

**East César Chavez Neighborhood Plan Contact Team
Meeting Agenda**
General Monthly Meeting- July 21, 2021 @ 6:00PM

Virtual meeting held on Zoom (link): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88307040492>, Meeting ID: 883 0704 0492

6:00pm Call to Order & Introductions/Roll Call

East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Members							
Residential Rep	1	Eric Pace (S)	A	Community Stakeholder	Residential Renter:	-	
	2	-			Non-Profit/Civic:	Julio Perez	P
	3	Sara Zamarripa (T)	P		Non-Profit/Civic:	Farah Rivera	A
	4	-			Non-Profit/Civic:	-	
	5	-			Business/Owner:	-	
	6	Carmen Schofield	P		Business/Owner:	Crisene Casper	P
	7	Kristen Hotopp (VC)	P		Business/Owner:	Kristen Heaney (C)	P
	8	-					

Officers Key: (C) Chair, (VC) Vice-Chair, (T) Treasurer, (S) Secretary

P= present, A= absent
Other attendees: Bill Hamilton, Sector 7

6:05pm Citizen Communications
None.

6:25pm Reading and approval of the April, May, and June 2021 General Meeting Minutes
April and May minutes not yet available from Eric, Kristen Heaney is responsible for June minutes.

6:30pm Officers' Reports

Chair/Kristen Heaney:

1. Recap re: Fair Market's (FM) Planning Commission (PC) hearing on Tuesday, July 13. Only Heaney and Benz present to represent the team. Greater team representation would have been helpful.

FM is requesting zoning change to and 85 feet of height in exchange for \$950k- \$1M fee in lieu (FIL) and creating an adjacent public park space (area in ROW currently attended to by Corazon). Commissioners questioned practicality of public park space and whether park would simply be used by tenants or truly available to the public, also whether the FIL was appropriate amount of money (potentially not high enough- \$12 per sq. foot, this figure hasn't changed since 2013). Applicant/Richard Suttle pushed back- stated city legal dept. gets nervous when developers adjust FIL amount/city doesn't like changes to FIL structure (even if paying more). Unclear whether this is true.

Some commissioners critiqued ECCNPCT for lack of Sector 8 representation and also lack of Renter Rep. Also questioned whether ECCNPCT did adequate outreach to residents to solicit representative feedback re: zoning change. Heaney noted that the city held several public meetings that area residents attended and city has more outreach resources to poll residents than do ECCNPCT volunteers. Some commissioners acknowledged it is not team's responsibility to "drag residents to meetings;" residents have a responsibility to attend publicized meetings if interested. Some felt proposed building height was appropriate scale for the area. However, many commissioners weren't present at the meeting and those present barely made a quorum themselves (8 present, 7 needed to pass a vote). Motion was made to approve at 85', then a sub-motion made to postpone, with hope neighborhood could come to agreement with developer. Voted 5-3, not enough to pass the motion to postpone, sent to Council w/o a recommendation.

Council hearing set for Thursday, July 29. This does not allow time for community outreach in tight timeframe (also, both Heaney and Hotopp out of town then). Need to request postponement. Also, more team representation needed at hearings.

Question for community consideration: what can we ask for in exchange for rezoning that would make a positive impact in the neighborhood?

- Suggestions: work with PARD to ensure proposed park actually becomes a public park space via a covenant or other legally enforceable agreement.
 - K. Heaney will reach out to S. Austin rep to obtain this info.
 - Julio: who is responsible for maintaining the proposed park? (Not the city at this point.)
- Ask Housing and Development and City Legal if they can accept higher fee in lieu.
 - Carmen will reach out to city contact to check on whether fee in lieu could be increased to benefit the Affordable Housing Fund.
- Heaney and Carmen will reach out to Pio to ask if he can meet with us re: FM rezoning proposal and support postponing next week's Council hearing.
- Heaney will reach out to Mark Rogers and Susan Benz for input.
- Casper will canvas Saltillo residents on one hour Sat & Sunday, Sara will canvas residents one hour on Sunday (Heaney will provide talking points).
 - How to engage the newer residents that are more accustomed to taller buildings? It's an opportunity for the neighborhood to bring more value in exchange for the concession.
 - Carmen suggests soliciting feedback via graphic materials, survey including a QR code that directs people to our website.
 - While canvassing area residents, opportunity to engage them with ECCNPCT. Introduce them to the organization, invite them to attend monthly meetings and get involved (recruiting).
 - Reach out to apartment property managers to message residents.
- Sara question re: current Saltillo TOD zoning= Maximum building height of 65 feet. Saltillo zoning references: http://eastcesarchavez.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/plaza_saltillo_regplan-2.pdf and: https://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Planning/Urban_Design/Plaza_Saltillo_Final_SAP_Lo_Res.pdf.

2. Treasure needed to replace Susan Benz: Sara Z. volunteers. Heaney motions, Hotopp seconds. Passes by unanimous vote.

6:40pm

Standing Committee/Sector Rep Reports

Sara Zamarripa, Sector 3: DACC will not leave Terrazas Library until mid-August. Is working with the library on a beautification project in September. Terrazas library staff state the long-term plans for the library are unclear. There is a possibility the land may be sold at some point, the library could be closed.

