

MINUTES
SRCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (www.srccatx.org)
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 7:00 PM

President Noah Balch called Zoom meeting to order.

Membership Secretary Mary Janecek-Friedman confirmed that a quorum (21 members) is present.

One non-member guest is in attendance; he shared with attendees that he is a neighborhood resident interested in the organization.

Minutes from General Membership Meetings 8-20-2024 and 10-15-2024 were approved without objection.

Will Andrew offered Treasurer's report through November 30, 2024. The General Fund Balance is \$24,697.43, of which \$3750 is earmarked for Historic Preservation use.

Mary Janecek-Friedman offered Membership report. SRCC has 264 members. She stated that SRCC needs to form a committee for publication of the newsletter and asked that any interested members reach out to her by email.

Standing Committee Reports:

Planning and Zoning (reserved for General Business Items later in agenda)

Historic Preservation (not in attendance)

Finance announced the committee had approved the financial forecast for 2025 and it would be brought before the General Membership at January meeting.

Mobility

Discussion of Living Streets Program, using Alameda as an example. There are 3 categories of Living Streets for various purposes, e.g., exercise, play and social events. Committee expects to have a guest from the City address SRCC about the Living Streets Program in the spring.

Discussion of revenue from the paid parking project including much of SRCC neighborhood. Even though the paid parking has been in effect for only a fraction of year, SRCC's "cut" is \$120,729 to be used for mobility projects in the neighborhood. Examples provided were sidewalks or bike ramps.

Discussion with members regarding the method by which mobility projects were identified and prioritized. Members wanted to involve all neighbors, not just SRCC members, as much as possible with identifying and approving projects.

Committee Chair clarified that he used the mobility items from SRCC Project List of 2014 for the initial submission. The City of Austin maintains the funds and SRCC can only recommend projects; final discretion to approve and execute projects remains with the City.

Public Safety

Chair mentioned crimes that continue to pose concerns to the neighborhood, including but not limited to leaving the scene of an accident and package theft.

Chair requests that more members join him in performing patrol in the neighborhood.

Parks and Environment

Chair offers shout-out to Justin Haynes, who facilitated a meeting with

District 9 Council Member's staff to formalize work on Harper's Branch and assisted setting up a fund for improvements to Harper's Branch.

Schools

Friday December 20 is the last day of public school prior to winter break.

Now that paid parking is in effect around Fulmore the strain on parents and teachers has become apparent. A group at the school is working on solutions, especially for pick-up times and evening school events. The Parent Teacher Association is attempting to get a City representative to attend their meeting to discuss proposed solutions.

Mobility Chair mentions that two individuals from the City have been in discussion with the school. He suggests that the best approach might be "soft enforcement" during certain times and/or events.

Communications

Chair reiterates Membership's call for assistance with publishing the SRCC newsletter and emphasizes that we need an editor/single point of contact for the newsletter.

Report from Area Coordinators:

EROC

Council member Jose Velasquez attended the most recent EROC Executive Committee meeting. Issues addressed with him included public safety, 311 response, homeless encampments and parkland dedication fee.

EROC is working to acquire an "orphaned lot" that contains thick vegetation and serves as a hiding place for individuals wishing to avoid detection. The group is researching the current owner of the lot and exploring purchasing it to include it in Heritage Oaks Park.

EROC received a disheartening response from the City regarding efforts to have its neighborhood plan enforced. In brief, the City wrote that changes in City priorities and recent ordinances have rendered neighborhood plans ineffective.

General Business Items:

Planning and Zoning

The local organization Community Not Commodity recently circulated information regarding designated “industrial areas” being afforded up to 240 linear feet in height. This 240-foot limit increases recently-imposed height restrictions of 90 (and sometimes 120) linear feet. “Industrial areas” is not clearly defined, so the scope of the 240-foot height allowance is likewise ill-defined.

Also, a recent resolution stressing the importance of “liveability objectives” allows a significant expansion of commercial uses allowed in SMF zoning. These include counseling and guidance services, medical establishments, food sales, pet services and restaurants.

Parks and Environment

In supplementation of the report provided during Standing Committee Reports, Chair shares the following:

A recent meeting with District 9 Council member Qadri and his staff could lead to resurrection of the PARD Land Stewardship Program. The hope is that this would lead to a more comprehensive parks plan to include Harper’s Branch.

A member asks whether Harper’s Branch will be hikeable and accessible to the public. Chair responds that the topography and thick vegetation present challenges to public access but agrees access is an important goal.

Parks and Environment is working on setting up an APF Fund to facilitate and handle fund-raising. It has also worked with PARD to restore mulch (of a finer grade) to Little Stacy Park loop trail.

The monthly volunteer event for clean-up of Blunn Creek Nature Preserve will be Saturday, January 4th, 8:30AM-12noon, 900 St. Edward's Drive

Austin Airport Expansion (guest speaker):

Wendy Price Todd, SRCC member and Chair of the Airport Advisory Board, introduces guest speaker Bryce Bencivengo, ABIA Community Affairs, to discuss current and future expansion of the airport. [Slideshow](#).

ABIA opened in 1999, 25 years ago. The current design anticipated 15 million passengers annually but ABIA hosted 22 million passengers last year (30-45K daily outbound). The airport has major economic impact of roughly 7.6 billion for the City of Austin annually. It has roughly 6,000 on-site job, of which 600 are City Department of Aviation job.

The expansion and development program consists of several major projects, with some completed as early as 2026-2027 and others anticipated to be completed in early 2030's. These include:

- A new parking garage
- Upgrades to the roadway
- A new main entrance to the airport
- New gates added to the west end
- A new TSA checkpoint
- An upgraded international arrival facility
- A new concourse D (minimum of 20 gates) and a connecting tunnel to current Barbara Jordan Terminal
- A new cross-field taxiway
- A new central utility plant
- A new maintenance/apron area
- An upgraded baggage process facility

Membership inquires about transportation methods to and from the airport. Mr. Bencivengo shares that there is a corridor preserved for Project Connect rail system when it is operative. Though access to transportation network companies (e.g., Uber, Lyft) will not change in the short term, access should be improved by expansion of existing roadways.

General Announcements:

Ruth Casarez and Mark Janecek-Friedman invite any members interested in serving on the Nominations Committee to contact them by email.

Mary Janaeek-Friedman notes that photos are helpful to facilitate discussion of physical locations during meetings.

Ken Burnet has a question for Mr. Bencivengo but he has left the meeting.

Our next meetings are Executive Committee 1-7-2025 and General Membership 1-21-2025.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Robin Sanders, vicepresident@srccatx.org. Please check www.srccatx.org for updates.