

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by NACA

September 21st, 2017 NACA Meeting

Please join us at the next meeting on September 21st at 7:00 PM at the North Austin Community Center/YMCA, 1000 W. Rundberg.

At the September meeting, we will hear from Officer Stewart and Officer Kianes on key data and issues in specific areas to help inform our priorities related to open container ordinances, as requested by NACA members. Additionally, Council Member Greg Casar is scheduled to attend this meeting if there is not a City Council meeting and we look forward to hearing District 4 updates and discuss NACA priorities.

For meeting suggestions, please contact the NACA Co Vice-Presidents: melinda.schiera@gmail.com and ashleyrharris@gmail.com.

21 de Septiembre 2017 Reunión del NACA

Por favor, acompáñenos a la próxima reunión el 21 de septiembre a las 7:00 pm en North Austin Community Center/YMCA, 1000 W. Rundberg.

En la reunión de septiembre, escucharemos al Oficial Stewart y al Oficial Kianes hablar sobre datos claves y cuestiones en áreas específicas para ayudar a informar nuestras prioridades relacionadas con las ordenanzas de contenedores abiertos, como lo fue solicitado por los miembros del NACA. Además, Greg Casar miembro de Consejo Municipal, está programado para asistir a nuestra reunión si no hay una reunión del Concejo Municipal. Esperamos escuchar las ultimas noticias acerca del Distrito 4 y hablar sobre las prioridades de NACA.

Para comentarios o sugerencias sobre futuros temas para las reuniones, por favor comuníquese con las Vicepresidentas de la NACA: melinda.schiera@gmail.com o ashleyrharris@gmail.com.

National Night Out

By Ashley Harris

The Austin Police Department's Office of Community Liaison would like to invite you to the National Night Out Kickoff event on **Saturday, September 30th at Reagan High School from 10 am - 1 pm.**

This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017, from 7 to 9 pm. Neighborhoods must register by 5 pm. on Friday, September 15, 2017. Register your block party by visiting www.austintexas.gov/nno and help Stock your Block. Contact Veronica Saldate with any questions via email at veronica.saldate@austintexas.gov or 512-974-4735.

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NEXT MEETING

Date 08/17

Time 7:00 pm

Place....N. Austin Community Center
(YMCA) on 1000 W. Rundberg

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President's Letter

By Randy Teich

Restore Rundberg initially began when the Austin Police Department received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Justice. Austin was one of fifteen cities nationwide to receive federal funding in an effort to address issues of neighborhood crime and distress. Restore Rundberg became a partnership between the community, APD and the University of Texas. The grant's funding period ended on September 30, 2016.

Initial meetings shared crime statistics. The hotels and motels along I-35 between Rundberg and Hwy. 183 were identified as the primary facilitators of prostitution and drugs along the corridor. APD initiated meetings with those hotels willing to cooperate and got them to agree to require photo identification for everyone wanting a room, to share the names of clients they found to be participating in illegal activities and to then agree to not allow those on the list to rent rooms. This became one of the first successes of the program.

One of NACA's early contributions to the project was to identify poorly maintained properties in the NACA area. John Green, Monica Guzmán and I photographed all of the properties owned by a Steven Tong and Julie Truong who had a reputation for poorly maintained rental properties. We created a presentation and invited APD, the Austin Code department, the Austin Board of Realtors and several activist in the code enforcement including Heather Way from the UT law school. The code department accepted our presentation as complaints against the 41 NACA properties in the presentation and Professor Way assigned two students to do a study on the effectiveness of the Repeat Offender Program overseen by Austin Code. Code enforcement became a priority of the Restore Rundberg team.

Restore Rundberg has produced several more lasting benefits for the neighborhood. A study by the Latino Health care Forum identified many of the health care deficiencies in the area. Greater access to health care has been achieved and a newly developed phone application provides a quick resource guide to services in the neighborhood, a mental health screening tool, and is available in English, Spanish and Arabic with translation to other languages.

APD had two other high profile successes within the program. The first of these was mobile walking beats. They first identified four "hot spots" in the Rundberg corridor where crime was significantly higher than other areas. APD officers walked these areas several times a week, emphasizing community engagement and relationship development. This strategy reduced crime significantly in all four of the hot spots during the grant period. APD's second success was the Rundberg Education Advancement District (READ) which developed programs in the Rundberg area schools where APD officers and volunteers provide mentoring and teach leadership skills to students. APD district representative Ray Kianes is the major driver of READ.

