



Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10, 2009 7:00 PM

Title of Meeting: Judges Hill Regular Neighborhood Meeting

Location: Home of Ben and Jane Schotz

Attendees: Ben Schotz, Phil Wiley, Bob Swaffer, Scott Neal, Bert and and Megan Meisenbach, Walt Hornaday, Elizabeth Pittman, Jim and Becky Montgomery, Cliff Mitchell and Tammy Shaklee, Jay Tassin, Jeff Harper, Mark Seeger, Betsy Christian, Lisa Kaindl

General Discussion

Call to order 7:10

Minutes approved from last month's meeting with one comment:

Phil had some minor corrections he would like made and would discuss offline with Jeff and Ben.

Discussed when would be the best time to hold monthly meetings

Mark Seeger (Treasurer) has conflicts with the current Tuesday evening schedules

Request was made to go back to Mondays

Conclusion to switch to the 3rd Monday of each month for regularly scheduled meetings

The Treasurer was not present but Ben passed out a Treasures report for review.

Ben mentioned that officers have started meeting as a group to try to work out governance issues.

Looking into rewriting the association bylaws.

The officers would like to make a set of recommendation to bring to the association for approval.

There is no timetable yet but it is in process.

Ben said that a neighbor had a request that we invite a council candidate to the meeting.

It was discussed whether we should invite candidates to a neighborhood meeting.

The group is interested - Ben will contact candidates and see if they are interested in appearing

Discussion ensued on how to hold this type of meeting with so many candidates

perhaps a candidates coffee and let them have 5 minutes to talk.

Ben will talk with Betsy on the possibility of doing this.

Ben volunteered to see if he and Jane could host a candidates coffee

If not then he will ask the neighborhood for a host.



Community Involvement

ANC (Austin Neighborhood Council) - Jay Tassin

Jay reported on a number of items discussed in recent ANC meetings

- Electric lawnmower rebates

- Residential remodel ordinance - will require you to keep more of your existing home

- Comprehensive plan - chance for input now

- <http://www.ancweb.org> has all the information on their work

Jay talked about the city bike plan - some of our neighborhood streets are on it

- Jay can send an e-mail with more information.

- 17th and San Gabriel may be designated for bikes (but still allow parking).

- Some discussion in the city bike plan of West Ave having bike lanes and no parking.

ANC held a candidates forum that Jay submitted some questions to. Some questions for the candidates included:

- Crime - homeless camps

- Panhandling ordinance

- Questions regarding Fire and public safety

- New ordinance coming for Music venues

 - New requirements for notification of residents near outdoor venues

- Neighborhood watch and Night out

 - People are frustrated that property crimes are not being prosecuted

Neighborhood Cleanup

- Homeless camps - If you can keep things clean that they are less likely to camp

- Lisa Kaindl was "nominated" to help coordinate a cleanup

Scott asked about the siren policy

- Police want use their sirens more

- Jay said it was not discussed at the ANC meeting

 - The neighborhood would like it to be brought up and discussed.

Jim asked if they discussed about Austin being a homeless friendly city

- Jay said the group he went to did not discuss this issue

- There were however questions in the candidates forum on how to deal with panhandling.

Non-Profit Organization - Bill Monroe

Jeff mentioned that Bill Monroe was not present but wanted it announced that there would be a meeting of the non-profit at his home on Wed 3/11/2009 to hear Walt Hornaday's ideas on a historic trust to provide tax relief for historic homeowners

CANPAC - Ben Schotz

- Ben didn't have a report this week.

Neighborhood Safety - Megan Meisenbach

Video cameras

- Megan said that research found no good cameras for night monitoring

Judges' Hill Neighborhood Association



Jay said ANC had talked about cameras

In one case in Hyde Park - an apartment had cameras but was sued because the cameras were not actually being used when someone was accosted.

Jay is looking into IR (Infra Red) Cameras for their home at night

Should we look for more or brighter street lights

Many hands raised by people not interested in more streetlights

Betsy mentioned she saw a homeless person who was detained by the police on 15th street.

Security person

Megan hired one once but they just stayed in their car the whole time

Ben will talk to Jim Parrish about potentially getting a Neighborhood Watch started again

Zoning Discussion

Ben said he thinks we need to come to a neighborhood consensus position on what we want regarding zoning changes

This would give potential buyers a set of guidelines so they know the neighborhood position

Bob proposed a policy - West of West Ave is residential, East of West Ave is commercial

There was no second and Bob rescinded the motion and we agreed to continue discussion as a group.

Ben told the group that he received an e-mail from Patrick Thompson in which Patrick stated that they are putting the zoning request for the Sparks/Berezovitch house at 1510 West Ave. on hold and are planning to apply for historic zoning.

Ben posed the question, followed by a lengthy discussion - what is most important:

- Residential
- Consideration to maintain the look, feel, and character of the historic properties.

Need to discuss fully and come to a consensus of the neighborhood

Other Issues

Betsy expressed concern about the Dogget house on West Ave south of 15th and worried that it is falling apart.

Betsy said she saw people sleeping on the porch

Mark said he will talk with the Code Enforcement office at the city

Betsy will write a letter to the owner

Next Meeting set for Monday April 20th, 2009

Motion to adjourn at 8:55

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Harper - Secretary