

Austin Neighborhoods Council
General Membership Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2019, 7 pm
Austin Energy Bldg, 721 Barton Spring Rd, 78704

ANC President Patricia King called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Roger Cauvin, Treasurer of FAN and Evolve Austin was present as an observer.

ANC VP2 Justin Irving gave the membership report and a reminder that membership is required for voting on ANC's issues.

Patty Sprinkle, ANC Sector 7 Representative, spoke on the City Council's recent decision to place a homeless shelter in South Central Austin. Neighbors want a say in the safety issues associated with homeless shelters. The SAFE (Safe Austin For Everyone) Project (www.SafeProjectAustin.com) will hold a community meeting featuring a panel discussion on the proposed shelter and the homeless camping/ordinance changes, August 6th, 6 pm, at Woodlawn Baptist Church. Panelists include, Mayor Adler, Council members Kitchen and Renteria, APD Chief Manley and AFD Chief Baker. **Patty** added that 100,000 low end apartments have been lost and over 2000 homes have been demolished in the last 7 years in Austin. Replacement apartments and homes have been high-end causing rents to rise and the displacement of low-income residents.

Brion Oaks, Chief Equity Officer and Kellee Coleman, Equity Office, Business Process Consultant presented "**An Intro to Racial Equity**" (available on www.atxanc.org) that traced the history of racial inequity in the U.S. and Austin. Several examples of race as a predictor of quality of life were given. People of Color are more likely to experience homelessness, high rates of incarceration, poor health and greater infant mortality, low performing schools, higher drop-out rates and poor job seeking networks. "Equity is giving people what they need to get them to where they want to be." A Blueprint for Community Values includes: preventing households from being priced out of Austin; fostering equitable, integrated and diverse communities; investing in housing for those most in need; creating new and affordable housing Choices for all Austinites in all parts of Austin; helping Austinites reduce their household costs. The Equity Office is asking Austinites to "consider overlaying an equity lens" to our initiatives (projects) that includes: knowing the history; reviewing and monitoring the data; engaging the community; advancing racial equity; analyzing unintended consequences.

Fred Lewis and Bill Bunch, both of **Unconventional Austin**, gave us a brief history of Austin's Convention Center and why their group is opposed to the proposed expansion (replacement) of the Convention Center, at a cost that may exceed \$2B over 10 years. Currently the Convention Center attracts 2 to 4% of the tourist trade in Austin but garners 72% of the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) collected by the city. According to the City of Austin's own financial study, the Convention Center operates at an annual \$43M loss (\$9M for appreciation, \$34M for low rental rates that amount to "free rent"). Unconventional Austin would like more of the HOT to fund Austin's cultural and environmental tourist attractions. To that end, Unconventional Austin has successfully filed a petition for the November 2019 ballot that will allow Austinites to vote on the Convention Center issue. Travis County would also like a percentage of the HOT to redo the Expo Center and for cultural events, and may have that item on the November ballot. Representatives of Unconventional Austin are available to speak to neighborhood groups. Contact www.unconconventionalaustin.org for more information.

ANC VP1 Barbara McArthur and President Patricia King presented Land Development Code Survey. Hard copies were handed out to ANC members only. Members were given the option of handing in the completed survey at the GMM or by mail. **Mindy Sutton** will post an online version of the survey and tabulate the results. August 12, 2019 is the deadline the survey's submittal.

Justin Irving, presented his Transparency Resolution. After a brief discussion **Jeff Jack** moved to adopt the resolution as presented. **Barbara McArthur** seconded. **Chip Harris** offered a friendly amendment: whereas the current narrative format is insufficient and inadequate. **Jeff Jack** and **Justin Irving** accepted the friendly amendment. **President Patricia King** called the vote. The resolution was approved by a 34:0:0 vote.

President Patricia King turned the meeting over to **Joyce Basciano, ANC Secretary** who asked for volunteers from the General Membership to serve on the ANC Nominating Committee. Four members volunteered: Randy Ortega, Scooter Cheatham, Mary Ingle and Bill Spiesman. **Joyce Basciano** turned the meeting over to the **President Patricia King**.

Announcements: Carol Gibbs, Neighborhood Assistance Center, DSD, reminded members that handouts were available in the lobby; that 311 operators will soon be able to help the public with more information and that she is available to train small groups in the use of the City's online tools. **Justin Irving** reminded members that the city will be holding meetings regarding the Transportation Plan in the coming weeks. **Jeff Bowen** recommended reviewing the Atlas 14 changes to the city's floodplain boundaries. **Linda Bailey** encouraged members to sign-up for ANCTalk and suggested that there may be a brief presentation on community engagement at next month's GMM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42: pm.