UT's final report recommended 6 initiatives that needed to continue from the grant period. The walking beats, school and youth support (READ), continued meeting of volunteers, apartment landlord coalition in high crime areas and a full time, permanent community engagement coordinator. The

Restore Rundberg volunteers have met with each of the city council members and/or their staff and the mayor to discuss funding for the walking beats emphasizing the area around the H-E-B (N. Lamar and Rundberg) and the community coordinator. We are cautiously optimistic that one or both of these might be funded. Our hope is that the city will see this as a way of reinforcing the advancements made during the grant period rather than letting those gains fall by the wayside and then start again in a few years with another expensive initiative.

Everyone is invited to attend Restore Rundberg Revitalization meetings. We meet every other month on the fourth Thursday at the North Austin Community Center/YMCA. Meetings start at 6:30 pm and supper is provided.

District 4 Updates

By Greg Casar

Hi, everyone! I hope you all have had a great summer. With City budget upon us and the CodeNEXT process ongoing, your Council has been keeping busy. My priorities will be to continue to bring equitable, quality services with a focus on affordability as we adopt the City budget. And as we work through the CodeNEXT process, I will not vote for a Code unless it reduces displacement, creates new opportunities for families and individuals to live where they previously could not afford, and limits the negative impact that new and existing developments can have on our natural environment.

There's a lot to keep up with, and we'll share as much information as possible, but please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions as the City Council sets out to make several important decisions within the next month. Call us at **512-978-2104** or email us at **District4@austintexas.gov** with your concerns and questions.

City Manager Search Continues

The selection of the next City Manager is one of the most important decisions this City Council will make. The City of Austin operates under a Council-Manager form of government in which the elected City Council sets policy objectives and the City Manager ensures they are carried out and administered effectively.

During the summer, our office hosted a community discussion with our appointee to the City Manager Search Task Force, Julio Gonzalez Altamirano. Julio put together an incredible

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If you have News or Event Information contact Eleanor Langsdorf

document summarizing the feedback he received from District 4 residents that can be found at <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=280352>

Combatting Economic Segregation

At the first Council Meeting in August, Council approved a resolution I authored to combat economic segregation in Austin. Our working families and seniors should have the option and the freedom to live in neighborhoods with great schools, public transportation options, and access to healthy food. No neighborhood should be walled off entirely by unaffordability. By approving this item, our City government is able to incentivize more affordable housing developments throughout the City, especially in high-opportunity neighborhoods and in gentrifying neighborhoods where people are being pushed out. We have a long way to go to get Austin off the list of most segregated cities in the country, but this item—along with our efforts in recent years creating the largest recurring City funding stream for affordable housing, pushing our fair housing goals, and strengthening tenants' rights—will move us in the right direction.

North Lamar sidewalks happening now!

North Lamar Boulevard—one of Austin's most important streets—has been missing critical sidewalks and basic safety features for decades. Thanks to funding from the 2016 Mobility Bond and Texas Department of Transportation, we're finally getting new sidewalks! Over the course of the coming months and years, our goal with this funding is to transform North Lamar into the truly safe, vibrant, and transit-friendly boulevard our neighborhoods deserve.

Last year, Austin voters approved \$720 million in bonds for transportation and mobility improvements. The interactive website austintexas.gov/2016bond can be used to get information about projects funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond, including the North Lamar Boulevard projects. The Project Explorer will be updated monthly, so you'll always have up-to-date information about how 2016 Mobility Bond funds are being invested to improve transportation and mobility

All Your Schools News!

By Ann Teich

News from Lanier

Tara Bordeaux, media teacher, has been named a finalist for state teacher of the year. She is AISD's high school teacher of the year. Ms. Bordeaux spent 10 years in Los Angeles, where she worked in television and motion picture production. She then relocated to Austin. She has dozen of credits to her name as an editor, assistant editor and camera operator, among other roles, on such shows as Criminal Minds, It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia and Sons of Anarchy. During her three years at Lanier she has helped students livestream with professionals from Zodiac Studios and work on a documentary for PBS News Hour. Ms. Bordeaux also facilitated a visit from the John Lennon Bus to Lanier last year, making it possible for some of her students to learn state-of-the-art mobile audio and HD video recording.

Lanier begins the 2017/2018 school year as an Early College

High School. Students who enroll in dual credit courses with Austin Community College are eligible to complete an associate's degree when they reach their senior year.

News from Burnet

Burnet Middle School students were featured on the front page of the August 22, 2017 Austin American-Statesman. Pictures of Burnet students showed them viewing the solar eclipse. Hundreds of them took time during the first day of school to watch the eclipse through special safety glasses purchased by Burnet staff.

