

11/18/2010 SLNA Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm. In attendance were 10 SLNA residents and two guests. Officers in attendance: Bryan King, Nancy Maclaine, Sally Merritt, Bill Stoughton. Nancy Maclaine chaired the meeting.

After introductions, Ms. Maclaine announced that Amy Zamarripa had tendered her resignation as SLNA President and Park Committee chair, effective 10/19/2010.

The program began with a presentation by two representatives from Green Door, a 501c3 non-profit organization taking over operation of the Treaty Oaks, a 48 unit apartment complex at 3700 Manchaca. They plan to do a green renovation of the property and offer affordable housing (qualifying incomes below 50% MFI). Green Door has been in operation over 20 years in Austin and has similar projects in other areas of the city. After giving a brief overview of their planned redevelopment, the Green Door representatives took questions those in attendance.

Next on the agenda was election of SLNA officers for 2011. The following slate was presented:

President: Vic Ramirez

Vice President: Thomas Bleich

Secretary: Hilary Dyer

Treasurer: to be appointed

Representative to Austin Neighborhoods Council: Nancy Maclaine

Representative to South Central Coalition of Neighborhood Associations: Bryan King

Bryan King made a motion to accept the slate by acclamation, Carol Gibbs seconded. There were no objections to the motion, so the motion carried and the slate of officers approved.

Next on the agenda was the announcement that Bruce Evans has been appointed as the new Park Committee chair. Mr. Evans gave a report about his initial contact with the Austin Parks and Recreation department concerning the current state of the Del Curto park development. SLNA has a new contact person in the department, Diane Williams, who related to Mr. Evans that there is an engineer on contract to deal with the park's engineering issues before the site plan goes before the Planning Commission. A discussion ensued concerning how to reinvigorate the SLNA Park Committee. Mr. Evans suggested that Park Committee meetings be held on the third Tuesday of each month. The next Park Committee meeting was tentatively set for January 18.

Sally Merritt then gave a treasurer's report, announcing the SLNA had 42 current members at the time of the meeting, and the Association's total bank balance is \$4,896. Approximately \$2000 is in a CD that will be soon maturing. After a brief group discussion on how dismal are interest rates on bank deposits, a motion was made by Bill Stoughton to roll SLNA's entire bank balance into a money market savings account once the CD matured. Bryan King seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next agenda item was the status of the SLNA Cleanup Committee. Bryan King presented certificates of appreciation he made to give to outgoing committee co-chairs Link Davidson and Wendy Brennan for

their five years of dedication to cleaning up our neighborhood. As neither Mr. Davidson nor Ms. Brennan was able to attend the meeting, Mr. King promised to deliver the certificates to them. Jan and Dottie Cartwright were announced as the incoming co-chairs for the Cleanup Committee.

The final agenda discussion was about the city's current Comprehensive Plan process, known as *Imagine Austin*. Bryan King led the discussion, presenting a letter to send to City Council outlining SLNA's concerns with *Imagine Austin*. After some discussion, Bob Thompson made a motion to send the letter as presented to Council. Bruce Evans seconded, motion was accepted by acclamation.

The first post-agenda discussion was about planning a SLNA potluck holiday party. December 16 was chosen as the date, with Faith Methodist Church suggested as a location, provided SLNA can secure a room.

Bryan King then started a discussion about a possible bar opening at the corner of South Lamar and West Mary, where a vehicle inspection garage used to operate. Concerns were brought up about the lack of parking on that lot, and how South Lamar is turning into another entertainment district, like South Congress, bringing potential noise and traffic problems to our neighborhood. The property is located north of SLNA boundaries, by a couple of blocks, but some residents are concerned about the trend of alcohol licensed establishments locating along South Lamar.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.



South Lamar Neighborhood Association

November 18, 2010

The Honorable Mayor Lee Leffingwell
And Members of the Austin City Council
City Hall
Austin, TX

Re: Imagine Austin - STOP THE BUS! - EVERYONE IS NOT ONBOARD!

Dear Mayor Leffingwell and Council Members,

The South Lamar Neighborhood Association (SLNA) fully supports the creation of a Comprehensive Plan. However to date, the SLNA has been dissatisfied with the current Imagine Austin Planning process. The SLNA believes strongly that more specific attention and adherence should be paid to the fully documented, long-term development planning insights and citizen deliberations that created the Neighborhood Plans, including the neighborhood supported VMU overlays.

The SLNA also takes issue with the process to determine four likely development scenarios. Namely, that the process as it has been presented, seems to be constructed to overtly promote development scenarios biased towards intensive infill development in the downtown and central city neighborhoods. Surveys, to date, have been constructed with that clear bias.

Although the SLNA did not complete our plan (the final plan and FLUM are a work in progress), we spent years working on that Neighborhood Plan, have been through the VMU process and believe the densities achieved in that process are consistent with the average increase in density that would be found in other adopted neighborhood plans. Therefore we request that the city council direct the city staff to not only incorporate the adopted neighborhood plans into the Comp Plan but also include the resultant densities of neighborhoods that had increased density due to the adoption of the VMU zoning along Core Transit Corridors as a given in developing a preferred growth scenario.

Therefore, the South Lamar Neighborhood Association recommends that the Imagine Austin place a hiatus on the current comprehensive planning process until:

- a) The city seriously analyzes any preferred development plans to make sure they embodied existing Neighborhood Plans and other neighborhood planning efforts, and demonstrates that it has integrated these into the Imagine Austin planning process.
- b) The city presents a revamped planning process that more fully engages Austin citizens, with detailed data in a serious review of proposed development scenarios. More time should be allowed for in-depth analysis of the pros and cons any scenario(s) and fully address existing push back and the presentation of alternative scenarios. Citizens should be included in creating the plan process.
- c) Develop further citizen input mechanism that allows participants to fully understand the previous in depth planning effort already done. This new input process should augment the previous sampling to produce a comprehensive plan that can foster a broad based level of community support.

The South Lamar Neighborhood Association, along with the Austin Neighborhoods Council respectfully request that that the Imagine Austin process be halted until these needed changes can be effected. Thus far speed, superficiality (the chip exercise), and the appearance of a predetermined outcome have seriously undermined the present process. We feel alienated by this process and are not onboard.. Let's change the process so that we take the necessary time to understand all the issues and options and engage citizens in real planning (as we did with Neighborhood Plans and the Austin Tomorrow Plan).

Respectfully,



South Lamar Neighborhood Association