

Austin Neighborhoods Council
General Membership Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2019, 7 pm
Austin Energy Bldg, 721 Barton Spring Rd, 78704

ANC President Patricia King called the meeting to order at 7pm. **ANC VP2 Justin Irving** reminded neighborhood associations to renew their ANC membership in order to vote at next month's general membership meeting. **Sector 2 Representative Chip Harris** reported on ANC's involvement in support of the city maintaining the Recycle Reads Bookstore on Burnet Road at its current capacity.

Bo McCarver, Chairman Blackland Community Development Corporation (CDC), spoke on "Nexus Study and Inclusionary Zoning" followed by Q&A. Mr. McCarver gave a brief history of the Blackland CDC a corporation that provides affordable housing for low income people. The Blackland CDC has adopted inclusionary zoning (Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan, pages 75-76) and uses it when negotiating with developers. Forty-nine states have mandatory inclusionary zoning which requires a project to have a certain percentage of affordable units if the project has more than 4 units. Inclusionary zoning is voluntary in Texas. A Nexus study determines the amount of affordable housing and the level of affordability a community requires. It looks at construction costs and other factors to come up with a formula in developing affordable housing. Currently there is a nexus study underway in Austin.

Mayor Steve Adler spoke on several issues coming before the State Legislature that will directly impact Austin. Of greatest concern are HB2 and SB2 that will lower the cap on property taxes, the source of half of the City's revenue. A cap lower than 6% (as opposed to the current 8% cap) would cause a decrease in revenue that will trigger spending cuts. Scheduled to come up is a bill that will pre-empt some of our ordinances (short term rental, tree preservation, sick leave and fair chance practice in hiring, and plastic bag ban). The main focus of City government includes mobility, transportation and affordability "with an overlay of equity". Homelessness and setting resources for it, remains the highest priority for City Council. The mayor identified several mobility initiatives: the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan; Cap Metro's Project Connect (a high capacity public transit system may be on the ballot in 2020); dedicated lanes are planned for 183; traffic lights on Loop 360 will be removed; design work for improvements to Lamar, Burnet, Airport, MLK, William Cannon, Slaughter to increase through put traffic will be presented in the March to May timeframe. The governor and Lt. governor nixed the addition of 2 toll lanes on IH35. The mayor hopes the recently approved \$250M Affordable Housing Bond will leverage to give us \$1B to spend on affordable (subsidized) housing. He reported that the non-profit Austin Housing Conservancy, has saved \$100M worth of workforce housing in perpetuity in 2018. The question of Regional rail came up during Q&A. Currently there is no funding for it and Union Pacific is not interested in sharing or selling its tracks. Metrics for transportation and affordability were presented two weeks ago to the City as a way to measure success. Metrics were included in the 2016 Bonds and are posted on the City's website. On the question of social justice, the Mayor wants "to plant permanent affordability" in "appropriate places" to maintain a diverse city. Recently approved Bonds will also address flood control. The City emphasizes its green and renewable goals and the mayor wants them to be included in the new Land Development Code. The City recently changed the metric and the goal for development incentives. The focus will be on incentivizing economic engines for middle skill jobs in more affordable (housing) areas of the city. The mayor doesn't support recent "piecemeal" changes to the LDC by the PC. In the next 60 days he wants to make certain that CM Casar's resolution doesn't speak to development in general but to the 4% and 9% subsidies coming out of the \$250 Bond. The intent is to get the best leverage possible for housing for the <50%MFI population.

Annick Beaudet, Assistant Director, COA Transportation Dept. gave a (PowerPoint) briefing of the final draft of the **Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP)** that was released last week. The draft plan, two years in the making, purports to implement the goals and objectives of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan (IACP). Ms Beaudet described ASMP as being "comprehensive and strategic" with an "eye" towards "affordability, access and equity". The staff reviewed neighborhood plans, bicycle, sidewalk and other plans and collected public input at meetings. The Imagine Austin Growth Concept Map (a high-level view of the city) was used to inform the ASMP (which is a street level plan). The ASMP will set goals, action items and policies to implement the IACP tying in with the (water and transportation) infrastructure needs identified in IACP Growth Concept. The staff was doing a "very technical analysis" at the same time it was doing public engagement. For the technical analysis they chose scenario planning like that used by IACP to come up with the Growth Concept. Public outreach focused on the underserved: people of color, people with disabilities and seniors. Staff reviewed Neighborhood Plans to gather "goals" before reaching out to the community to prioritize those goals. The 3 scenarios were created in Phase 2 (of a 4 Phase process). Scenario A focused on roads, B was what we are doing today, C focused on sustainable modes. The public was asked for specific information on the scenarios including what strategies the public thinks would help us reach those scenarios. After collecting input on the scenarios, the staff created 128 policies, and identified projects across the city, that were incorporated into the draft plan. The focused population ranked affordability most important; the general population ranked commuter delay most important. Staff tried to address safety (Vision Zero), complete streets and how to manage demand on the road network. Staff will work with Cap Metro and its Project Connect Plan. Two years ago, Council gave the Transportation Dept "transit priority policy" authority, meaning the Dept can give direction to Cap Metro to more efficiently run its buses, and it can create transit priority networks for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, other transit. The ASMP has an action table that shows projects for each community and a list of comprehensive recommendations. Ms Beaudet and staff want to continue talking to neighborhoods. The hearing schedule is on the city's website. During Q&A, Ms. Beaudet could not tell us how many neighborhood associations were involved in the ASMP process or how the general vs specific (historically underserved or underrepresented) populations used in the study were chosen. According to Ms. Beaudet, the Multimodal Advisory Committee possibly had "dual representation", that is, some of the members may have also been representing neighborhoods. She was told that SW Austin doesn't have bus system and that Allandale NA is concerned that the medians the ASMP plans for Burnet Rd. will hurt businesses and drive traffic into the neighborhoods. Ms Beaudet didn't have a response to the question of how staff explained the unintended consequences of its 3 scenarios to the public.

Professor Fred McGhee and Montopolis Neighborhood Plan Contact Team President Susana Almanza gave an update on the **Negro School**. The City of Austin, with help from Mayor Adler, used the right of eminent domain to secure the property in order to save the school.

ANC Treasurer Sheryl Cheatham presented the **2019 Budget**. VP2 Justin Irving moved to approve the budget as proposed, Sector 3 Representative Seth Fowler seconded. The budget was approved 27:0:0.

Open Floor Neighborhood News – **ANC Co-Communications Coordinator Mindy Sutton** gave an update on ANC's Website (www.atxanc.org) and Facebook Page. **ANC Co-Communications Coordinator Linda Bailey** will post a list of ANC member associations possibly in the coming week. A neighborhood representative offered to train members in preparing zoning/development cases and **Neighborhood Assistance Center staff member Carol Gibbs** offered to visit with neighborhood associations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm