

SLNA Feb 19 Meeting Minutes
Skyline Terrace, 6th Floor Lounge

7:15 meeting called to order

Officers present: Nancy Maclaine, Krista Umscheid-Ramirez, Sally Merritt, Carol Gibbs

1. Presentation and Q&A by Ron Potts, Assistant Division Manager of Code Enforcement for South Austin. He has 8 officers who investigate all the Code Enforcement complaints south of the river.
 - Code Enforcement is woefully under-staffed, so is complaint-driven only, based on calls placed to 3-1-1. He said Austin is 20 years behind-the-times, with only 42 inspectors city-wide (he compared Austin to Ft. Worth, whose population is 100K less and has 120 inspectors)! Some day they hope to be able to be on patrol and be pro-active vs. reactive.
 - He described the role of PACE (Public Assembly Code Enforcement) in responding to loud music complaints.
 - He could bring a full presentation, with some of his inspectors, to one of our meetings if we would like a more in-depth explanation. Gave handouts describing their department.
 - We discussed the frustrations of absentee landlords letting rental properties deteriorate, with no recourse to force them to maintain their properties. He said they are hoping to eventually instate an annual inspection requirement for all properties with 3 or more rental units, so tenants aren't in the position of reporting their own landlords for substandard conditions.
2. Perla Cavazos, candidate for City Council Place 1, dropped by so we gave her a few minutes to describe her background and her vision for Austin. City Council elections are May 9.
3. Treasurer's Report :

2009 Members to-date =	17	(including dues waived)
2009 Dues collected =	\$ 275	
Checking Account =	\$1,040.55	
Savings Account =	\$ 699.07	
CDs: 2010 =	\$1,766.69	
2009 =	\$1,165	
TOTAL =	\$4,641.31	
4. Waterfront Overlay Task Force - SLNA members voted to support the recommendations made by the Task Force and approved by City Council on Feb. 12. (attached)
5. "Unity Park": As a result of the development negotiations for the former Unity Church properties, the City will be taking ownership of approx. 2 acres of Del Curto frontage by the end of February.
 - The building at 3000 Del Curto will be occupied by the EcoSchool through April, and will then be demolished.
 - By our April meeting, we should have some information about how to proceed with "our new park", including coming up with an official name for it!
6. Proposed "Up-Zoning" at 2807 Del Curto (2.8 acres directly across from the former Unity Church).
 - Owned by Ace & Polly Bartlett for over 50 years, their son wants to sell it to developers, and figures he can get more for it if it's already zoned SF-5 (commonly referred to as "speculative zoning").
 - His agent, Ben Turner, has met with the SLNA zoning committee twice now, and it appears this will be rather contentious. This case should be of significant concern to everyone because of its location, proximity to the creek, and prevalence of protected trees.
 - Nearly half the property is in the floodplain, and there are dozens of significant oak and elm trees on the property, many of which will certainly be removed.

7. Discussed relocating the SLNA meetings to another site due to logistics of getting into the Skyline Terrace and meeting room. Officers will research other options and post updates in email list and in the next newsletter. Date/time will remain the same.
8. We need to get new SLNA meeting signs made once a new location is decided, and revitalize the sign-posting procedures, as no signs were posted for this month's meeting – possibly explaining the low attendance.

9:00 Meeting adjourned