

NACA MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, 20 August 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Actions:

Melinda Schiera called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Agenda Announcements:

June meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Secretary position is still open.

Following statement of Land Rights was read by Isa Boonto:

North Austin Civic Association (NACA) would like to acknowledge that the land boundaries we occupy are original territory of a number of Indigenous peoples—specifically the Numunuu also known as Comanche Nation and the Tonkawa Tribe. We honor and thank the Indigenous people connected to this territory where we gather, and give gratitude to this land on which we meet. We work towards decolonizing our practices, and make our Civic Association an inclusive space.

Financial Update, Brian La Cour

At the end of July \$1,738.25 with membership at 129 members. Good financial health—members are very healthy considering we did not do a membership drive because of a pandemic.

Beautification fund \$11,595.43 includes about \$10,000 in investments. But there is still \$500 or so left to be used for beautification.

Ball pit for Cook Elementary to be delivered to Melinda Schiera's house on Friday, 21 August. There may be a need for beautification funds if there are additional expenses. If so, it will be submitted as an item for member approval at the next meeting.

CapMetro Project Connect by Yannis Banks and Joanne Ortiz, Community Engagement Coordinators in place of Jackie Nirenberg, Community Involvement Manager

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Project Connect is the long-term plan for the city's transit system. The proposed Orange Line is the rail line that would connect between Stassney Lane and downtown and the North Lamar Transit Center at 183 and Lamar. The plan includes a tunnel for where the rail line passes through downtown.

would also be more immediate improvements to fareboxes to allow for contactless payments and payment via mobile.

Displacement measures would be funded to the level of \$300 million during the life of the project. The total cost for the plan is \$7.1 billion in bond funding. The initial vote would only be within the City Council because the initial investment's impact is contained within city limits.

The project would be a coordinated partnership between Capital Metro and the City of Austin, formalized as the "Austin Transit Partnership." Each group would provide board members to provide oversight of the Austin Transit Partnership, which would also provide comprehensive quarterly reports to Capital Metro Board and City Council.

Capital Metro has been working with the City Health Department to plan for what would happen to the system if the pandemic continues for a year or so, but so far no longer-term scenarios have been created. Even so, there are 40,000 riders per month even without the University in session and Capital Metro is encouraging use of transit only for those who absolutely need it..

Office of Austin Homeless Ordinance and Enforcement, Austin Police Department, District 10 Representative Anna Jackson

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Homelessness is definitely increasing throughout the city by about 5%. Clean-ups have resumed underneath the underpasses and the creek from 9800 block to 8200 North Lamar, but will take a while. If there is camping on private property, criminal trespass complaints can be filed with the police. If people are camping in a creek, the police can provide a warning and come back for ticketing a few days later because it is dangerous for them to be in a flood zone. Camping of itself is not illegal.

For more information, contact Officers Anna Jackson or Ruben Espinosa (see e-mail addresses above). If it is an emergency involving criminal activity, call 911.

There is an increase in robberies and burglaries in our community, which is part of APD's Edwards report. Because of the delay in cadet classes, it is likely that with retirements and departures, there will be an impact on response time.

Robberies are primarily occurring in apartments with immigrant communities along Northgate and North Lamar. The perpetrators are often taking advantage of those who may have a distrust of the police, and may not report crimes. As for burglaries, if you have cameras installed, they are a huge deterrent, and can aid in identifying suspects.

ity has the isolation facility, a former hotel, for Covid-positive people, such as first responder: t want to quarantine at home and high-risk individuals that are unsheltered. “Protective lodgi ilable in five former hotels around the city for individuals who are unsheltered and at high-risk ise of other health problems but are still testing negative for Covid-19.

ity is launching a new program, the Week of Action to Help End Homelessness, a coordinate aign to engage Austinites in specific actions individuals in the community can take. Each day ne to guide what actions participants can take, starting Thursday 8/27Wednesday 9/2. This v rring event, probably each May and November from now on.

g Apart Together (EAT) Initiative, Taylor Cook

· Cook from the EAT Initiative, a program through Dell Medical School, was present to talk at :hurches and other places that used to feed the homeless aren’t open to do so. A couple of c k, volunteers can pick up materials gathered by the city. Any volunteers are welcome—pick i at the Event Center, and hand them out, and then visiting an encampment or some place wh e are congregating to provide the materials.

· Announcements

it power outages in our neighborhood are due to overgrown trees, and AustinEnergy is embæ a tree-trimming project in our neighborhood to try to prevent further problems.

da Schiera noted that she will be stepping down at the end of the year, and that the NACA B æveral open slots, including the Secretary position. She encouraged all members to consider ing up their participation.

ng adjourned at 8:46 pm by Melinda Schiera.