

Meeting Minutes
East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan Contact Team
General Monthly Meeting – September 19, 2018 6:00pm
Terrazas Branch Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez Street, Austin, TX 78702

I. 6:05 PM - Call to Order & Introductions/Roll Call

Sara Pedrosa, Kristen Heaney, Susan Benz, Kristen Hotopp, Lee Gresham, Mark Rogers, Julio Perez (6:21PM)

II. Citizen Communications

Melissa Ayala – Waller Creek Conservancy

This Sunday is Austin Museum Day
“Forever Bicycles” activation with music
KMFA partner
Family friendly, food, live music

John Duke – RBJ Redevelopment Update

Relocated 6 trees of 8 so far
Water line installing on Comal
Starting on new roads and infrastructure as well.
First set of market rate apartments opening in 2021

III. Reading and approval of the July General Meeting minutes

MOTION to approve - Kristen Hotopp
SECOND - Sara Pedrosa
ALL IN FAVOR

IV. Officers’ Reports

PRESIDENT – Nothing new to report
TREASURER – No Spending
SECRETARY – No Report

V. Standing Committee/Sector Rep Reports

ANA Update – Gwen Barr

Proposition J - If you want voters to be able to decide on re-write of the development code

Watershed Report – talked about coming up with problems from flooding. The 500-year flood plain may become the 100-year flood plain soon. The city will begin approaching 500-year flood plain as 100-year. Susan Benz notes that this does not directly impact property in the ECC neighborhood.

VI. Unfinished Business/General Orders

Learnings from the meeting with APD and Councilman Renteria’s office

Susan Benz – Roughly 20 people attended. The state cleans up under I-35 homeless sites in our area once a week. We discussed accident prone areas in our neighborhood. The City cannot install a stop sign without meeting state requirements to measure traffic. If requirements are not met they can add speed bumps as an alternative. Speed bump costs quoted by APD are frightfully expensive. A portion of the income from parking meters in our neighborhood can be allocated to our recommended improvements.

Continuance and improvements of similar upcoming meetings - Agreed to organize another forum in January that occurs at our regular ECC meeting.

VII. New Business

Parking Garage/Office Building at 1400 E. 6th Street – Keith Buchanan, kbuchanan@bartoncreekcap.com

Saltillo TOD call for 100' setback from the corner for off-street parking. Would need letter of support to waive that requirement. Would activate the corner with retail. Would consider using the exterior as a canvas for artwork.

Mark Rogers – Parking Garage is among lowest priorities for the neighborhood. Discusses ideas for affordable housing at the lot.

Sara Pedrosa – I think that one of the things that Austin does not do well is plan for parking in areas that it is trying to develop commercially. Concern is about cost control when privately owned parking garage fees are too high, \$15/hour for example.

Jason Thumlert, Endeavor – What we did was overlap some residential and office spaces. Office spaces float to retail spaces since parking uses max out at opposing times of day.

Keith Buchanan – Too early to have a tenant identified. Just testing the theory right now. Sees need for overflow parking and employee parking in the area. The 100' setback is only applicable in the Saltillo TOD.

Sara Pedrosa – Would like to understand more about why the 100' setback was written into the code. What is the intent of the setback? We need to know this before considering a waiver.

Mark Rogers – My sense is that activating the ground level is a priority

Susan Benz – Consider affordable office space

Keith Buchanan – Love the idea of affordable office/housing and the ground lease cost at this site make that prohibitive. Appreciate the time and the feedback. Request that ECC reps talk to our sectors and provide feedback. I think parking is needed and if ECC disagrees we'll consider another option.

Saltillo Update – Jason Thumlert, Endeavor

Waller Street is currently closed while Austin Energy work is facilitated
Waller Street will have a feel like 5th street with trees and wider sidewalks.
5th Street parallel parking, planters, and streetscape will return.
Attayac and Medina will be pedestrian/bicycle only

San Marcos will be a new vehicular street
Lance Armstrong bikeway will be picked up from 1-35 access road to Plaza Saltillo

Block 4 - Eastern most block framing and exterior
Block 3 - 3rd level of framing in progress
Block 2 – Framing starting.
Block 1 - Concrete work begins in a couple weeks
Residents moving into Block 4 in February 2019, then phase in April, August, September.
Office will be done in June 2019.
By end of 2018 there will be a significant decrease in heavy large truck traffic.
Endeavor is having their contractors park in the garages to the greatest extent possible.
Jason suggests coming back on quarterly basis. ECC agrees.

Discussion and vote on holding a District 3 Candidate Forum

Sara Pedrosa – Thinks this is something best done by folks who have experience with it.

Gwen Barr - Suggests that they come in for Citizens Communication and give them a 3-minute forum. There are 6 candidates for District 3.

Mark Rogers - There is one Candidate forum on Saturday regarding Housing. They determine what questions will be asked ahead of time.

Determination: Candidates are welcome to come to Citizen’s Communication at next ECC meeting.
No dedicated forum will be facilitated by ECC.

VIII. Announcements

Acknowledgement of recent Gentrification Study and Mark Rogers work – Kristen Hotopp

Introduction: Freddie Dixon and Melonie Dixon, friends of Ken Johnson.
Melody is new chairperson of the MLK neighborhood association. Just hosted 7 candidates and had great outcome from District 1. We came tonight to observe policies, procedures, and operations.

Hip Hop Architecture Camp – Austin Center for Architecture
October 6th, 9AM – 4PM. Free from middle school student.
Introduces design and architecture to underserved communities.

9/24 AISD Metz, Sanchez, Zavala Meeting
Preliminary plan is to modernize Sanchez and close Metz and Zavala.

IX. 7:24 PM Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn – Kristen Hotopp
SECOND – Sara Pedrosa
ALL in FAVOR