

SLNA General Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2008

Meeting called to order 7:05 p.m.

1. Speaker Robin Bradford from Foundation Communities. Update on Skyline Terrace project in former Ramada Inn. 100 affordable housing units ranging from \$373-498/mo. Tenants will begin moving in March with year leases. There will be 24 hour desk security and all guests will sign in. Bradford described screening criteria for tenants, criminal background checks and confirmation against credit reports. Neighbor Kim Rossmo questioned their screening criteria, indicating that it failed to exclude nearly 80% of all criminals. Bradford said that this is more restrictive than other projects of theirs and that they have had very good security records on other sites. She offered to host SLNA meetings at Skyline Terrace.
2. Speaker Officer Robert Barboza from APD. Learned that he is not made aware of “criminal mischief” events in our neighborhood in his daily reports. This includes car break-ins and acts of vandalism. Neighbors were surprised by this because there have been dozens of such acts so far in 2008. Barboza asked that we make him aware of acts directly at his email address [Robert.barboza@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Robert.barboza@ci.austin.tx.us). However, pleas by neighbors for better enforcement were met w/a “sorry about your luck”... Barboza described the fact that only ten officers are on duty for the entire SW command which runs from 78704 all the way down to Circle C and Oak Hill. Barboza also recommended all residents record serial numbers and take pictures of all valuables in their homes.
3. President Maclaine brought up the yard parking opt-out option for our neighborhood. This was met with a resounding silence. No big yard parking supporters present.
4. President Maclaine presented treasurer’s report for John Bissell in absentia. We have about four grand in the bank + CDs. Bryan King said “Party!” but we decided to keep the money for possible use in the new park.
5. Bryan King and Carol Gibbs presented Neighborhood Planning report. Even though they have “had it up to here” with COA’s wanton disregard for neighborhood plans, they are soldiering on and betrayed a tiny sliver of optimism for the renewed mediation process. Fresh-faced new staffers have agreed to meet with newly formed “plan teams” that will proportionately represent neighborhood stakeholders (including owners, tenants, business owners, COA itself). Staff also agreed to send a mailer to all stakeholders to re-kick off the neighborhood planning process.
6. Bryan King and Carol Gibbs presented VMU. Our application area runs along the east side of Lamar Blvd from Oltorf down to Ben White (this includes some areas outside our neighborhood boundaries, but still included in our application area). Our zoning committee wants to be able to exclude certain properties from VMU due to shallow lots and “iconic status”, particularly from Kinney to Matt’s El Rancho. PC staff shot down their recommendations so they are re-working them. Discussion of valid petitions to support recs. There was some discussion of the plot from Oltorf to Kinney being developed as one large VMU project, including demolishing Office Depot.

7. ANC Report. Announcement of candidates forum @ Austin Energy
8. BATPAC announcement. Better Austin Today PAC endorsing neighborhood positions and making recommendations for council candidates.
9. President Maclaine politely stepped down as Acting SLNA Sentinel editor. VP Umscheid volunteered to take the reins.
10. Revisitation of crime conversation. Neighbor Kim Rossmo suggested collecting crime data via SLNA and write a letter to Police Chief w/requests to include “criminal mischief” on daily police reports and other neighborhood concerns. Rossmo offered to accumulate data on behalf of NA.