MLK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MINUTES

St. James Episcopal Church (SJEC)

May 7th, 2018 7:00pm – 8:00pm

* Call Meeting to Order, Melonie Dixon
* The MLK Neighborhood Association meeting was called to order Monday April 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm by Melonie Dixon neighborhood association President, followed by a moment of silence and the financial report
* Financial Report: Current balance $653.05 cents. ANC annual membership due paid. Clarification that ANC is the joint neighborhood association.
* Minute from last meeting: Overview provided verbally. John Nyfeler made motion to approve minutes which was seconded by Dr. Delco
* Old business:
  + The little Walnut Creek greenbelt. Alex spoke with Andrea about update on walnut creek parkway. National park service grant obtained and money on their own as well. They are currently gathering public knowledge and input before they can bring any plans to the city. They are also waiting on master plan, which they hope to have by late summer, followed by a public meeting to have everyone review and make comments. This is the last step before it goes to the city for approval.
  + Combining Noman and Simms Elementary: Norman School to be modernized, not able to postpone vote. School expected to open August 2020. Future of Simms to be determined December 2019. Students from Norman able to move to Simms during construction.
  + CodeNEXT: Information based on presentation from CodeNEXT meeting. 32,000 signature delivered to city to put CodeNEXT on the ballot. Per Alex, lawyers for the city said this was illegal to put on the ballot. Have threatened to sue the city to have it off ballot. Next hearing May 29th city hall, June 2nd. One most important to go to June 2nd. Opportunity to provide testimony at one meeting.
  + Dues: several months ago discussion of membership dues for our association. Has been tabled. What was decided upon previously that for organization we were asking 25/ year/ family. We put it back on table for another discussions. Question about what dues are for comparable neighborhood organizations. Clarification that in the past individuals have had to contribute funds to cover legal expenses for individuals in the community. Moved to approval by Andrew Bucknell and seconded by Dr. Delco. Dues can be paid by check and on the website. Due in January of each year. For the calendar year. For 2018 it is 25 dollars per household until that mount is further brought to the meeting and changed. No prorated rates.
* New Business
  + Review of Roberts Rule of order: A way to help keep meetings focused on action and without getting stuck in personal battles which can occur with topics that people are passionate about. General sequence, presentation, then invite a motion from the floor, then the chair would ask for a second, and then would keep going forward. Important to have conversation focused on the topic. Followed by the consensus. Voted body (president and vice chair) have the authority to speak for the organization. If disagreements arise also helpful to direct comments to the chair rather the other person who they have disagreement with.
  + EMLK Contact Team: Discussion of whether to break up EMLK contact team into smaller sections.
    - Andrew Bucknell presented map with contact area—see map for different sub areas, which were established under Laura Morrison. Future land use map. Division of the original areas in order to have smaller teams. NP—neighborhood plan. Before any changes can be made (ie developer) neighborhood contact team would need to approve the plan before it goes to the city.
    - There has been difficulty communicating and making decisions. Pinaki Ghosh current chair. Hard to reach consensus because so big. Often times people feel left out or get left out of plans. We can opt out of neighborhood plan and request that areas be broken up to be more manageable.
    - Ours would be Ebony acres, MLKNA, JJ Seabrook, and a little piece of Pecan Springs.
    - When zoning change occurs, all neighbors within certain radius are notified. Contact team can issue recommendations. Final decision lies with city of Austin.
    - Dr. Dixon highlights importance of communication with council person, both ours and others. Currently contact team is not working well or even being misrepresented. Part of that problem is that we have such a big contact team.
    - Concern about opting out and not having access to information. Those meetings are open to everyone.
    - Andrew clarifying that not asking to opt out, but rather asking about splitting into 3 planning areas to have a smaller and more representative group.
    - Next steps would be to do a resolution with the agreement of the body saying that we are venturing off, then would decide who is the contact team, figure out who would represent our group as the contact persons. Idea of dividing up responsibilities.
    - Move the recommendation to dissociate contact team and offer new team Mr. Nyfeler, seconded.
    - Discussion about representation and importance of representation, importance that appointing someone would authorize.
    - Contact team meetings are open meeting
    - Discussion: There aren’t quite contact team members, everyone who lives in the bounds is entitled to attend and vote, also an executive committee that also make separate decisions. People from the neighborhood make recommendation to the executive committee.
    - Idea that splitting up could be simple but could take a while
    - Important to keep that we want neighborhood plans to remain because they could be struck down to code next
    - Roger Taylor from JJ Seabrook-- Contention regarding contact team. Gives his opinion that no contact teams would be preferable. Echoed feeling of not being reached out to by contact team. Highlights importance of having the voice of those who have been in the neighborhood for a long time. Would like for every neighborhood association to have their own representatives.
  + Hike and Bike Trail through Golf Course: John Nyfeler presented regarding extending hike and bike train across golf course. The MLKNA voted last fall that it should not go through the golf course. However, the NA feel this opinion has not been clearly represented in the larger area in the neighborhood planning group. Therefore, a resolution has been drafted which clearly states MLKNA position on what has been decided (copies available). This neighborhood supports hike and bike trails and recognize that MLK is a 50 mile an hour road, in favor of extending across MLK but only at South line and parallel to MLK, and extend to east side and parallel to Springdale. Would not be through the golf course. For safety reasons, would not favor bisecting the golf course. The chair will sign the resolution. Will be delivered to council person and to all of the city of council people (including mayor and city). Motion by Mr. Nyfeler that we ratify seconded by Rev Dixon that we adopt our old resolution.
  + Move to adjourn.