

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

Steering Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Bobo's Snack Bar

Attendees:

P	Jim Walker, Chair	P	Matt Harriger
P	Cara Bertron, Co-Vice-Chair	P	Girard Kinney
P	Rich Heyman, Co-Vice-Chair	P	Adam Packer
A	Allen Hah, Treasurer	A	Brandy Savarese
P	Sean Griffin, Secretary	A	Jeri Spence
A	Scott Boone	A	Jules Vieau
A	Julio Carreon-Reyes	G	Michelle Marx, COA

P = Present; A = Absen;t R = Resident; G = Guest

1. Call to Order at approx. 6:44pm.
2. Adoption of Agenda
 - a. Two additions to New Business:
 - i. Cara requests addition of Roots and Wings festival
 - ii. Girard requests addition of proposed pride parade
3. Approval of Previous SC Meeting Minutes at approx. 6:48pm
 - a. Jim laid out and reviewed.
 - b. Matt moved adoption; adopted unanimously.
4. Public Communication—None.
5. Community Presenters—Michelle Marx, City of Austin, Transportation Dept., Strategic Projects Group, e.g. I-35, approx. 6:50pm-7:40pm.
 - a. Discussion re I-35 project. Main topics and questions answered:
 - b. Elected city officials having conversations with TxDOT re what's possible for more and wider caps in our area, so talk to council and mayor's office now to have concerns heard and included.
 - c. TxDOT identified these drivers for cap feasibility: 16.5 ft vertical clearance from free way to structure above (center managed lane ramps totally preclude caps); tunnel length (less than 300ft not a tunnel, less req'ts); 300-800 ft requires ventilation analysis; more than 800 is a tunnel which requires fire, life, safety equipment; structural loading requirements in active analysis now to understand how much a structure can be accommodated and cost

benefit of beefing up structure to support more, also tree canopy analysis, how much can be accommodated.

- d. Timeline for design changes: designing in phases moving north, so right now 60 percent design complete for Holly to Ben White. Should be at 100 percent by end of year, then break ground '24. For Holly to MLKish, next segments, start final design beginning of '24.
 - e. TxDOT will construct structures, city will do amenities.
 - f. Vision plan based on conversations with stakeholders etc and what goals to accomplish; preliminary cost estimates
 - g. Re funding: working with consultant and city finance officer to evaluate options; public-private partnerships, usdot low interest loan program from build America; etc. Option open to construct in a way to allow for building caps in the future when funding is available.
 - h. Current design does not allow for caps near Cherrywood, need to dig deeper, consider ramps, etc. which has cost/design implications. This is where the political conversations are taking place to improve options.
 - i. Conversation re feasibility/desirability of TIF model. Potential to engage with public finance consultant a la Muller planning process.
 - j. COA staff with limited ability to unilaterally demand technical information from TxDOT on specific questions; best to advocate with the elected officials who can direct staff.
6. Reports from Officers and Standing Committees
- a. Chair Report—N/A
 - b. Treasurer Report (Allen Hah)
 - i. Our checking account balance is currently at \$2,694.36, and when adjusting for prepaid or unpaid ads, our current net position is \$3,294.36, which is about \$47 higher than our last meeting in May. I have started to notify renewing advertisers that prices are going up next year:
 - ii. Ad Size | Old Price | New Price (per edition):
 - 1. Business-Card | \$40 | \$50
 - 2. Quarter-Page | \$75 | \$100
 - 3. Half-Page | \$150 | \$200
 - iii. Despite the increase, it's helpful to keep in mind that prices had not gone up since 2016, so the increase is very reasonable (about 2.8% to 3.4% annually), which is well under Austin's inflation rate over the last seven years!)
 - c. Land Use/Transportation—N/A
 - d. Communications Committee—N/A
 - e. UBC Update—N/A
 - f. ANC Update—N/A
7. Ongoing Business (Discussion and Possible Action) approx. 7:40pm
- a. I-35 Capital Express Project
 - i. Jim to draft new letter to COA
 - b. 501(c) 3 status

- i. Rich did research: under 5k already a nonprofit. Will provide RGLA document on process, etc.
 - ii. Discussed need for correct structure to accept tax deductible donations.
 - c. Cherrywood land history project/deed covenants
 - i. Removing racially restrictive deed covenants discussion re pros cons, process to do it.
 - ii. Plan for good flea article to inform neighbors and let them make own choice.
- 8. New Business (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. Cherrywood.org website review
 - i. New page focused on ADU support
 - ii. New page on 'land history'
 - b. Wings and roots, general announcement
 - i. Communities can organize events, funding available
 - ii. Cara picking up tree walk activity, will bring it to July meeting (application due Aug 1). Event second half of October.
- 9. Future SC Agenda Items and Meeting Dates
 - a. Next General Meeting – Wed, Aug 16 (in-person @ Cherrywood Center)
 - i. Sarah Eckhardt or representative to attend
- 10. Next Steering Committee – Wed, Jul 12, pending quorum
- 11. Adjourn approx. 8:20pm