

Minutes from the NSCNA Special Called Meeting re: Participation in the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP)

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Call to Order at 6:35pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm

Parliamentarian – Lu Russell

President Chip Rosenthal called the meeting to order.

Motion made by Jerry Horn to adopt the agenda. Seconded. Motion passed.

Kate Brien gave (Neighborhood Partnering Program) NPP introduction:

- The NPP provides an opportunity for the city and neighborhoods to work together to develop and carry out neighborhood improvement projects that involve city-owned property or areas that are in the city's right of way.
- City offers 2 project options for NPP projects
 - 1 . Small (up to \$75,000)
 - 2 . Medium (\$75,000 to \$150,000)
- Neighborhood must meet 25% of the funds (via cash, sweat equity, etc.)
- Earlier in the year NSCNA submitted non-binding letter of intent re: repair of sidewalks
- The survey mailed to NSCNA members was designed to gauge interest. It is not the official vote. The official vote could be tonight.

The NPP Survey Results from NSCNA members indicated:

- Most people were interested in participating in the program by a count of 84 (yes) vs. 19 (no).
- The priorities for the program were, in order of interest: 1) sidewalks, 2) traffic calming, 3) bike lanes and 4) Pillow Park amenities.

Sidewalk Repair Information (presented by Kate Brien):

- Estimated cost to repair sidewalk is \$24 per square foot to replace part of the sidewalk.
- Criteria for choosing sidewalk to repair:
 - severity of damage
 - level of use by neighbors
 - likelihood that it's an "internal" sidewalk that would not be repaired by adjacent businesses
- Note: Installation of new sidewalks is extremely expensive – it is at least 30% more than the cost of repairing sidewalks. One reason why new sidewalk installations are significantly more expensive is that the City looks for other cost factors

such as utility lines. Another reason why repairs are so expensive is that the City looks for the root of problem.

- Note: From a survey conducted by a neighbor, approximately 30 spots with over 2” drops in the sidewalk cracks were found.
- All repairs discussed with the City were for concrete (not asphalt) repairs.
- Note: If you, as a citizen, place a call to the City and request the City to repair a cracked portion of the sidewalk in front of your house, they will make an asphalt repair (however it may be difficult to get the City to actually follow through with this).

Traffic Calming Information (presented by Evelin Nunes Vorzimmer):

- The City previously had a Traffic Calming program and North Shoal Creek was at the top of the list but then the City Council changed its criteria from a broad based neighborhood plan to a plan that evaluates projects by specific streets.
- Peter Marsh (Supervising Engineer, City of Austin Transportation Department) says that we will get more value for our money through the new traffic program as opposed to NPP. Also, traffic calming is not an eligible project through NPP.
- Priorities for the new traffic program:
 1. Speeding issues on individual streets. These are evaluated twice a year.
 2. Cut through traffic problems on individual streets which then need to be evaluated within the context of the entire neighborhood. This is evaluated once a year.
- The new Traffic Calming program is not available in 2010.
- Our chances of being chosen for this program, increase if our neighborhood is able to contribute some funding for landscaping the traffic calming devices e.g. circles, island, medians, etc.

Pillow Amenities Information (presented by Kate Brien):

- The following price guidelines were not established by the City (due to time constraints).
 - picnic tables \$700 - \$1100
 - bike rack \$300
 - playscapes \$800 - \$224,000

Meeting chair was passed to Vice President Ken Moyer, who called on Chip Rosenthal to make the presentation on bike lanes.

Bike Lane Information (presented by Chip Rosenthal):

- Annick C. Beudet (Project Manager, City of Austin Bicycle & Pedestrian Program) provided the following information.
- Bike lanes on Rockwood are already in the City’s master plan. The issue with bike lanes on Rockwood is not a problem on the City’s end but on our end. The neighborhood needs to look into issues with parking reconfigurations and bike lanes

Ken passed the chair back to Chip to finish conducting the meeting.

We have \$32,000 in our CD. The CD was established with the Nissan dealership for traffic calming or any neighborhood improvement project. Nissan gave us \$25,000. The additional money is from interest earned on the account.

Kate made the motion:

1. NSCNA submit an application to the City of Austin Neighborhood Partner Program
2. NSCNA furnish up to \$24,000 in cash match funds; and
3. NSCNA work to develop additional non-cash matching funds through means such as volunteer “sweat equity” and material donations from businesses.

Seconded.

Comments ---

- We can keep the money. There is no rush to spend it.
- The money was initially given in the spirit of compensating McCann Street and the surrounding streets for possible car dealership cut through traffic.
- We can spend some money on sidewalks but hold some back for traffic calming. (If we lower the amount of money we want to participate in NPP, we cannot go any lower than \$19,000 because we are applying for a Medium sized project.)
- Independent contractors offer much lower prices for sidewalk repair
- We can work with independent contractors as long as the contractor is bonded by the City.

Motion by Ben Brumfield to amend the motion to: 1) submit the NPP application “for sidewalk repairs”, and 2) change the cash match amount from \$24,000 to \$20,000.

Seconded.

After discussion, the amendment was approved on a voice vote.

The amended motion reads:

1. NSCNA submit an application to the City of Austin Neighborhood Partner Program for sidewalk repairs
2. NSCNA furnish up to \$20,000 in cash match funds; and
3. NSCNA work to develop additional non-cash matching funds through means such as volunteer “sweat equity” and material donations from businesses.

Vote on the amended motion is as follows:

For – 25

Opposed – 12

Notice was given of a meeting tomorrow, October 20 at 7:00pm at 6809 Guadalupe (Odd Fellows Lodge #23). The topic for discussion is the proposed Mobile Loaves and Fishes "Community First" RV park for homeless people located near Braker and Burnet Road.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Rosenthal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C" and "R".

Chip Rosenthal, President
December 14, 2010