

SLNA Membership Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2014

Mario opened the meeting, 7PM

● Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP)

- Foundation Communities to apply for grant to receive matching funds through Austin's NPP
- Ad hoc subcommittee previously discussed possibilities of
 - a sidewalk on west side of Del Curto. There are currently 3 lots that do not have sidewalks
 - pedestrian bridge over the creek on Del Curto at the park
 - traffic circle at Del Curto and Bluebonnet
- Carol mentioned that the first stage of the process is a transportation study
- Bryan said that there was once a mock-up done of a traffic circle at Bluebonnet and Del Curto. Discussion ensued pro/con about a traffic circle.
- Safety has the higher priority
- Several members agreed the bridge near the park is important
- Mario called for a vote on what projects should be included in the NPP proposal:
 1. traffic mitigation at Bluebonnet/Del Curto
 2. Sidewalk and pedestrian bridge on Del Curto
 - Vote was 14-0 in favor of option #2, sidewalk and pedestrian bridge

● Park on Del Curto - name

- Mario gave recap of the park naming process to date and relayed events at city council - Morrison postponed the issue until June 26 so the neighborhood could take a vote between Del Curto Neighborhood Park and South Lamar Neighborhood Park, and Martinez wanted it to go back to the Parks Board so the Lasseter name could be heard.
- Hilary made a motion that SLNA suggest to city council the name of South Lamar neighborhood park
 - Bruce objected, motion made out of order
- Discussion ensued regarding process
- Mario suggested we decide whether we are choosing between the two names, or restarting the process and allowing new names.
- Bryan made a motion that we choose between the two names that tied before.
- Discussion ensued.

- Carrie Lasseter presented her suggestion of naming the park after her father, Tom Lasseter. She explained that she only found out about the park name on Jan 31. She has new information to share with the neighborhood. She went to city council to present her case. She grew up on the land. She discussed that Tom Lasseter purchased the property in the early 1960's and it was barely walkable. He cleared the land by hand, giving special attention to trimming oaks and elms, built the rock wall in the creek bed, built up the land with loads of dirt he hauled in, designed and built the bridge, built the rock house from salvage stone from historic downtown buildings. Tom Lasseter was a businessman who died in 2011, age 85. He was very involved in community affairs and volunteerism. WWII and Korean war veteran, member of Naval Reserves. Longtime Austin architect, served on BOD of Austin Jaycees, BOD of YMCA, Federation Chief of Indian Guides, and other community activities.
- Omar suggested a plaque on the bridge to honor Lasseter.
- Jane mentioned that her father designed the Barton Springs bathhouse. Discussed that with 5000 people/month moving to Austin, it is important to preserve history.
- A question was asked "Who was Del Curto?" Carol answered he was a local physician who used to own a house on Southland and his property encompassed all of this section of the neighborhood. His property was later subdivided, houses built, and Del Curto road put in.
- Bruce said that the Parks Committee was supposed to submit the name "Del Curto Neighborhood Park". The process was finished when the issue was postponed at city council, so "the process is finished, we are done. City council sent it back so we should start from scratch".
- Bryan repeated his motion that we choose between the two names that tied before. Motion was seconded.
- Mario called for a vote to either:
 1. choose between the two names that the neighborhood has voted on before, Del Curto or South Lamar
 2. or start from scratch to decide on a park name
- The vote took place with 11 voting for #1(choose between two names) and 9 voting for #2(start naming process from scratch)
- Will now choose between Del Curto Neighborhood Park or South Lamar Neighborhood Park
 - Discussion ensued
 1. Mario advocated for South Lamar Neighborhood park
 2. Hilary mentioned that the park would not exist if not for the efforts of neighbors since SLNA was formed in 2001. It always has remained a main focus of the neighborhood association. Many members spent hours negotiating and working towards the goal.
 3. Others thought that Del Curto was preferred due to providing a geographic reference to location

- 4. David prefers Del Curto park, and many other neighbors weighed in on South Lamar vs. Del Curto
 - 5. Bryan pointed out that the neighborhood is named South Lamar on many maps, and the park is near the center of that area
 - 6. Bruce gave an impassioned plea, he was very moved by Carrie's story, and is now in favor of naming the park after her father
- Bruce proposed a substitute motion that we abandon our application and give Lasseter name a chance. Wants to amend the process to drop the two aforementioned names.
 - Omar wondered if there was a way to impugn the original vote.
 - Discussion ensued that we would have to rescind the previous motion/vote.
 - Bruce made the motion that we rescind the previous motion, it was seconded
 - Vote was called: should we
 - 1. rescind the previous vote, and restart the naming process
 - 2. or not rescind the previous vote, and move forward to decide between the two names
 - Vote was 5 for #1, 16 for #2
 - Motion failed, will move forward to decide between the two names
- Vote was taken:
 - South Lamar Neighborhood Park - 16 votes
 - Del Curto Neighborhood Park - 5 votes
 - SLNA will recommend the name "South Lamar Neighborhood Park"
 - Will send to Morrison and Martinez, and at Park Board on Tuesday
 - Bruce will not be able to attend Thursday council, Bryan will go
- Brent Cooke discussed the property on Del Curto
 - Recently purchased two adjacent properties at 2712 and 2800 Del Curto, next to the Cypress retention pond, 2 acres
 - Wants to upzone to SF-6
 - Explained that he needed SF-6 because "the city doesn't like flag lots"
 - Wants to keep the back half for his house
 - Will have adequate parking
 - Does not know what he intends to do
- Carol discussed the City Council resolution "South Lamar Mitigation Study"
 - City Council passed the resolution May 1, 2014

- It has been noted that most neighborhoods have at least drainage. SLNA seriously lacking.
 - CodeNext is looking to revise land development code so it is more appropriate for our infill situation as opposed to new suburban developments.
 - August 4th there will be a meeting of Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee
 - So there will be an organizational meeting in mid-July to figure out what to present to council. The city will print the information if we will distribute throughout the neighborhood, flyers to advertise the meeting. Need to give a staff a preview of the problems they will be dealing with such as traffic calming, safety, flooding, runoff, parking, etc.
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- Bryan - City Works Academy
 - The city is accepting applications for the CityWorks Academy
 - This is an opportunity to visit each department and learn what they do
 - Limited seats available
 - 12 week schedule
 - Applications accepted through July 15
 - More info at: <http://austintexas.gov/department/cityworks-academy>
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- Mario introduced Austin City Council District 5 candidate Jason Denny. He will be available after the meeting to chat with folks.
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- Meeting adjourned 9:05PM