News from Cook and Wooldridge

Cook and Wooldridge now have Family Resource Centers which connect families with social services throughout Austin and Travis County. They help stabilize families, making it possible for students to remain in school and thereby increase academic achievement. FRC's are under the direction of Austin Voices for Education and Youth, recipient of a 2015 federal Full-Service Community School 5-year \$2.5million grant. Other family resource centers serving NACA families are located at Burnet and Lanier.

News about 2017 AISD Bond:

AISD trustees authorized a \$1,050,984,000 bond for approval by voters on November 7, 2017. AISD has approximately 83,000 students, 11,500 employees and 130 schools. The average age of the schools is 40 years. If passed, the bond would pay for 16 new or modernized schools, essential repairs at all schools, technology updates at all schools, life safety and police equipment, career launch programs at LBJ and Reagan High Schools, new buses, fine arts repairs at selected schools, and renovations at House Park. Information about what will be spent on each campus is available by going to www.aisdfuture.com (click on View 2017 Bond Projects by School and Facility). Items in the bond were arrived at through an extensive community engagement process carried out over two years. There will be no increase in the tax rate.

ANC Updates

By Ellen Martin

The Austin Neighborhoods Council met on July 26th. The Council unanimously approved 2 resolutions, citizen's property rights and due process related to petitions and one bylaws amendment to formalize the process to address the vacancy when a president resigns during his/her term.

Leslie Pool was the Council Member of the month and shared her perspective on budget priorities including development, traffic, and public safety.

AISD Superintendent Dr. Paul Cruz discussed the Austin ISD school board approval of a \$1.05 billion bond election set for November. 16 schools will be modernized or built. Every school in the district would receive a portion of the funds to make improvements from facility to technology updates.

Zenobia Joseph, Policy Advocate, shared her concerns about CapMetro's planning process. Recently this involved decreased service in some high ridership routes (including Ohlen and Research) and increases in less frequently used

routes to expand options for bus transportation to destinations such as the Domain. The public participation in outreach events last March was very low and the lack of citizen input may disproportionately affect low income residents. She encouraged neighborhoods to get the word out to citizens who may depend on routes with proposed changes.

The CodeNEXT land development code remains a hot topic. CodeNEXT has two types of zoning, Transect and Non-transect. These two types of zones provide different degrees of control over the form and scale of buildings. One of the criticisms of the existing code was that the "one-size-fits-all" approach was ineffective in handling the diversity of places that are found around the city. To address this concern, two zoning strategies were developed.

Transect zones are also known as "form-based zones." This type of zoning emphasizes the scale and form of buildings rather than relying only on the land use of a property. The intent is to preserve the character of neighborhoods that currently have restaurants and offices operating in buildings that were once residential homes. There has been vocal opposition from neighborhoods designated as transect zones (e.g., Travis Heights & Bouldin Creek).

NACA is designated as a non-transect zone. Non-Transect Zones are use-based zones. This type of zoning emphasizes the use of the property and maintains a clear distinction of where certain residential and commercial uses can go. In NACA commercial zoning is maintained from the existing land development code to CodeNEXT. Residential single family zoning is mapped to "low medium density residential." Apartment complexes will continue to be higher density residential and commercial properties remain the same.

So if the zoning isn't changing very much then why should we care? It's important because even though the zoning uses may be virtually the same there are many changes that have the potential to affect the character of NACA neighborhoods over time. For example, front yard setbacks have been reduced from 25' to 15' and houses will only be required to have one parking space instead of two.

Commercial buildings will be allowed to have about half the number of parking space as current code requires. That means a lot more street parking. Also, some of the use definitions will change, such as what is allowed under the live-work definition for people who run a business out of their home.

Finally, some proponents of CodeNEXT assert that increased density will add to the housing supply making Austin more affordable. However, there are many factors that go into affordability and interested citizens can read more about this in Developing Complete Communities for all Austinites:

Household Affordability Code Prescription. To locate this publication and other information go online to www.austintexas.gov and search for CodeNEXT affordability.

It will be interesting to see the extent to which public comments were incorporated into the next draft due to be published in mid-September, especially the administrative changes that appear to favor developers over citizens.

NACA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed are my dues for calendar year 20__

☐ Regular Membership (\$15)

☐ Silver Membership (\$25)

☐ Gold Membership (\$50 or more)

☐ I would like to volunteer for NACA.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Pay online at naca-austin.org
or mail this form & check to:

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