

East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan Contact Team
MEETING MINUTES: APPROVED
August 19, 2015 6:00PM
Terrazas Branch Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez St., Austin, TX 78702

ECCNP Contact Team Members present:

Alberto Martinez	José Valera	Farah Rivera
Richard Roberts	Ken Johnson	Sylvia Marroquin
Julio Perez	Eduardo Medina	Cecilia Russell

ECCNP Contact Team Members absent:

Alma Lyra	Michael Casias	Sara Strother
Chris Kanipe	Greg Foulkes	

1. Round of Introductions

2. Citizen Communications

- a. Rick Rojo (Festival Beach Food Forest) – Fruit Tree Grant
Planting 100 trees in Festival Beach Food Forest, they need volunteers to help TreeFolks. November 7, 2015: 11:00am-3:00pm. Minor Mishap Marching Band at 4:00pm celebration
- b. Alexandra Castañeda (Urban Patchwork) – Fruit Tree Grant
Austin is one of the top Urban Forest Tree areas in the country– a neighborhood orchard project in public access areas. Bringing the food forest to the neighborhood, focus on permaculture. Contact Urban Patchwork to participate. Alexandra Castañeda will provide more info for website.
- c. Edie Cassell (AISD Community Conversation about Our Schools)
Aug. 20, 2015, 6pm at Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell St. Rev. Dr. Jayme Mathias host.
- d. Leslie Thompson (potential Sector 6 ECCNPCT representative)
Leslie passed out bio and introduced herself. She wants to serve as Sector 6 representative.
- e. David Davidson, Hartford Properties (1205 E. Cesar Chavez Demolition)
1915 House at this site- historical value has been compromised. Interior was gutted. It won't withstand the move. The owners of 1201-1203 want a surface parking lot there. (It was noted by a ECC team member that commercial off-street parking is a prohibited use).
- f. Taylor Wilson, Centec Management (micro-unit affordable housing development)
Taylor was looking for a new site and now has control of 1207-1211 E. César Chavez. They are trying to buy 1201-1203 and 1205 E. César Chavez. They need more property. Demolition of 1205 E. César Chavez house?: Since it is pier and beam, they plan to move it to a site nearby that they own. Richard Roberts offered to help. Ken Johnson recommended that they do the research on all the structures on those properties before they decide which ones to save. Anticipated challenges at the new site: land is zoned MU not TOD mixed-use (MUV), so they would need variances. They would like to do the same levels of size and affordability that were planned at the former site (5th and Waller Streets). Currently they are allowed to go up 40 feet which is fine with Centec.. However, if the neighborhood wants more affordable housing Centec could request a variance to go to 60-feet high.
- g. Elena Rodriguez, RBJ Redevelopment Project
RBJ Redevelopment Project architects and leaders will give a project update with sketches and more details about the development at the September ECC NP Contact Team meeting.

3. Approval of July 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

MOTION to APPROVE minutes with one amendment- change Item 5.c. to read: “Investigate “Email List Subscription” feature to automatically send out all announcements and new posts. Find out how many emails our site can handle, what the user guidelines should be, can our site handle it at all or would we need to be hosted elsewhere?”

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. **Establish Bike and Pedestrian Committee:** Katheryn Flowers
Action Item: Establish Bike and Pedestrian Committee, possible appointment of Katheryn Flowers as committee Chair.
 Greg Anderson has done a walkability study – Ken suggested that we look at the study.
MOTION TO ESTABLISH A BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE WITH KATHERYN FLOWERS AS CHAIR (José Valera) SECONDED (Ken Johnson)
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.
5. **Presentation and Request for Action from ECC Team Regarding Mexcian American Cultural Center (MACC):** Juan Oyervides, MACC Advisory Board Member; Valerie Menard, President, Center for Mexican American Cultural Arts (CMACA)
Action Item: Possible action to write to City Council: (Ken Johnson recused himself from participation in this agenda item.)
MOTION TO WRITE A LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL TO REQUEST THAT THEY POSTPONE AGENDA ITEM #70 UNTIL THE NEW MACC BOARD AND THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HAVE MET AND MADE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS AGENDA ITEM.
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF NINE (9) MEMBERS PRESENT.
6. **New “Cat Café” at 95 Navasota and 1401 E. César Chavez St.:** Rebecca Gray, Jacques Casimir
 Presentation on proposed project at 95 Navasota and 1401 E. César Chavez St, former “Jumpolín.” Rebecca is leasing the two lots from Status Labs (Darius Fisher and Jordan French). She said that because people can’t all have cats, pet therapy is a valuable thing. The café is a place where you can go hang out with kitties (well known in Asia but new to the U.S.). She has partnered with the Humane Society to bring in cats (they will not profit from the adoption fees). They will have a food and litter delivery program (services that ECC doesn’t have local access to). Rebecca said it is a cat services center, not a kennel, because they will not board outside cats and they don’t take any source of revenue that a kennel does. They only foster cats. They are working extremely hard on odor control. Because the zoning for those lots is for “administrative offices,” they would need a “change of use” permit to provide “services.” Rebecca clarified that they would be exclusively pet retail and sell food/drink from a food truck on the adjacent lot. They are planning to hold events indoors only. They are not allowed to build on the old Jumpolín site, but they are leasing it to provide the seven required parking spaces.
7. **Land Use Committee Report on Breweries:** Gwen O’Barr
Action Item: Update ECCNPCT Cocktail Lounge Policy to consider breweries as equivalent to cocktail lounges.
MOTION TO AMEND COCKTAIL LOUNGE POLICY TO INCORPORATE BREWERIES AND TREAT COCKTAIL LOUNGES AND BREWERIES AS EQUIVALENT WITH RESPECT TO THE AMENDED COCKTAIL LOUNGE AND BREWERY POLICY.
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF EIGHT (8) MEMBERS PRESENT.
8. **Land Use Committee Report on Food Trailers:** Gwen O’Barr
Discussion Item: Consider establishing ECCNPCT policies and rules regarding Food Trailers.
 - Establish a new sub-committee to study Food Trailers & Land Owner restrictions that would be included in a neighborhood plan amendment – at the next meeting.
9. **Place a Moratorium on Beer and Wine Licenses in ECC:** (Edie Cassell for Sara Strother)
Discussion Item:

No action was taken – since this was not on the agenda as an ACTION ITEM, no motion may be considered until the September 2015 meeting: Will be added to agenda next month.

10. Land Use Committee Report on Proposed Projects on E. César Chavez Street: Gwen O'Barr

Action Item: Discuss and take possible action regarding proposed projects, including:

- LOC Consultants presentation on their proposal to convert car wash at 1505 E. César Chavez into a restaurant and brewery. Note: The developer was not present so this was postponed.
- Update on 901 Spence: Zoning change/ECC Neighborhood Plan Amendment request.

No action was taken – further research and discussion is required.

11. Update on proposed Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for 1704 E. César Chavez and Terrazas

Parking Lot: Mike Casias

This item was postponed because Mike Casias was not in attendance.

12. E. Cesar Chavez Street Coalition Discussion & Update on ECC smart growth master plan: Edie Cassell

Action Item: Possible endorsement of letter in support of a policy drafted by a coalition of neighborhood groups, led by Daniel Llanes of River Bluff Neighborhood Association

Richard said there is a new coalition that has been pushed through by the city and there is money that some of them have picked up. Hispanic Quality of Life is a crescent that runs down through the city who are doing some good things. We need to tie everything that we can to that and leverage some of that money.

No action was taken because the ECC NP Contact Team no longer had quorum when this item was discussed (several members had left the meeting before adjournment).

13. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.