

BCNA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

11/07/07

Attendees: Kathie Tovo, Matt Coldwell, Jody Zemel, Stuart Hampton, Sara Wilder, Cory Walton, Gavin Wilson, Jim Retherford

Additional attendees: Gary Hyatt

Traffic circles

The group discussed the traffic circles in the neighborhood and the recent accident that occurred at one, and whether BCNA should take any action to request that the city remove them. The consensus was that issues related to the traffic circles in the neighborhood be addressed in a separate committee if there is sufficient interest in doing so.

Noise ordinance decibel level reduction proposal

Cory reported on the music commission's town hall meeting that was held on Monday, November 5. Musicians present at that meeting did not want current decibel levels reduced in downtown entertainment district. **Cory makes motion to draft a letter for circulation to SC before submitting to planning committee, Stuart seconds, motion passes, six for, one abstain (Sara)**

Austin Energy utility replacements

AE is replacing poles along Annie, which BCNA was not notified about. AE will also be replacing poles along Bouldin. Group discussed writing letter to city in protest of AE's handling of this. **Matt agreed to draft letter and circulate to group.**

Zoning

711 W. Elizabeth and San Jose Lofts will be up at Board of Adjustments on November 14, 2007.

NMU

Cory presented. This issue has arisen out of the variance received by Enoteca. The owners assumed that since received NMU zoning, they now qualify for NMU and can take a reduction in parking requirements, despite the fact that they do not have any residential use on the property. We have applied to have this reviewed by city staff. City Council may consider this tomorrow, Nov. 8. Enoteca has offered to try to provide some sort of community benefit for the neighborhood to mitigate this. They have also said that our neighborhood plan has a footnote that does not require NMU to actually include residential. Our argument is that they shouldn't get the parking reduction if they don't have residential. **Kathie and Cory will research NP team documents to see where the footnote came from.**

VMU

Stuart presented on the proposed VMU ordinance. The city has provided a map designating properties proposed to opt in. Suggestion made for someone to attend the meeting on Tuesday and also to post on the email list.

Parks

Jody presented Ingrid's report. Representatives met with EarthTech to review sewer replacement plans for Dawson Park. The representatives asked for alternatives and have not heard back. The project is now on hold waiting for designs to be finalized considering our feedback, likely until at least January. Richard Soliz seemed to be sympathetic to our concerns. Many trees with yellow tags have been identified to be removed or severely pruned, and a large tank will be placed directly beside creek and a 36" diameter oak tree. Matt expressed strong concerns about the lack of mitigation efforts within the park rather than the approach proposed is the same as if the location were in the middle of a street. The Austin Parks Foundation has offered to do removal of non-native plants and erosion control using the funds from the Rolling Stones concert. They need approval from BCNA to authorize the use of the funds (from the Rolling Stones concert) to do this. Some felt that we should make sure that the funds go to all four parks and that we have more input into how it is done.

Kathie suggested approving a small amount to be approved to pursue the master plan.

Stuart makes motion to approve \$2500 of the \$31,000 parks fund to pursue the master plan for West Bouldin Greenbelt, Jody seconds, seven for, one against, motion passes.

Elections

Officers try to recruit new officers

Current candidates

Gary – director communications (non-officer position?)

Jody –

Gavin – Treasurer

Stuart – Sector Rep

Sara – Sector Rep

Cory – No, ANC Rep