

**East César Chavez Neighborhood Plan Contact Team
Meeting Agenda**

General Monthly Meeting- October 20, 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)		Community Stakeholder	Residential Renter:	-	
	2	-			Non-Profit/Civic:	Julio Perez	
	3	Sara Zamarripa (T)			Non-Profit/Civic:	Farah Rivera	
	4	-			Non-Profit/Civic:	-	
	5	-			Business/Owner:	-	
	6	Carmen Schofield			Business/Owner:	Crisene Casper	
	7	Kristen Hotopp (VC)			Business/Owner:	Kristen Heaney (C)	
	8	-					

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

6:05pm Citizen Communications

6:25pm Reading and approval of the May, June, and September 2021 General Meeting Minutes

6:30pm Officers' Reports

6:40pm Standing Committee/Sector Rep Reports

7:00pm Unfinished Business/General Orders

- **Officer Justin Cummings, APD Region 3 District Representative-** team discussion re: ECC neighborhood safety issues, including security concerns at RBJ, recurring tire slashings (on Haskell, Canterbury, and Willow streets), area break-ins, drug activity, package theft, and the increase in encampments at the trail on Lady Bird Lake (north shore, east of IH-35).
- **ECC NPCT Traffic Survey-** discussion re: next steps and timeline for project completion.
- **Bylaws, process of and timeline for adding agenda items, team member responsibilities.**
- **Saltillo Regulating Plan Revision Proposal-** requesting a moratorium on Saltillo TOD zoning and neighborhood plan amendment cases to develop a revised Regulating Plan in partnership with the city and stakeholders. Goals include increasing affordable housing in ECC (via Density and Super Density Bonus tools) and addressing increasing number of individual spot zoning/contract zoning requests. (See [Heaney letter to Council](#).)
- **Fair Market Neighborhood Plan Amendment Request-** requesting a zoning change from the Saltillo Regulating Plan's 60 ft. base height to 85 feet via a Neighborhood Plan Amendment (modifying ECC plan, FLUM, and the Saltillo TOD Regulating Plan) @ 4th and Waller (site of Quonset huts). In exchange, Fair Market proposes a \$1 million fee in lieu for the city's affordable housing fund and improvements in the Medina St. ROW.

8:00pm New Business

- **Tom Wald, Executive Director, Red Line Parkway Initiative-** presentation re: the Red Line Parkway (aka the Lance Armstrong Bikeway and the Crosstown Bikeway). The RLP is a proposed 32+ mile trail along the Capital Metro Red Line from Downtown Austin to Leander. Background information: <https://austin.towers.net/austins-red-line-parkway-initiative-kicks-off-32-mile-urban-trail-campaign/>
The trail borders the north edge of the TX Coffee Traders property at 1400 E. 4th St., currently under consideration for a zoning change. RLP wants to ensure that the new development complements the trail.
- **Bertha Delgado, Community Development Commissioner (CDC) and ETLCA President-** CDC updates and upcoming ETLCA event/meeting announcements.

- **Proposal re: Letter of Support for Parkland Dedication Fee Increase-** on Thursday, Oct. 21, Council will vote on whether to reconsider/delay implementation of parkland dedication fees approved via the 2016 [Parkland Dedication Ordinance](#). Proposal to send letter of support for parkland dedication fee increase planned in 2016. Austin's current parkland dedication fees are among the lowest in the country; fee increases will ensure that parkland and recreational facilities keep pace with Austin's population growth and align with those in peer cities. (See Austin Parks Foundation letter to Council, attached.)

8:15pm **Announcements**

8:30pm **Adjournment**



To: Mayor Adler and Austin City Council

Protect the right to access parkland- VOTE NO on ITEM 20 on October 21st.

Council Members,

Item 20 on your October 21st council meeting agenda aims to gut critical funding for Austin's parks. The Council is being asked to vote on whether parkland dedication (PLD) fee structure should be revisited (presumably significantly reduced). The pandemic has illustrated just how important our parks are to our health and mental well being. The city's population continues to grow, creating a need for more parkland to serve existing and new residents. The PLD allows the City to purchase parkland and work toward meeting Austin's goal of all residents living within a half mile walk of a park. **Please vote no on item 20 and direct staff to stop any work revisiting the parkland dedication fee structure.**

We understand that this effort is being spearheaded by RECA (Real Estate Council of Austin). It is disturbing that real estate interests were able to push for changes to parkland and get this item on a city council agenda, without council sponsorship, and with no notice or discussion with the parks community. It is also disturbing that staff seem to be moving forward with this "study process" without any guidance from Council that asked them to revisit the fee structure.

RECA helped write the formula for parkland dedication in a collaborative process in 2015-2016, when the current ordinance structure was decided upon. It is therefore not reasonable to believe that they were not aware that the fee could go up since the fee is partially based on the cost of land (reflecting the money needed to purchase parkland).

False arguments are being made over the parkland dedication ordinance influencing affordability. If affordability is the real issue, it should be tackled holistically and with a look at all City fees and all of the non-City determining factors, rather than singling out the public good that is our parks. Apartment dwellers and low income Austinites rely strongly on parks including free summer and after school programs, public pools and playgrounds, and sports facilities.

There are conversations happening at the parks board right now about additional funding mechanisms for parks. The parks community is trying to solve the problem of underfunded parks so that we can meet city-wide goals for parks access and the goals of PARD's long range plan. Parks are also critical in meeting goals in other city plans and planning processes including the Climate Equity Plan, Urban Forest Plan, and ATX Walk Bike Roll.

Austin Parks Foundation urges you to vote No on this item and direct staff to stop any work revisiting the parkland dedication fee structure.

Sincerely,
Colin Wallis, Chief Executive Officer
Austin Parks Foundation