

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
September 7, 2010
Pillow Elementary School, 3025 Crosscreek Dr.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35.

Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Cheri Hartman to adopt the agenda. The bylaws committee information will be presented under Announcements and Updates on the agenda. The agenda was adopted by consent.

Approval of minutes from the May 4, 2010 general membership meeting

The minutes were amended under the membership committee report. The second sentence was changed to "As of Feb 1st, there were 37 members." Lynda Oakes motioned to adopt the amended minutes. The amended minutes were adopted by consent.

Announcements and Updates

October 5th is National Night Out (for Texas). Contact Andreas Guenin if you want to be included in the NSC list of block parties. The city application is on-line. You do not have to submit a city application. If you choose to submit a city application, the city should send you invitations and city officials may stop by your party.

September 23rd is hazardous waste collection for elderly and disabled neighbors. Contact Alyssa Hedge for information or to participate.

Tuesday October 19th at 6:30, there will be a special general meeting to discuss the results from the Neighborhood Partner Program survey and the possibility of spending money from the neighborhood Certificate of Deposit (CD).

October 23 NSCNA will be sponsoring an Outdoor Lawn Games Fiesta at Pillow. Volunteers are needed to help organize the event. Please contact Alyssa Hedge at socialchair@nscna.org or 512-380-9616.

Austin Energy surveyed our neighborhood for the need for tree trimming around power lines. More information on the tree trimming process can be found on the NSCNA website at <http://www.nscna.org/?p=1218>.

Pillow Elementary could use supply donations (see the meeting agenda for a list of specific supplies). Contact Huddie Murray at 512-841-4837 if you can help.

We need additional volunteers to help deliver newsletters. Please contact Andreas Guenin at andreas.guenin@gmail.com or 512-323-2613 if you can volunteer.

Volunteers are also needed to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2011 officers and board members. Please contact Chip Rosenthal at president@nscna.org or 512-573-5174, or any board member if you are interested in serving on the nominating committee.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made our Independence Day Parade a great success.

The Pillow Elementary principal has asked that NCS residents do **not** use the trash receptacles (dumpsters) in the parking lot.

The Bylaws Committee held its first meeting on August 26th. Lois McEvoy is the committee chair. Other committee members include Jerry Horn, Vicki McFadden, Kevin Weir, and Sherran Williams. The committee will be meeting again next week. Please contact Sherran at 512-925-7490 for the exact date, time, and location.

There are currently 138 households that have joined the NSCNA this year.

Report from the City of Austin on the results of Steck Avenue Restriping – Annick Beaudet, Peter Marsh, and Cathy Hornaday from the Neighborhood Connectivity Division

The study involved the area of Steck from Burnet to just past Shoal Creek. The restriping changed 4 lanes to 2 lanes divided with bike lanes on each side. The city used a road tube to get average daily counts before and after the road diet. Counts were done 5 times a day. The information includes speed, gap data (gap data is the amount of time for a pedestrian to cross the road), cue data (cue data is the number of cars at a red light), car counts, and bicyclists counts. Annick will forward the link to the study.

The results show a significant increase in pedestrian and bicyclist traffic. Automobile traffic counts did not increase. The 85th percentile speed reduced from a high of 40 mph to a high of 38 mph. The amount of available gaps reduced after the re-configuration, but the new configuration still provides an acceptable number of gaps. The total time traveling West has had a slight increase, and the total time traveling East has had a slight decrease. Cue time did not change. The level of service analysis at intersections remained the same. The report also includes accident data before and after the restriping.

There was discussion over the right and left turn lanes at the intersection of Steck and Burnet. The volume of left turns at this intersection supports the use of both lanes as left turn lanes.

Dallas Mahem motioned that NSCNA communicate with the City of Austin in writing and in person in support of the current road configuration. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal to apply for a City of Austin Urban Forest Grant – Sharon Justice

The Beautification Committee would like to apply for an Austin Urban Forest Grant. Approximately \$5,000 of the grant would be for medium sized trees (6-8 foot tall), and approximately \$4,000 of the grant would be for larger trees (8-12 foot tall). The tree vendors will also be asked to plant the trees. Money from the grant will also be used to hire an arborist to help identify trees that need to be removed and identify possible locations for new trees.

Homeowners with tree removals will be the primary candidates for larger trees; however, the homeowner has to pay for the tree removal. Trees have to be planted within 25 feet of the street. The trees must be on the city tree list. (There are 65 varieties of trees on this list).

Everyone who receives a tree must sign an agreement to care for the trees for 2 years. People who choose not to sign the agreement will not receive a tree. The neighborhood commitment is to organize this effort (work with the city for the grant, designate and coordinate with an arborist, and monitor trees).

