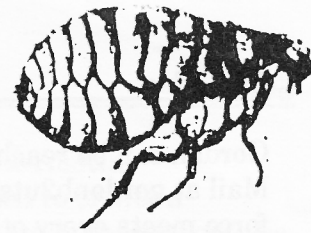


# The Flea



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
Vol. I, No. 2

November 1995

## FIRST MEETING ATTRACTS OVER 50 PEOPLE!

### UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR REACTIVATING CNA!!

Dear Neighbor,

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) held a meeting on the evening of October 5 in the Maplewood Elementary School cafeteria. The meeting was called primarily to measure interest in reactivating the CNA and was attended by over 50 neighbors. Moreover, dozens of neighbors who could not attend contacted acting president Gordon Bennett to express their desire to participate in future CNA activities. Before the meeting was over, the decision was made unanimously to reactivate the association.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCTOBER 5 MEETING

### 1. The Past, Present, and Future of the CNA

Gordon Bennett began the meeting by giving a brief history of the CNA and some of the issues in which it has been involved. For example, the CNA pressured Fiesta to construct a drainage pond to reduce runoff from their parking lot and encouraged the introduction of the city's curbside recycling program into the neighborhood (we were one of the first four neighborhoods in Austin to have curbside recycling).

Gordon emphasized, however, that at present the CNA is essentially defunct. By-laws were drafted in 1986 but have never been followed, partly because they are too complicated. Since several important issues, including airport redevelopment, will be demanding Cherrywood's involvement in the coming months and years, Gordon proposed formally reactivating the CNA in order to give the neighborhood a mechanism for determining and expressing its interests. This proposal received the unanimous approval of those present at the meeting.

### 2. Airport Redevelopment

Girard Kinney and Gordon Bennett, Cherrywood's appointed representatives on the Airport Redevelopment Task Force, spoke about the current airport situation. They stressed that everything is on track for a November 1998 closing of Mueller Airport and that **there is no chance that it will remain in operation after Bergstrom's opening.**

This 15-person task force consists of representatives from six neighborhoods surrounding the airport as well as representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Real Estate Council, Capital Metro, the University of Texas, and other interested entities. The task force's mission is to produce general guidelines for the airport redevelopment process. Such guidelines are very important, for if market forces are permitted to operate freely, the danger will exist for uneven development with heavy commercialization of the periphery (Airport Blvd, Manor Road, etc.) and neglect of the interior.

Neither Girard nor Gordon are supporting any specific redevelopment plan at this time, and they are seeking neighbors' input. You can contact Girard with your ideas and concerns about the airport at 478-5042.

Gordon can be reached at 477-5973 or by E-Mail at gordonb2uts.cc.utexas.edu. The task force meets every other Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the airport's administrative offices (park in short-term parking and you can get your ticket validated). The task force welcomes citizen input at its meetings. If you plan to attend, you might want to call Girard or Gordon to confirm that the meeting will take place as scheduled.

### 3. The "Howeth Houses" on Robinson Avenue

Chuck Herrick gave the history of neighbors' attempts to resolve the problem of three abandoned and substandard houses on Robinson Avenue, all owned by absentee landlord J.W. Howeth. Neighbors want the houses to be repaired and occupied, although one of the houses is in such bad shape that demolition may be the only viable option. Chuck described a complex complaint process made even more frustrating by confusion within the city's bureaucracy and by legal appeals made by Mr. Howeth. At present, though, action does appear to be on the horizon. A judge has ruled that Mr. Howeth and the city have 30 days to work out a settlement. If they fail to do so, the dispute will be legally mediated by a third party. Stuart Hersh of the Building and Standards Board, the city's point man on this matter, claims that the city will fully represent the neighborhood's interests in its negotiations with Mr. Howeth. You can call Chuck Herrick at 480-0757 for information as it develops.

*[During his report at the October 5 meeting, Chuck mentioned that this issue would come up before the city's Building and Standards Board at its meeting on November 29. Because of the judge's ruling, however, the Howeth Houses will not be on the agenda of this meeting after all]*

### 4. Neighborhood Planning Possibilities

Greg Gurnsey from the city's planning department and Regina Lauderdale of Hollywood Avenue explained Neighborhood Combining and Conservation Districts (NCCDs). Mr. Gurnsey described how neighborhoods can devise zoning plans or other building guidelines, gain approval from the city, and in such a way influence future land use in the neighborhood. He also emphasized the flexibility of NCCDs, saying that they can be as small as a couple of blocks or as large as an entire neighborhood. The key to such districts is having a group of dedicated and like-minded neighbors formulate a viable plan and then win support for it from other neighbors. Mr. Gurnsey added that no one should view an NCCD as a restriction on their property rights; anyone not wishing to participate in a proposed plan can have their property excluded from any new guidelines.

Regina and Girard Kinney then proposed that Cherrywood, even if it never creates an NCCD, should at very least begin contemplating its future as a neighborhood. Such a process would raise awareness about what kind of zoning currently exists and measure opinion about what type of future development we want or do not want in our

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neighborhood. For example, would we want a light-rail station to serve our neighborhood? Such forward thinking is especially relevant now. According to an article in the *Austin American-Statesman* (10/22/95), the Citizens Planning Commission will recommend to the city council in January the adoption of a Portland-style organizational structure for Austin's neighborhoods. Under such a system, neighborhoods could have significant control over development within their boundaries, provided that they had specific ideas about what they wanted.

