

SLNA Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 20, 2011

Vic Ramirez – President, presiding. Vic called meeting to order 7:10PM. No formal meeting agenda.

Carol Gibbs – Austin Parks Foundation ‘It’s My Park’ is day is Mar 5. She forwarded the info to Bruce Evans. He is not in attendance. She will also forward to officers. Carol reported that Bruce was going to a work session for training – about invasive species e.g.

Carol - APD Commanders Forum – the district reps have reorganized and they have a new website. http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/comm_forums.htm

Bryan King reported on Imagine Austin meeting re Neighborhood Plans <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/compplan/>. Bryan was not involved in it and not impressed. Bryan says neighborhood planning is broken, not getting fixed. IA team sent letter to task force patting themselves on the back for best practices. Bryan perplexed – community frustrated: eg PICO PUD – want height of 180’ but neighborhood plan says 60’. Neighborhood opposed it. City staff opposed it. But then City Council approved on 1st reading (!), Laura Morrison only one opposed. Duly noted that 3 council members running for reelection – Morrison, Shade, Riley. Shade and Riley voted for PICO PUD. Talk is that Brian Rodgers may run against Shade. Some discussion ensued pertaining to Walgreens, developers, ANC and Brian Rodgers. Bob Thompson says each neighborhood needs to keep track of council votes and how they pertain to their neighborhood. Keep a spreadsheet and make it public.

Thomas Bleich asked what is currently going on re school closings. Zilker is threatened to be closed. There was a survey online <http://www.austinsisd.org/>. Kathy Tovo (AISD Facility Task Force member) was interviewed in the press pertaining to considerations beyond closing schools - possibly selling school district properties. 9 page report that is on ANCTalk – analyzing administrative facilities and cost of running them Link here: <http://saveaustinschools.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/alternativesjan18rev2.pdf>. Couple of schools still will close probably. Carol heard someone mention a theory – this hoohah is to get interest in bond election so voters will support. Discussion ensued about school task force and school closings. Task force looking only at facilities – they are not tasked with census, salaries, etc. School AISD website is very informative.

Vic – update on Irie Bean – hearing has been postponed to next Thursday. Owner withdrew late night permit. He changed appeal to Wed/Thur night, Camille wanted no music at all. Carol – people from Irie Bean went to city music guys to hear their recommendations. Raf has not followed through on any of them. City music people are not happy. Raf wanted a music venue permit but apparently got caught not in proper use as a coffee shop. Swerve was former tenant. Irie Bean doesn’t have a kitchen and can’t serve alcohol. There are 2 components: zoning and use – they need a conditional use for alcohol. Irie Bean doesn’t have right use because they don’t serve food. Needs CS1 zoning and conditional use permit.

Bryan – at last South Central Coalition meeting there was concern over South Lamar becoming an entertainment district like SOCO or 6th St. Concerns over noise, parking, etc. Lorraine Atherton had conversation with Chris Riley about SOLA corridor plan. Overwhelming feeling that any kind of plan will just make situation worse because end result is that they will up-zone. Bryan suggests we instead explicitly deal with the # of bars per linear mile. Lorraine will go back to group. Riley is likely to want the up-zoning. Imagine Austin shows 3 blocks either side of South Lamar as mixed use. SOLA is a mixed use corridor area where residents can walk to services. Carol's interpretation is that the houses behind and businesses on SOLA constitute mixed use. Bryan disagrees – the chip numbers say something different: SOLA is mixed use corridor where population is to be high – will need 65 new buildings to accommodate what they have planned on the map. Bryan says it's physically impossible unless there is a lot more density. Carol – why don't they target e.g. Lake Hills plaza – that is like a 'town center'. But there is nothing on the Imagine Austin map about that area.

Thomas Bleich – what is the plan for the area on S. Lamar across from the 7-11 where they tore down the apartment complex? What ever happened? That was some affordable housing in our area. No one knew any details.

Nancy Maclaine – what is sentiment about tire shop / Peter's development? He had drawings. Bryan – we should invite him back to march meeting to make presentation. Vic will invite him and get drawings from Steve.

Cypress development is on permanent hold.

Park development - Construction was supposed to start in Nov. Bruce Evans is the new park chair. Jan meeting at his house was supposed to be on Wed Jan 12 in the morning. . He was going to meet with the park woman on that Tuesday. Last we heard there is an issue with the bridge. Old church? No plans to tear it down anytime soon.

Vic – we got another email from Peter Berkowitz (sp?) re apt complex at 3707 Manchaca. He wants to come and talk to us about his plans for the apt complex.

What is the status of Michael's project on other side of Del Curto from his Luxury Homes site? On hold we think.

Bryan – someone has brought up the short term rental issue. People rent homes by the night particularly around the time of big events, eg ACL. Some of these are contentious. We have a couple in our neighborhood. Lightsey Sage House. Also one that wanted to go in at Pecan Way condos that they apparently worked out. No one had much to say about them.

Kim Rossmo - Chris' liquor update, any issues? Chris' liquots is moving – we thought it was in Feb. We think there might be a new liquor store in the OLD building. Non-

compete clause that new Chris's store would have to litigate. Discussion about bars and liquor stores on South Lamar ensued.

Kim Rossmo – went to Austin public safety commission meeting. He asked for a report on burglary problem from them, how it has changed over time etc, that should be presented at their March meeting. Residential burglary is major concern. He will let us know what they present and will bring any documents for us. 1st Monday of month for their meetings.

Bryan made a motion to adjourn. 8:35PM