by a cadet class over poor treatment so the city took a long look at problems related to training but both CH and CJ suspect COVID had an effect on most everything.
 - ii. JW: if Prop A fails will there be issues between APD and the community? CH: There is politicization in the APD which is unfortunate. CJ: focus on the issues not the politicization.
 - iii. Mari Russ: what are the root causes of crime and how can we address these upstream to prevent crime or de-escalate situations? CJ: Complex question but reducing police makes everyone less safe. CH: 75% of

people arrested in Austin are at 125% of poverty. Invest in programs to address poverty.

6. Reports/Discussion/Action from Officers and Committees

- a. Allen Hah presented the Treasurer's Report. Finances are good. All ads are booked for November Flea. Cash: \$3214.64. Net: \$3879.64. This is \$500 less than last month due to several expenditures: \$220 for Ice Cream Truck at Patterson Park, \$155 to renew SquareSpace, \$100 for insert/flyer to engage neighbors in IH35 discussion, \$56 for the IH35 open house at Cherrywood Cafe.
- b. Girard Kinney/Brandy Savarese presented the report of the Land Use/Transportation Committee concerning
 - i. Final letter to TxDOT was submitted and it has been pretty quiet since except for some media requests. (Discussion, no action.)
 1. Per JW: TxDOT asks how important is a connection between Wilshire Woods and 45th St? We support this for E-W connectivity but it must be safe for all modes of transportation.
 2. BS: TxDOT proposes tunnels under the road which is not acceptable.
 3. GK: tunnels have been shown to be unsafe. Pedestrian access needs to be at grade.
 4. JW: We want TxDOT to continue to look for ways to minimize the land they take.
 - ii. Manor Road / Cherrywood intersection is well underway and not very safe at this time. GK: SE corner is nice, SW corner is not.
 - iii. 32nd Street Sidewalk: GK: section from LaFayette to I35 access road has been mostly built along 32nd Street. There is a crossing from S side to N side of 32nd St. at one point which is not good and is unmarked.
 - iv. CNA Sidewalk Master Plan Schedule: No funding/schedule for 32nd St to Walnut to Manor.
- c. Communications Committee JW
 - i. Flea Editor: cover story will be the 80th anniversary of Patterson Park. We have a new Flea layout editor (Gabbi Williams, a long-time resident of CW and a graduate of Maplewood Elementary.)
- d. Nominating Committee
 - i. Annual SC election on 11/17, discussion of potential candidates
 - ii. Two current vacancies, four incumbents at end of term
 - iii. Need recruits to ensure we maintain quorum.
- e. Jim Walker reported UBC Update: none

- f. Jules Vieau reported on the ANC Update: Want to form a subcommittee to look at IH35 issues. They ask if CNA has an alternate design to present--we do not, it is not incumbent on us to do more than protest what is unacceptable.
7. Updates on CNA Programs and Projects (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. IH-35 / NCINC3 planning
8. Ongoing Business (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. IH35 Capital Express letter follow-up: none yet.
 - b. UT Austin graduate student research on affordability options, will come to SC meeting on 11/10 to present findings. May be the front page in the February Flea about affordable housing in the neighborhood.
9. New Business (Discussion and Possible Action):
 - a. BS: think about designs for western boundary of the neighborhood with IH35 changes.
10. Recommendations for Future SC Agenda Items and Meeting Date
 - a. Next Steering Committee meeting: Wednesday 11/10/2021
 - b. Next General CNA Meeting: Wednesday 11/17/2021
11. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Appendix:

Steering Committee members and terms

Jim Walker, 2020-2022 (Chair appt Aug, 2019)

Brandy Savarese, 2019 - 2021 (Vice-Chair)

Sharon Lynch, 2020-2022 (Secretary)

Allen Hah, 2020-2022 (Treasurer)

Sean Griffin, 2020-2022

Matt Harriger, 2020-2022

Jules Vieau, 2020-2022

Girard Kinney, 2020-2022

Cara Bertron, 2019 - 2021

Adam Packer, 2019 - 2021 (appt Feb, 2020)

Jeri Spence, 2019 - 2021 (appt Feb, 2020)

Vacant

Vacant