

Capital Metro Needs Our Input

The agency is beginning to develop its budget for the 2011 fiscal year (October 2010 – September 2011) and will be at our June meeting. Their presentation will include an 11 minute video explaining the budget process and a survey to gather your thoughts on transportation.

Austin Energy Tree Pruning Planned for Early June

Austin Energy will begin in early June pruning and removing trees near electric lines in our neighborhood. Before performing any work, AE will make every effort to contact each property owner with trees that may be affected by the work. If the property owner is not home, AE will leave a door hanger then attempt to reach the property owner via telephone. If those attempts fail, AE will send a certified letter outlining the proposed work. AE's staff will work with each property owner to try to reach an agreement on the work to be performed and will provide a written work plan documenting the final plan for your property.

During the process, you may request an on-site meeting with an AE staff member or contractor representative and have a third party present if you desire. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact Craig Stoughton at 505-7546 or Ray Henning at 322-6930.

Dawson Neighborhood Association Draft Minutes – April 12, 2010

Sandy McMillan, President, called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the 2/8/10 meeting were approved.

New Business:

a. Carol Gibbs, Neighborhood Advisor, City of Austin:

The City Neighborhood Center is a new program that started in March of last year within the City's Planning and Review Dept. The goal was to set up an avenue where neighborhoods could be in the loop earlier in regards to planning, rather than letting the community come in after everything has been done – money spent, engineering work completed, etc. The City has hired 2 neighborhood advisors, and there are 2 vacant positions. The reality of first year has been that they have been occupied with development issues - teaching neighborhoods how to use the City's website and other tools and bridging the communication gap in terms of returning phone calls and answering emails. Ms. Gibbs welcomed feedback on how to make the site better. Contact Carol or Jodi for this. Their emails and phone numbers are listed on the City's web site or call 311 and ask for the Center. Carol and Jodi are hoping to branch out eventually from development stuff.

A Q&A session was held. Community members asked about issues related to people building into the creek and individuals cutting down trees.

b. Neighborhood Partner Program:

Peter Davis talked about a presentation from Austin Public Works regarding their goal to share the cost between volunteer labor and cash if the neighborhoods don't have the ability to get a project done. The city will match in kind funds raised by the neighborhood. If you want to beautify something, you provide the volunteers and the city will provide the supplies in order to get a project going.

There are forms to be completed and a cost estimate must be included, as well as a description of project. More information is available on the website and a more detailed description. There are concerns that if the neighborhood's resource could be cash, developers may try to drop a large sum of money to get a project done. Some hope to have a caveat about not being able to fund their share. They simply don't want developers to be able to buy the City's favor by offering to financially fund a project.

There will be quarterly deadlines once the application process starts. The City has plans to look geographically and at the economics of areas for equalizing.

c. Automotive shop on South Congress:

Let everyone know they're here. They do all kinds of maintenance and are located right next to the Money Box on Cumberland.

Old Business:

a. Creek Cleanup Report:

Peter Davis reported that around 35 people came out for the event - Cricket employees, sorority members, Americorp, couples, and all kinds of people. They collected around 400 pounds of trash.

Issues in the Neighborhood:

Crime: The nosy neighbor signs are out. The emails have definitely slowed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Fox, Secretary

Dawson Neighborhood Planning Team Draft Minutes – April 12, 2010

Officers present: Sandy McMillan, Vice Chair & Peter Davis, Secretary

Approval of Minutes: Donna moved, seconded by Rani, to approve minutes as written in the newsletter. Approved unanimously.

Membership Report: Two new members, Sostenes Palomo and Rey Ortega. Dana Ortega signed-in as a new member but did not submit a membership application.

Old Business:

- a) Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) funding list, compiled from each planning area's priority items, awaiting Planning Commission's recommendations. The City Council, however, will make the final decision about whether any of Dawson's items, primarily sidewalks, receive funding in 2011. (See April newsletter for our priority list.)
- b) Donna asked about the status of the Oak Meadows project, which is on hold until the developer, Cypress, secures funding and market stabilizes.
- c) Project on Alpine property once owned by former DNPT member Kelly Smoot is also on hold.
- d) Myron Smith reported that rehab hospital planned for vacant lot east of Chucky Cheese on Ben White has been slowed down but still expected to move forward.
- e) Sheila Fox asked for advice on dealing with early morning garbage collection at site that houses Amy's Ice Cream and others on South Congress. Suggestions included talking to landlord and making sure garbage pick-up complies with city regulations.

New Business: no new business to report.
Meeting adjourned.