There were questions regarding the eligibility of homeowners who recently cut down trees. They will probably still be eligible for trees. If Austin Energy cuts your tree, you are eligible for a small tree through Austin Energy, but you have to plant the tree yourself and it is small.

There was concern over buying larger trees since larger trees sometimes have trouble establishing themselves. The reason for buying larger trees is to fill in for lost trees.

Sharon Justice motioned the NSCNA submit a grant proposal to the City of Austin for the amount of \$9,400 for the Urban Forestry Grant Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Overview of the City of Austin Neighborhood Cost Sharing Program and how NSCNA may participate - Kate Brien

The NSCNA is considering participating in the Neighborhood Cost Sharing Program (NCSP) which is a subdivision of the Neighborhood Partner Program (NPP). The program allows neighborhoods to participate in either small (less than \$75,000) or medium (\$75,000 - \$150,000) projects. Neighborhoods that participate in the program must provide at least 25% of the total cost of the project. The 25% can be covered by cash, services, or "sweat equity". "Sweat equity" covers a wide range of activities and the neighborhood association is working with the City to explore these opportunities.

The list of eligible projects includes:

Bicycle Facilities	Bicycle facilities promote both recreational and transportation uses of bicycles. Facilities may include bicycle lanes and path, racks, and other end of use facilities.
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Community Garden	A community garden is a single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people. Community gardens provide access to fresh produce and plants as well as access to satisfying labor, neighborhood improvement, sense of community and connection to the environment. The gardens also serve the purpose of bringing vacant or underused City-owned properties into productive use.
Community Planning/ Grant Funding	NPP may provide support for community planning activities and for neighborhood groups seeking grant funding from federal, state, or private sources. City matching funds may be provided to meet local cost share requirements.
Curbs and Gutters	Repairs or replacement of damaged or missing curbs and gutters may be accomplished using NPP funding.
Gateways / Trail Heads	Gateway projects involve the installation of distinctive monuments, signage, or decorative features at the entrance to a neighborhood, commercial district, or subdivision.
Green Streets	Green streets projects incorporate features that reduce run-off, provide water quality, and enhance neighborhood livability.
Pocket Parks	A pocket park or mini-park is a small park accessible to the general public. Pocket parks are frequently created on a single vacant building lot or on small, irregular pieces of land.
Sidewalks	Sidewalk projects may entail the installation of new sidewalks or the repair of existing sidewalks. All construction will be fully ADA-compliant.
Street Furniture	Street furniture is a collective term for objects and pieces of equipment installed on streets and roads for various purposes, including barriers, benches, bollards, planters, post boxes, streetlamps, bus shelters, grit bins, tram stops, taxi stands, fountains, watering troughs and memorials, and waste receptacles.
Traffic Calming	Traffic calming is the slowing or reduction of motor-vehicle traffic to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and improve the environment for residents. Physical devices include speed humps, speed cushions, rotaries, chicanes, and speed tables.
Trails	Trails are travel ways removed from roadways and not intended for automobile traffic. They may be paved or unpaved, and may serve both transportation and recreational purposes.
Tree and Flower Planting	Tree and Flower planting along the right of way contribute to the environmental quality of a neighborhood.

(Note: This list is from the City of Austin's website.)

Based on neighborhood feedback from earlier in the year, the NSCNA has submitted a letter of intent for the NCSP regarding sidewalk repairs and replacements. The letter of

intent is non-binding. If the neighborhood association decides to pursue another project or not to participate in the program, we can withdraw our letter of intent.

NSCNA members will receive a survey to gauge members interest in participating in the program (should we spend money from the neighborhood CD to participate in the program?), and if members are interested in participating in the program, which project should we pursue. There will be a special membership meeting at 6:30 on October 19th at Pillow Elementary to discuss the results of the survey.

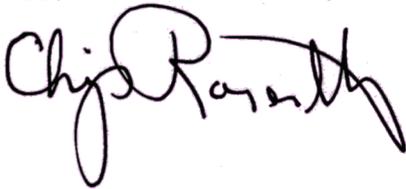
Members shared their thoughts regarding the program. One member shared that the neighborhood association should hold onto the money in case the association needs it at a later date instead of spending the money on the program. Another member stated that the program offered projects at a 75 % discount since the association is only required to pay 25% of the cost. One member shared that paying for sidewalk repairs would be double paying for sidewalks since tax dollars are supposed to pay for sidewalks. Another member said that the association should focus on traffic calming since the CD originated from the agreement with the Nissan dealership. Another member said that other cities such as Palo Alto and Dallas charge residents much less for sidewalk replacements than the city of Austin charges for sidewalk replacements

Members then completed and returned their surveys. Members who were not at the meeting will receive a survey that they can return in a stamped, self-addressed return envelope.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Submitted by Kate Brien, Secretary

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Rosenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "R".

Chip Rosenthal, President
December 14, 2010