7:00pm

Unfinished Business/General Orders

- **Inviting ATD to discuss traffic calming options on Comal and Waller streets, bike lanes on Waller, and area sidewalks in September-** recap of May meeting discussion and discussion of any new area traffic interests and/or concerns.
 - Carmen: resource for traffic calming initiatives, map showing proposed changes in area, degree to which various streets are in need of traffic calming. Criteria developed combines crash history to determine bike facilities, sidewalks needed, streets/intersections are scored on a scale/rank higher for traffic calming priority: <https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/index.html?appid=510ea1343a0d46ceb316dd5a08133042>.

- Also speed limit changes:
<https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/index.html?appid=510ea1343a0d46ceb316dd5a08133042>
- Hotopp: We have ECC parking district funds we can use to recommend traffic calming initiatives to ATD and Public Works, submit list of neighborhood priority projects for consideration, Susan thinks funds have a good chance to be allocated on Waller and Comal south of East Cesar Chavez St. bc additional stop signs and lights already installed in Saltillo area.
 - \$556,931 for ECC
 - \$632,867 for Business District
- Hotopp's priorities: speed bumps on Waller between Cesar Chavez St. and Holly where speeds are increasing, next to Sanchez Elementary (possibly even down to Lake area since cyclist commuters cross river on bridge leading to Waller); reinstate bike lanes on Waller between Holly and East Cesar Chavez St. (covered by recently widened sidewalks); Install speed bumps (and bike lanes?) on Comal between Nash Hernandez and Cesar Chavez St. Prefer this option to Comal Healthy Street because barricades funneled a lot of speeding traffic looking to circumvent Comal onto perpendicular residential streets. Also funneled cyclists into narrow spaces in middle of the road shared with unpredictable oncoming traffic, could not ride at side of road due to barricades. Better for more experienced cyclists, less so for kids and beginners.
 - Helpful if Alison can provide general cost info re: various options (speed bumps, bike lanes, stop signs) to help with prioritizing recommendations for ATD and APW.
 - Good to know what area projects are already planned/funded with bond money (sidewalk expansion, etc.), Vision Zero and Safe Routes to Schools funds in context of prioritizing recommendations if Alison can briefly speak to that.
- Carmen: Weaver development is bringing in a lot more traffic at Comal and Nash Hernandez Dr. Additional stop signs could be helpful here.
- Julio's priority: paseo that would connect the Food Forest, pocket park, RBJ Ctr, to Lady Bird Lake.
 - Invite Jody with food forest to September call
- Bill's priorities: parking needed in park area for visitors, event participants. Community survey results are needed to proactively guide neighborhood transportation planning. State and local planners reactive, plan around areas w/high accidents rates.
- Eric mentioned sidewalks as a concern in May meeting.
- Carmen will create a survey by Tuesday, August 3 that we can fill out and distribute among neighbors to collect community feedback by mid-August (within two weeks) to relay to Alison in pre for Sept. meeting.
 - Based on suggestions in meeting? (Select projects that interest you from list provided) or open-ended suggestions?
 - Survey will present some suggestions but also ask for open-ended input so it can be quantifiable and rank responses.
 - Send any traffic calming/infrastructure input to Carmen in writing by Friday, July 23 for the survey (Kristen will alert Eric and Farah).

8:00pm

New Business

- **Austin Living Streets Initiative-** Austin Living Streets rep (and Sector 7 resident) Jennifer Conroy will present an overview of the initiative and petition effort.
<https://www.austinelivingstreets.com/>.
 - Presentation canceled, will be rescheduled. Heaney states that she received an email expressing opposition.

- **ECCNPCT housekeeping business**

- Update re: use of Slack for those not present during June meeting discussion.
 - Primary communication will be email (for items team needs to be notified of or provide feedback about). Slack will be used for non-essential communication.
- Team member engagement.
 - Heaney wants more responsivity from team members- please respond if she reaches out. Wants folks to recommit to two-hour weekly minimum for team service and chime in during discussion even if members don't have extensive expertise
- New member recruitment.
 - Four sectors currently not represented (Sectors 8, 2, 4, 5). Also need to fill Renter, Non-profit, and Business seats. Goal is to have recruiting flyer ready by August for distribution after the August meeting. Recruiting/vacancy blurb available on ECC website: <http://eastcesarchavez.org> (explains eligibility, what we do, application instructions, etc.).
 - Heaney will create a flyer listing vacancies
 - We can use ECC funds to print copies
 - Hotopp will reach out to Sector 2 (Dan and Anne Alvarez), and help flyer/canvas Sector 4. Also reach out to a couple of area business/non-profit (Women and their Work) contacts.
 - Post on ND and ECC FB site.
 - Carmen has neighbor in Sector 4 she will reach out to and can help flyer/canvass there.
 - Julio can distribute flyers, post at the Garden, in the neighborhood, and on the Food Forest bulletin.
 - Organize a clean-up event to potentially recruit new members/committee members.
 - Sara will distribute flyers and reach out to Sector 5 (neighbors at Waller and Haskell)
 - Heaney and Casper will canvas Sector 8, Casper can post flyers at Royal Blue and will reach out to Business contacts (Blenders and Bowels, Distribution Hall, hotel, TX Coffee Traders).

8:15pm **Announcements**

8:30pm **Adjournment**