

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee (CNASC) Agenda

Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Fannie Mae Stewart Community Conservatory, 1902 E. 22nd St.

Attendees:

Jim Walker, Interim Chair	Girard Kinney, Member
Sharon Lynch, Secretary	Jennifer Potter-Miller, Member
Allen Hah, Treasurer	Dave Westenberger, Community Presenter
Jules Vieau, Member	
Amber Welsh, Co-President of Maplewood Elementary PTA, Guest Speaker	

1. The meeting was called to order 6:39 p.m.
2. Agenda was previously provided via email with no additions or edits.
3. Citizen Communication:
 - a. Dave Westenberger addressed the Steering Committee. A neighbor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has complained about trash accumulating behind the 7-11 store on Airport and 38 ½ Street. Dave visited the site and took photos which show plastic waste littering the back of the parking lot. This trash is being swept into neighboring yards and into the creek behind the property. Dave requests that the SC approve communication with the franchisee to improve litter control.
 - i. The matter was discussed. It was decided that the CNASC would support sending a letter to the owner of record in TCAD, which is Southland Corporation. Dave will draft the letter and send it to Jim Walker to sign.
 - ii. Jim Walker moved to draft the letter. Allen Hah seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - b. Girard Kinney brought up the matter of Maplewood Elementary School’s potential closure in advance of the community presentation and a general discussion ensued. AISD must do a review of schools’ performance every four to five years. Maplewood has been threatened in the past with closure and the community has always actively resisted this. It was noted that this year there has been an undercurrent of community members expressing ideas about how the property might be repurposed if the school closes; this is a change from the community reaction in the past. On 10/3/2019, AISD will have a meeting to start making decisions. Girard raised issues that need to be answered to guide how, as a neighborhood association, we will make decisions about our support on this issue:
 - i. Did AISD recently spend \$905K in bond money on renovations at Maplewood?
 - ii. Is Maplewood over-enrolled?

- iii. Is Campbell Elementary School under-enrolled?
- iv. Will there be an elementary school in Mueller or only a middle school?

4. Approval of Previous SC Meeting Minutes:

- a. For various reason CNASC meeting minutes from January, April, June and July have not been formally approved in the minutes. The minutes were sent to members, input was solicited, and edits were made as indicated. Final drafts were sent out for approval.
- b. The minutes were reviewed, edits were made to the June minutes which were incomplete.
- c. Jules moved to accept the minutes with the edits made to June. Allen seconded the motion. The motion to approve four months of minutes passed.

5. Reports/Discussion from Officers and Committees

- a. Treasurer Report: Allen Hah reports that we are in a fine financial position.
- b. Land Use/Transportation Committee: Girard Kinney reported that Scenic Austin is opposed to the COA dynamic messaging ordinance that would allow large informational signs over roadways and digital billboards at schools and transit hubs. Scenic Austin will request support from CAN and UBCNA on this matter.
- c. Flea Report: Brandy will be unable to do the content editing this next cycle. We will need to identify someone who can do this using In Design software.
- d. UBC Update: Jim Walker reports that the UBC bylaw update is still pending.
- e. ANC Update: no update.

6. Community Presenters

- a. Amber Welsh of the Maplewood Elementary School PTA and Jennifer Potter-Miller were present to discuss issues related to the recent announcement that AISD is considering closing Maplewood. Ms. Welsh is an education consultant and has broad perspective on both sides of the issue as the parent of a child at Maplewood and also as someone who understands how AISD functions and sets priorities. She stated that the PTA was not taking an official stand but would serve as a source of accurate information, a sounding board and as place to facilitate the processing of difficult and emotional reactions. She asks that neighbors get involved and be informed. Public education is a public good for the community and right now Maplewood needs tutors. Ms. Welsh did confirm that over \$700K in bond money has been spent at the school but that this was just a fraction of what would be required to make necessary improvements to the building. With each school that closes, AISD saves \$1M/year. See addendum: communication from Maplewood PTA to the community.
 - i. Jim W. asked if a special SC meeting should be called prior to the 10/3/2019 AISD meeting to discuss what role the CNASC should play in the matter. Jules V. has data he would like to share. Jennifer P-M wants to measure the deeper emotional feelings of the community to guide the language we will use.

- ii. It was decided that all interested community will be encouraged to attend the AISD meeting rather than call a special meeting. A member of the SC will attend the meeting.
7. Updates on CNA Programs and Projects (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. Manor Road Vision Plan
 - i. Sam Hellman-Maas, chef, (Odd Duck, Barley Swine, Suerte) is the new owner of the former Eastside Café. It is currently closed for renovation and planned to reopen in about 15 months. The name will change. The owner has not yet decided what to do with the garden behind the café. An alley behind the property will be paved.
 - ii. We should invite Mr. Hellman-Maas to a SC or general meeting.
 - b. CodeNext Next planning: no update
8. Unfinished Business (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. CherryWoodstock will be cancelled this year. No one stepped up to champion it and Jeremy cannot head it this year.
9. New Business: none.
10. Recommendations for Future SC Agenda Items and Meeting Date
 - a. Discuss, in depth, the Maplewood School closure and our role as a NA in this on 10/9/2019.
11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Notes recorded by Sharon Lynch

Addendum:

Dear Maplewood Community,

We have spent the last couple of days processing the [AISD news](#) regarding proposed school changes we all received late Thursday night. Thank you so much for the dialogue on Facebook and during principal coffee Friday morning. You all have shown how much you care about our Maplewood community while also thinking about ALL kids, including the Campbell community. We are truly proud.

This news is hard. And to tell you the truth we are still digesting and processing the news ourselves. Please know that we are working on connecting with the Campbell leaders to start a dialogue. In addition, we are organizing to get district representatives at our school for a community conversation.

As we move forward, we encourage the following:

- Know that it is okay to feel emotions
- Be empathetic and vulnerable
- Speak **your** truth
- Understand we may not all have the same opinion
- Practice active listening

- Come to the table without judgement
- Show compassion (we are peacemakers after all)

Stay engaged and educate yourself about district politics. This decision did not come out of nowhere. Here are a few links to help you get started. Please continue to share your knowledge with friends:

- [AISD School Changes working document](#)
- [FABPAC Equity White Paper](#)
- [FABPAC AISD Page](#)
- [AISD a Segregated District then and Now](#)

Send the district your comments and show up!

- [Specific to the School Changes Draft Document](#)
- [AISD Board Meeting Schedule](#): you will need to sign up by Friday if you want to comment
- [Attend the District Meetings](#) (Schedule is being posted by district soon)

Don't forget about the now and **be present for all kids and staff**:

- Tutor students through Read Naturally Program
- Shower our Maplewood staff with love
- Volunteer in the cafeteria
- Engage every day in your kids' education
- Get to know someone new at the school and continue to build your community

As things move forward, we will continually center ourselves by reflecting on our mission: to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

For us, whatever is decided, we believe this mission starts at home, in our school and extends beyond the boundaries of Maplewood to all kids in Austin.

Keep on being the amazing community that you are.

Peace,

Maplewood PTA