

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 66443
Austin, Texas 78766-0443
General Membership Meeting
March 3, 2015, 6:30 pm
Pillow Elementary School Cafetorium

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Lois McEvoy.
Secretary Barbara Gaston recorded the proceedings.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2015 GENERAL MEETING

A correction was requested to Committee Report item g: Ms. Cobb's name was corrected from Amanda to Amelia.
Dallas Maham (Kenneth Webb) moved to accept the minutes with correction. Motion carried.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS (*Written reports are included in this packet.)

A. *TRAFFIC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOMAS RODRIGUEZ

On February 5, 2015 city staff met to complete plans to use rubberized speed humps/cushions to calm traffic on Rockwood. This design allows large vehicles (fire trucks/ambulances) to straddle the humps/cushions. AFD, EMS, and AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY approved the design. The project is tentatively scheduled to start during the summer. No action has been taken on traffic calming on Ashdale.

B. MEDIA COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SHARON JUSTICE

The newsletter will be distributed on the weekend of March 14/15, 2015.

C. SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AMELIA COBB

1. NSCNA's primary social events are
 - a. the spring garage sale
 - b. the July 4th celebration
 - c. the December luminaria walk.

She welcomes new suggestions and volunteers to help with all three.

2. Three events will occur in our neighborhood on May 2:

- a. The NSCNA GARAGE SALE is on May 2, 2015, 8 a.m-1 p.m.
- b. NSCNA will participate with the fund raising efforts of PILLOW SCHOOL. The school will be hosting an ART EVENT with graphic artists and food trucks. For a small donation tables will be set up under the pavilion for anyone who wishes to sell crafts or garage sale items. Funds received by Pillow will go toward paying for paint which will be used by graphic artists to create murals on the portable classrooms.
- c. The NORTH AUSTIN ART AND GARDEN TOUR- some of our neighbors will be participating.

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- D. *DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KEVIN WIER described the points he plans to emphasize when he meets with city council regarding the zoning issue.
- E. *TREASURER DONNA EAGAR presented a printed treasurer's report. There was no public comment.

IV. VISIT BY CITY COUNCIL WOMAN LESLIE POOL

- A. Ms. Pool introduced her staff and said that they are working with NSCNA and other city council members in order to reach a consensus on the zoning issue. She said that NSCNA leadership has done a great job and she has enjoyed working with them.
- B. Ms. Pool has been assigned to the following committees.
 - 1. Open Space, Environment and Sustainability- She chairs this committee
 - 2. Audit and Finance
 - 3. Austin Energy-She is Vice-Chairman
 - 4. Economic Opportunity, Technology, Innovation and Creative Industries
 - 5. Public Safety
- C. The ZONING ISSUE of C14-2014-0157:
Ms. Pool discussed the issue and responded to audience questions and comments:
 - 1. Ms. Pool understands that NSCNA is not against density or affordable housing. The basic message NSCNA has put forward is that MF-6 zoning is not appropriate for this particular site. We want development to be compatible with the current zoning in the area, which has been MF-4. MF-6 zoning is currently in the downtown and Domain areas.
 - 2. Ms. Pool said that this (8528 Burnet Rd.) was the first zoning case to come before the new city council. The first reading vote was 7-4 in favor of MF-6 zoning. There was a lot of discussion before the vote. Emotional support for MF-6 was evident after Gordon Automotive representatives implied that their taxes were prohibitive; the owners were planning to sell the business and retire if the development proceeded; but NSCNA's anti-business and anti-development stance was somehow preventing the owners from retiring. Ms. Pool said that she does not think that is a proper basis for approving or denying a zoning change.

Ms. Pool said that there is time for negotiating with city council before the final reading. The date of the second reading of the zoning request has not yet been set. It is not on the March agenda. Developer Sackman has conceded to lowering the number of apartments from 300 to 225. However, he has said that if MF-6 is not approved he will walk away from the development. She agrees with NSCNA representatives when they say that they would be agreeable to his walking away. Some other council members have said that is not a viable solution; the zoning issue has to be worked out; and methods of traffic calming have to be agreed upon.
 - 3. In response to audience comments that
 - a. Austin city government does not honor the results of numerous expensive studies regarding planning, and

- b. NSCNA has been requesting a neighborhood plan for eight years; it has been approved five times; however, it has never been implemented due to lack of available city staff. After the last time the request was approved , the Burnet corridor issue superseded it.

Ms. Pool said that since NSCNA has no neighborhood plan she encourages the association to make its wishes to have a plan known. This new city council is grappling with what the policies and practices have been in the past. Sometimes reports do resonate and result in action; sometimes they do not. City staff are trying to improve their practices.

4. In response to an audience question: Does the 6-2 planning commission vote in favor of MF-6 zoning still play a part in the final council zoning decision?

Ms. Pool said that planning commission members provide advice to city council. Ultimately, the city council casts the final vote.

5. In response to audience concern about the expected increase in neighborhood traffic, especially around Pillow School,

Ms. Pool said that she recognizes the value of school safety and the need for traffic calming. The city council mobility committee will address the issue. Some city council members encourage pedestrian activity and seek ways to encourage people to get out of their cars. Some of her colleagues are of the opinion that development should not be stymied just because traffic is bad; they say that it is bad everywhere.

Lois McEvoy thanked Ms. Pool and her staff for their interest in the concerns of NSCNA. Since it was to be her birthday on March 5, the audience sang "Happy Birthday" to Ms. Pool. She and her staff then departed.

V. GENERAL DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

People were urged to email, write or telephone members of city council to reinforce NSCNA's opinion on the zoning issue; and to send a subsequent message of thanks for their time and consideration.

Members of Pillow School P.T.A might be amenable to supporting NSCNA's stance on the zoning issue.

Date for the second and third readings of the zoning proposal is tentatively set for April 9, 2015. However, the draft agenda does not show this meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS- There was none.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Dallas Mahan (Barbara Gaston) moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Minutes approved at General Membership Meeting, May 5, 2015.