Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

July 12, 2014

Martin Leucke called the meeting to order.

New members introduced themselves.

Martin recognized newsletter sponsors and thanked volunteers who deliver the newsletter.

We need a delivery person for Suffolk Drive 1500/1600 block for August and September.

Minutes from May were approved.

Martin introduced candidates who are running for city council including Laura Pressley (district 4), Roberto Perez (district 4).

**Yard of the Month** – Paul Licce introduced our YOM winner, Darien Legarde and Stephanie Villard of 1305 Briarcliff. Please nominate your, or a neighbor’s, yard by emailing Sara Jane Lee. The winner receives a $50 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery.

**I-35 Redesign Team presented on Mobility 35** including various people working on the project from TXDoT, City of Austin.

I-35 is the most congested highway in Texas. There are 40% more crashes on I-35 compared to the rest of the state. This new program is looking at the section from Georgetown to San Marcos.

Goals: increase capacity, enhance safety, manage traffic better, minimize acquisition of new land, improve east-west connectivity, enhance bike, pedestrian, and transit options.

It is a 5-phase process. As of yet, there is no funding for I-35 improvements, so phases 3-5 will not start until funding is identified.

There have been almost 140 stakeholder meetings, 20 open houses, 8 online open houses.

In the area from 15th street to US 290 – Must haves:

Adding more lanes to I-35 without buying more land. It will be more tight through the decks, where they plan on adding one additional lane in each direction to the lower decks.

Improving frontage roads. The super street idea has been scrapped. They will now focus on improved bike/pedestrian facilities, maintain east/west connectivity, rebuild all bridges.

Innovative intersections. A diverging diamond as a way to handle left-hand turns without the need for the left turn signals. It will divert those who are already on the access road so they can completely bypass signals.

At 51st street the plan is to add a roundabout. They will add a collector lane for those heading north/south on the access roads. All other traffic will go through the roundabout to make right or left hand turns. The entrance ramp will be removed.

At US183 There wll additional connectors from southbound I-35 to southbound US183 and from northbound 183 to northbound I-35.

St. Johns – They are proposing to soften the grade of the US183 northbound ramp. They would add a collector distributor road to allow for free passage of north-south access road traffic. They would remove the access ramp for getting on to I-35 from 290.

They will be removing ramps – 3 northbound and 4 southbound – because the ramps do not meet current design standards. One consideration is adding a northbound off ramp to 38 ½ Street (which would require buying right-of-way).

This is part of a regional system of improvements, including improvements to Mopac, 290 East, and finding other options (carpooling, bus, bicycling, etc).

Also, they want ways to alert traffic to crashes or other obstacles to traffic flow and diverting traffic in those conditions.

They are considering HOV, mass transit, or toll lanes for the extra lanes that are being added.

Phase 3 efforts will begin soon (environmental impact study).

Phase 5 efforts are underway at 51st street (implementation).

Questions – Are there discussions about pulling through traffic to 130? Most traffic on I35 is local traffic. During construction, their goal is to alert thru traffic about the time to travel through downtown as opposed to taking 130. Traffic could also take 183.

Concerns about how hard it is to travel west on 51st.

One concern about people using the shopping center as an alternate route to get on/off 51st because there is no current access from the frontage road.

Concerns about the increase in toll roads, and desire to limit building new toll roads.

How will the reduction of ramps affect traffic on frontage roads and cross streets? They are looking at models for reducing traffic back ups as well off the highway.

**Austin Neighborhood Council** – Sheryl Cheatham presented on the proposed “Resolution Supporting Alternative Plans for I-35 through Central Texas”. She asked whether everyone would like to vote in favor or against this proposal. The vote at the ANC will be July 23. There was a motion to table it, but because of the time frame, we need to make a decision before the ANC meeting. So Martin and Sheryl presented the resolution to the attendees at the meeting. The resolution is asking the US DOT to place a freeze on federal matching funds for any major Central Texas transportation projects and withhold endorsement of any transportation bond initiatives until such time as a comprehensive regional transportation modes that include mass transit. There is no time limit on this resolution. Essentially we are asking all transportation projects to be put on hold.

The members of the I-35 Redesign Team who were present did say that there has been a lot of coordination and communication between the city, TXDoT.

A motion was made to oppose the resolution, which was approved.

The theme at this meeting on the 23rd will be property tax, with a presentation including Senator Watson, with a Q&A afterward. Three drafts coming up including a resolution regarding tearing down the Courts in Rosewood.

**School Committee** – there are meetings next week for the superintendent search on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday both in the afternoon and the evening each day. We have already raised more than $1000 for the Reagan HS scholarship fund, and we have hats for thank you gift for a $15 minimum. We will be also inviting the candidates for school board to present at our WPNA meeting. We will have a School Committee meeting on the first Monday in August and all are welcome. It is at 7 pm at the library. We could also use more people to join the CACs at the schools.

**Treasurer’s report** – Rebecca Carpenter announced, on behalf of Jeanette, the Wildlife Habitat Challenge is going on. There are matching donations for the shade fund right now, so any donation will be matched. A minimum $15 donation will receive a tee shirt.

We have 209 members, plus a few new members today.

We received two checks from Grande Communications for $1000 each to contribute to the shades. The first shade will be $12000, which is already in progress. Hopefully by the end of the summer the first shade will be construction. One suggestion is to use Kickstarter because it can add an additional way of spreading the word.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, which was seconded and approved.

**Meuller Report** – Rick Krivoniak said Berkman is still under construction, and the character of the street will change.

There will be an urgent care center going in off of Berkman. Concerns about the bike lane on Berkman – there are large storm drains that could cause a danger for bicyclists.

UT has a 99 year lease for land in Mueller and has already built a research center with Dell Children’s Hospital, but hasn’t broke ground on anything else.

Torchy’s – the building needs a commercial kitchen, and one opening date is in October, but it’s not set in stone.

Question about IBC – they donated $5000 for the shades. The construction on the new bank might not happen till next year.

**Parks Committee** – keep eyes on the listserv for updates about activities in the Parks.

**Safety Committee**- Mark Hernandez has resigned because he moved back to California. We need a volunteer to run the committee. It involves organizing block party events and neighborhood watches. Karen Pagani and Martin are teaming up to run the safety committee right now.

Sheryl wanted to thank Rodney Ahart for organizing the cleanup at the median at 290.

Mark Boyden announced a lunch at El Taquerido right after the meeting.

More candidates for city council and mayor introduced themselves. Steve Adler is running for mayor. Dwayne Lofton (District 1), Monica Guzman (District 4), Andrew Bucknal (District 1).

Meeting adjourned.