

Austin Heights Neighborhood Association – General Membership Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2006 6:30 PM Alamo Recreation Center

10 members present when meeting was called to order.

Co-Chair Emily Wilson called the meeting to order and asked for introductions from the members.

Guests:

Crispin Ruiz, City of Austin

Roman Grijalva, ACWP

Joe Cecil, ACWP

Bob Schmidt, McClean Construction

I. Subcommittee Updates

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Bob Schmidt provided the association with an update on the Rountree-Moss-Pannell construction project. Repaving has begun and will continue from Higgins to Pannell to Eckert to Moss to Rountree. The project should take four weeks to complete and is dependent on weather. Kathleen Nolde raised a concern was raised about the temporary fencing preventing the removal of debris during the upcoming large brush collection on May 15. Crispin Ruiz volunteered to contact Solid Waste Services to guarantee that the debris would be picked up if the fencing remains. Amber raised a concern about construction workers using resident's water to fill water coolers. Bob Schmidt assured the group that he would speak to the on-site management team. Notices will be sent out at least a week in advance regarding street lane closures.

Robert Tillotson told the group that new stop signs should be installed within 30 days on each street except for Higgins which is a right-angle turn onto Rountree.

Speed bumps will require a \$500K investment from the NA.

APD COMMANDER'S FORUM

Ruby Burton gave an update about the latest APD Commander's Forum meeting:

- Auto burglaries are the #1 crime in Central East Austin
- Prostitution is also heavy in the area
- APD will be hosting their 6th Annual Conference 6/13-6/14 at Palmer Events Center. First 450 people will be able to attend for free.

SAFETY

We do not have a safety committee at this time.

We are supposed to have a neighborhood watch sign on Higgins, but have not received it yet from Rosewood NPT.

ENVIRONMENT & APPEARANCE

Natalie Resendez gave a brief presentation about the newly formed Environment & Appearance Committee. The committee wants to know (Kai 391-0251) about any neighbors who may need assistance in the upcoming large brush pickup. Creek clean-up in September as a long-term goal. Next meeting is May 17, 6:30 PM at Clementine Coffee on Manor.

Kathleen Nolde proposed having a neighborhood party once the construction project is finished. Angie Resendez reminded the group that National Night Out is in August.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Redeemer is being monitored but there is no new development on the project.

Emily Wilson and Shelby O'Brien attended a meeting with Rosewood NPT and CapMETRO on Transit Oriented Development. Land has been bought on the south side of MLK for the commuter rail station. The TOD policies encourage densification within a quarter- to a half-mile of the station. The commuter rail track will be shared with the existing freight lines.

There is a proposal for a Manor Road streetcar from the new Mueller Development to UT. The city may be placing the proposal on the November ballot.

II. General Announcements

Early voting 5/1 – 5/9 for next city election. 5/13 is election day.

Parks & Open Spaces Meeting, Tuesday April 25, 2006, 6:00 PM Satellite One Office, 9301 Johnny Morris Road, Austin

III. Speaker: Basia Breslin

Emily Wilson introduced Basia Breslin to the group.

- Neighborhood seems green-minded
- Basia encouraged the group to don't use pesticides and try to grow organically
- Poison Ivy – Brush-Be-Gone works better than Round-Up. Use when it's sunny for at least three days in a row. Best time to kill is early spring.
- Websites and Books: naturalgardener.com, Austin Xeriscape Guide, Gardening Success with Difficult Soils (Ogden)
- There is still time to plant tropical annuals and perennials.
- Good time to do top dressing: compost or top dressing.
- Spray plants and trees with a seaweed solution (crystallized form)
- Use phosphate or soil activators for anything you plant.
- Drip irrigation is a great way to keep plants wet and healthy during the summer. Use a timer.
- Infrequent, but deep watering (1-2 hrs.) is important.
- The best water gauge is your finger. If it feels moist up to the 1st knuckle, you've watered enough.
- 3-4" layer of mulch for trees and perennials is important. Will keep soil 10 degrees cooler.
- 2" layer of gravel for succulents.
- Keep water and food out for birds.
- Edge gardens with rocks.
- Good time to start planning for the fall.
- Use black plastic to kill existing plants – replace with mulch.
- Plant black-eyed peas and buckwheat to prepare the soil.
- Compost is a cure-all for treating grass problems
- Anybody can grow things. Reading is important.