Anyone interested in getting together to discuss Cherrywood's present and future land-use should call Chris Wilson at 480-0310.

#### 5. Non-Agenda Items

Michael McClendon handed out flyers identifying several areas of interest to him, in

particular the efforts of the Austin Metropolitan Trails Council to create a network of hike-and-bike trails throughout the city. Current efforts of this council are focused on Walnut Creek, but the railroad tracks cutting through Cherrywood have also been eyed as a potential trail. Contact Mike at 482-0016(H) or 465-3960(W) for more information.

Gordon Bennett circulated a sheet for people to write down issues important to them. Some of the concerns raised were the fraternity houses on Dancy, the UT employees parking on Dancy, speeding in the neighborhood, the litter generated by Fiesta, noise from recent parties, and the inevitable concerns about crime. Contact Gordon Bennett at 477-5973 or by E-Mail at [gordonb2uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:gordonb2uts.cc.utexas.edu) to inform him of issues important to you.

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## ***NEXT MEETING***

**THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WILL MEET**

on

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AT 7:30 P.M.**

at

**THE DISCOVERY INCUBATOR, 2200 MANOR ROAD**

#### **Agenda**

- 7:30 Lieutenant James Fealy, Commander of the Central East ("Charlie") Sector, Austin Police Department. *(Lt. Fealy asked to give a presentation to the CNA. He is the officer in charge of the area east of IH-35 between the river and US-183. He is responsible for the policing of Cherrywood. If you have ever had any questions about crime or police presence, this is the man to ask.)*
- 8:00 Discussion of CNA By-Laws (Gordon Bennett) *(Some past CNA activists have produced a simplified set of by-laws based on those drafted in 1986. Gordon will present them for discussion and potential approval. Ideally, the CNA would be able to elect officers and form working groups at the next meeting after this one.)*
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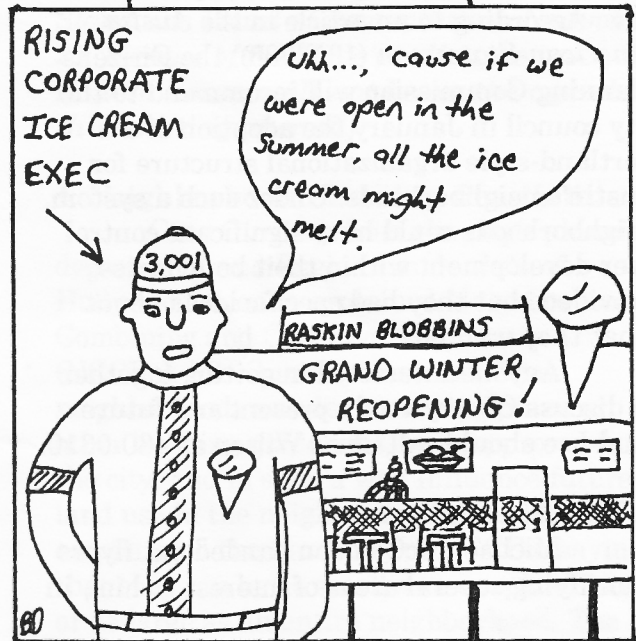
**SOME USEFUL  
PHONE NUMBERS**

(If you have any better numbers, call Steven Kreger at 477-4216)



- Police-Non Emergency 480-5000
- Animal Control 472-7387
- Electric Power Outage 322-9100
- Traffic Signal Repair 480-0506
- Water/Wastewater 480-2310
- Garbage Problems 499-2111
- Abandoned Cars 280-5121
- Dead Animal Collection 472-0500
- Street Light Repair 505-7046
- Litter and Weed Control 469-2015
- Street Maintenance 440-8444
- Tree Trimming around 322-6771
- Lights and Power Lines
- Tree and Shrub Trimming at Intersections 480-3032

Cartoon of the issue



Correction: The previous issue of *The Flea* neglected to include the duplexes north of 38 1/2 Street within the boundaries of the CNA. This was an error. Welcome Duplex Nation!!

**ABOUT THE FLEA**

This humble flyer serves the CNA by providing information and a forum for neighborhood discussion. *The Flea* will provide the agenda for all upcoming CNA meetings and describe the previous one.

*The Flea* needs sustained volunteer support. Help distribute it on your block by contacting David Lamping at 322-9776 or Chuck Herrick at 480-0757. To advertise in or solicit advertising for *The Flea*, contact Steven Kreger at 477-4216. If you have news, a cartoon, a drawing, or comments, contact Bennett Donovan at 473-2089. Space, time, and budget constraints limit what will be printed, but inclusiveness is the goal.

The first two issues were produced by Bennett Donovan (editor), Steven Kreger (contributor/advertising), David Lamping (printing/distribution), Chuck Herrick (contributor/distribution), and Mike Conner (layout). THANKS!!!



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