

Minutes for WPNA February Meeting

February 11, 2017

Memorial United Methodist Church, 10 am

- I. **Meeting was called to order** by Meghan Dougherty at 10:05 am.
Guests were welcomed and new members were introduced.
Meghan thanked sponsors and encouraged members to support the businesses that support our organization.
Thank you to newsletter deliverers.
- II. **Minutes:** Minutes were not printed out for meeting, but they are on the WPA website and we will have them printed for the next meeting. Next month we will approve both February and March minutes.
- III. **Yard of Month:** Renee Harvey was awarded Yard of the Month. Renee is a previous winner from several years ago. She will be a recipient of a \$50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek.
- IV. **Dr. Steven Abrams, Director of DPRI:** Dr. Abrams discussed plans for the clinical research buildings at Mueller and the need for community support to make it work. Dr. Abrams discussed the timeline for the building (at least 2-3 years) and how the building will be funded. He also discussed how they are working with the Mueller development team regarding the development plans.
- V. **Education Panel:** Ted Gordon, District 1 AISD Trustee; Roxanne Evans, member of FABPAC; Amber Welsh, Austin Kids First; Cynthia McCollum, member of FABPAC

Last Wednesday of the month the East Austin Coalition meets- please consider coming and participating in these meetings. (Blackland Neighborhood Association, 22nd and Chicon, starts at 6 pm)

The panel took questions from the membership. Among topics discussed:

1. **Proposed School at Mueller:** A co-ed middle school is an option and would provide equity for this neighborhood. FABPAC voted 8-3 to support a co-ed middle school option for Mueller. This has been a difficult sell because our neighborhood middle schools are under enrolled. Dusty Harshman on the FABPAC wants us to look at this at a middle school that would serve a Sadler Means and Garcia attendance zone. Twice as many middle school kids in our neighborhood are being served in charter schools and schools outside of our attendance zone as are enrolled at Garcia and Means.

Current push to relocate the Rosedale school to the Mueller site. Cynthia mentioned that both the Rosedale school and the co-ed school could exist on the same site.

2. **How to get involved? Email trustees! Come to the Board hearing this Monday and sign up to speak.** Email your thoughts on the plan to: future@aisd.org and trustees@austinisd.org
3. **Ridgetop closure:** why is there talk about closing this school? The district is considering consolidating

Ridgetop with Riley because of the quality of the facility at Ridgetop. The plan to consolidate with Riley will allow the dual language program to thrive. This would create an opportunity for programs to become even better than they currently are. The possibility of a dual language programs at the middle school at the Mueller site would require large attendance zones. There would have to be enough ELL students to have a dual language program.

4. **Blanton/Harris/Andrews:** scheduled for improvements at a later date. Blanton 6-12 years; Harris & Andrews: 12-25 years (full modernization projects). These dates were based on the facilities studies conducted over the summer. Ted mentioned that there hasn't been much consideration re: the portables at the schools at Harris and Andrews and these projected timelines for renovations/repair.

LBJ & LASA: Current proposal is that LASA will be moved from LBJ to a site to be determined.

Reagan: Its condition was sufficient to modernization projects in 12-25 years.

5. Dr. Gordon spoke about the need to discuss what's happening at **Means and Garcia** in order to decide what will happen at Mueller. Currently, the plan is to give these schools 5 years to see if they are successful or not and then decide their fate at that time.
6. Dr. Gordon wants the board to think about **academic programming** as much as they are thinking about infrastructure. A member of the WPNA questioned whether the board was thinking about robust academic and arts programs at our schools in east Austin.

VI. Resolutions for schools in District I:

Motion to accept resolutions was made and seconded.

(Initial resolutions, prior to discussion)

Resolved, that the WPNA:

1. Request that AISD build a co-ed middle school with strong academic programming in at the site in Mueller.
2. Request that the AISD realign the LBJ and Reagan vertical team
3. Request that the AISD keep Kealing and LASA magnet programs in District I.
4. Request that the AISD hold principal accountable for creating positive school climate, retaining quality teachers, and closing achievement gaps.

*Motion to amend the original motion to read that point 2- Keep LASA on the LBJ campus.

*Motion to amend the original motion on point 4 to read-

Request that AISD hold itself accountable for equity by ensuring that schools in District 1 have effective principals, and give them enough support and accountability to create positive school climate hire and retain quality teachers and close achievement gaps.

*Motion was made and seconded to accept the amendments to the resolution.

*Motion was made to add a fifth resolution. (see below) Motion was seconded.

5. Request that AISD hold diversity and integration as important values and complete the equity study. This resolution will be moved to point 1 in our list of resolutions.

*Motion was made and seconded to accept the amendments to the resolution.

*Rick Krivoniak called the question- Charters Wynn seconded it, all five resolutions were passed unanimously.

*Emily V will send resolutions to Dr. Cruz, Mr. Orpez and all the board members and will also email these out to our neighboring neighborhood associations. Juan Pablo will be signing up to speak at the AISD Board Meeting on Monday and will state our position on these matters.

