

Neighborhood Planning Update:

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for taking part in the neighborhood planning process. There have been many new faces at the last few meetings. Not much has happened over the summer. Oltorf continues to present challenges to the planning group. As it is now three different land use scenarios will be presented to city council when our plan goes to them for adoption.

Just how commercial or residential Oltorf should be is still undecided. City staff favors designating office/mixed use along the lots that front Oltorf Street.

I am in the process of sorting through city neighborhood surveys done last fall. It seems so far most people want a residential neighborhood with some services within walking distance and sidewalks! I will have more on the survey at our next neighborhood meeting.

Over the summer, many on the combined neighborhood leadership team met with city council members to express our concerns regarding the neighborhood planning process. Council was very receptive to our concerns and has been brainstorming with the city manager to fix some of the problems. The city has agreed to hire a facilitator to help staff run the meetings effectively and hopefully build some confidence in the process.

Our next meeting will be on transportation issues but the date has not been set as of yet. Melissa Laursen, our neighborhood planner reports the addition of a new senior planner, which should lighten the load and speed the process. I will have current land use maps at our next neighborhood association meeting and hopefully a date for the next city meeting. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. The neighborhood planning process is a fluid one and I invite anyone and everybody to jump in whenever a particular issue speaks to them.

Patty Sprinkle, Neighborhood Plan Chair
Vice-president, GENA, 326-2868, midwife@arcane-world.com

Agenda for September 25th GENA Meeting

GENA will again meet at LifeWorks
3700 South 1st @ South Center.

Come by at 6:45pm for socializing; the meeting begins at 7:00pm.

The agenda will include:

Vote to postpone the vote for officers for 2007 to the November Meeting.

Updates on the neighborhood planning process.

Updates on the plans of San Jose Church.

Bouldin Meadows subdivision update.

Possibly more information on the Salvation Army property.

We will continue GENA's specific visioning exercise, which will focus on our desires for the South 1st commercial corridor.

Officers for 2007 will be voted on at the November meeting, scheduled for November 27, 2006, at LifeWorks. The positions are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative
- South Central Coalition Representative
- Newsletter Editor

"Bouldin Meadows" Update

The proposed "Bouldin Meadows" subdivision (on a 14+ acre tract between the Union Pacific Railroad and W. Bouldin Creek at the end of Barton Skyway) is making its way through the development process. The preliminary subdivision plan was approved by the Zoning and Platting Commission in August. Neighbors are (at press time) waiting to see the developers' final plat plans.

The final plans may include a regional water quality pond that would filter drainage from the

tributary that bisects the proposed development site. Neighbors' opposition to the subdivision plans has been based on the fact that the City, in its review of the project, did not properly apply code pertaining to "contributing drainage area" for this tributary. Due to questionable-to-incorrect flood plain delineations, according to surrounding neighbors, the developers will be able to fill up and pave over the tributary. Destruction of wild urban creek habitat and of the associated drainage benefits is feared.

There are many other concerns with the development, including that the only access (a bridge over W. Bouldin Creek) is located in an area where neighbors know the flood plain to be incorrect, as well as that there *is* only one access road (also in violation of code, according to many neighbors).

There will be a hearing for the final plat plans at a future Land Use Commission meeting. Stay tuned in to the GENA yahoo group or to the GENA website (main.org/gena) for more information.

*Kathryn Kawazoe,
GENA Parks Committee Chair and
Member, GENA Zoning Committee*

A Real South Austin Park Improvement - Calling All Volunteers

Keep Austin Beautiful awarded GENA with a Neighborhood Park Grant, which will fund a project to xeriscape the east façade of the tennis center in order to better integrate the courts into a park setting.

If you would like to volunteer on any phases of or contribute to the project, please contact Kathryn Kawazoe, GENA Parks Committee Chair, at 448-9475.

Neighborhood Watch

For several months now, neighbors have reported a man approaching them in their yards or at their doors and asking for money, possibly with an offer to work. The timing of the July appearances coincided with burglaries on the same streets.

Although we may feel we are helping someone in need, Officer Robert Barboza, GENA's police department representative, advises us to not encourage door-to-door panhandling. If approached, don't answer the door or engage the panhandler and call 911 IMMEDIATELY.

Officer Robert Barboza's direct number is 974-8246.

Got History?

We are still looking for GENA History. If you or another neighbor have any information to share, contact Jay Billig at 914-5292 or jay@jaythings.com.

Step Right Up...

How can you be elected to serve as an officer in GENA? Nominate yourself or your neighbor by sending a nomination to Jay Billig at jay@jaythings.com or on the open floor at the November Meeting.

Not willing to wait another day?? There's a **GENA committee** waiting for your input and participation right now, from the exciting and glamorous Zoning Committee, to the rugged and pioneering Parks Committee, to, well, you name it, GENA is ready for YOU.

Have articles for the newsletter/website?

Contact GENA President Jay Billig (914-5292 or jay@jaythings.com).

GENA GENERAL MEETINGS: the fourth Monday of September, and November at LifeWorks (3700 South 1st @ South Center).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: the third Monday of other months.