*Juan Pablo is happy to give anyone more information about the education committee and invites all people, members and non to the monthly education committee meetings. Please email him at juanpmartinez@gmail.com for more information.

VII. Treasurer's Report:

This report was printed and distributed at today's meeting. Meg Brooks was happy to report that our finances are in good shape.

Other things to note:

44 people signed in to the meeting today.

Audit was finished and we will have a report in March.

VIII. President's Update:

Meghan Dougherty updated the membership on two new committees that membership voted on.

*New Standing committee called Planning and Revitalization headed by Margaret Dahl. Motion to accept committee was seconded and voted in unanimously. 1 abstention.

*Our bylaws need to be revamped- last looked at in 2002. Meghan asked for an Ad Hoc committee to look at the bylaws. Presentation by September 30, 2017. Motion moved to create the committee. **See Dan Strub if you'd like to revise the bylaws and be part of the committee, he will be heading up this committee.**

***Meghan Dougherty tabled conversation about the strategies for 2017 until next month's meeting.**

IX. Contact Team Update: Conor Kenny

Brian Graham, our ANC delegate was unable to attend the meeting, and provided a written report to the WPNA regarding the Code Next update: A rewrite of Austin's land development code.

Conor added that the May WPNA meeting will discuss the maps for Code Next and how they will affect our neighborhood. The final adoption isn't until April 2018. **If you are interested about Code Next in detail, come to the contact team meeting. Meeting is the second Monday of every month at the library at 6:30 pm.**

Connections 2025- new Metro line running in our neighborhood. Some CapMetro board members are questioning its necessity. Conor Kenny has drafted a resolution that shows support of the CapMetro line by the WPNA. The full text of the resolution, voted on by membership today, is available on the contact team website and below:

RESOLUTION BY THE WINDSOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS the Capital Metropolitan Planning Organization ("CapMetro") Connections 2025 Draft Plan calls for a high-frequency, "MetroRapid" route down Manor Road, the "820";

WHEREAS this route would provide convenient access for Windsor Park residents to the university, downtown and the airport;

WHEREAS routing the 820 through Mueller rather than between Manor and low-use golf course land would greatly increase the usefulness and financial sustainability of the route, as well as giving Windsor Park residents greater access to Mueller;

WHEREAS the residents of Windsor Park are highly concerned about the impact of upcoming major I-35 construction on pass-through neighborhood traffic and other routes by commuters seeking alternative routes;

WHEREAS a fast, frequent MetroRapid route down Manor, especially one with Park-and-Ride facilities at 183 and 290, could entice commuters from north and northeast of Windsor Park to ride the bus instead of driving through our neighborhood;

WHEREAS it is well known that one of the best ways to persuade drivers to instead take mass transit is to make transit as fast – or faster – than personal vehicle traffic;

WHEREAS the proposed 820 route is projected to be able to take advantage of transit-priority lanes on Guadalupe and Riverside, making it potentially faster than traffic, especially during rush hours;

WHEREAS many stretches of Manor Road could accommodate a transit priority lane with minimal

right-of-way acquisition and new curb-pouring;

WHEREAS bus rapid transit with transit priority lanes, signal priority, deck-level boarding platforms, and other accommodations can be gradually implemented with lower capital costs and taxation burden than urban rail, especially in places where urban rail may not be financially sustainable; AND

WHEREAS Manor Road and Mueller already possess the kind of multi-family and dense development to support ridership levels that help make bus rapid transit systems financially sustainable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association supports the proposed MetroRapid 820 route in general and urges CapMetro to adopt a route substantially similar to the draft plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association urges CapMetro to work with Catellus and the City of Austin to route the proposed 820 route through Mueller;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association urges the City of Austin, Austin Energy, and CapMetro to work together to implement components of bus rapid transit systems along the entire proposed 820 MetroRapid route.

Motion was made to pass the draft resolution as presented, 1 abstention, all others were in favor, none opposed.

At Monday night's contact team meeting, Briarcliff and Wheless low-income development will be discussed.

The neighborhood plan is linked on the contact team website and Conor encouraged the membership to read through this document to become more familiar with the plan: windsorparkcontactteam.org

X. Additional committee reports:

Beautification committee: **Manor Road clean-up is on 2/18 from 8-10 am** (meeting place is on Manor and Westminster, can park on Westminster)

XI. **Announcements:**

Feb 14- 7 pm, *A Friend of Mr. Lincoln's* will be discussed at the WP library and the author of this book will be present.

Feb 15- Town hall meeting at WP Library- 6-8 pm with Ora Houston

Feb 21-Sidewalks planning meeting (led by Stafford and Margaret)

Martin Luecke is looking for interesting people in our neighborhood to interview for the Windsor Park newsletter.

A Bike Austin volunteer was at the meeting and available to talk to interested parties. See www.bikeaustin.org/RundbergCameron for more information (Bike Austin will present next month at our WPNA meeting)

Motion to adjourn at 12:03. Motion was seconded.