

General Monthly Meeting Minutes – Jan 20, 2020  
East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan Contact Team  
*Hosted Virtually via Zoom*

6:01pm **Call to Order & Introductions/Roll Call**

East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Members							
Residential Reps	1	Eric Pace (S)	P	Community Reps	Residential Renter:		
	2	-			Non-Profit/Civic:	Julio Perez	P
	3	-			Non-Profit/Civic:	Renee Lopez	A
	4	Sara Pedrosa	P		Non-Profit/Civic:	Farah Rivera	P
	5	-			Business/Owner:	Susan Benz (T)	P
	6	Carmen Jayne Schofield	P		Business/Owner:	Crisene Casper	P
	7	Kristen Hotopp (VC)	A		Business/Owner:	Kristen Heaney (C)	P
	8	-			-	-	
Officers Key: (C) Chair, (VC) Vice-Chair, (T) Treasurer, (S) Secretary							

6:05pm **Reading and approval of the December 2020 General Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** S. Benz moved and C. Casper seconded the motion to approve the Dec 2020 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

6:15pm **Officers' Reports**

K. Heaney:

- Heritage Grant program: McDoux Preservation, LLC reached out to expand the Heritage Grant program to restore interior spaces with a focus on restorative justice. Currently conducting stakeholder interviews and looking for community representatives. For inputs, please contact Kelly Little, McDoux Preservation, LLC 833-623-7737, ext. 3 or [kelly.little@mcdoux.com](mailto:kelly.little@mcdoux.com)
- Reimagining Public Safety:
  - Attended first outreach conversation with a focus on measures to improve public safety for Sector 3, which included Councilmember Pia Renteria.
  - Encourage community members to continue participating in public conversation.

S. Benz: Budget remains at \$1,874.18.

6:23pm **Standing Committee / Sector Rep Reports**

Parking District Funds & Sidewalks Improvements, and Neighborhood Partnering Program Updates

- Parking District Update - Susan Benz:
  - \$556,000 is currently available to ECC. Parking meter revenues plummeted during COVID-19 but are slowly returning to normal. Funds raised from District 3 parking meters are split between the City (51%) and three District 3 entities (49%). 44% of the remaining goes to the neighborhood group, 6% goes to neighborhoods and businesses on the other side of 6th.
  - ECCNPCT can make suggestions to the City on how to spend the funds within our neighborhoods, sidewalks, four-way stops, speed bumps, etc. The City of Austin Transportation Department collects the parking meter fees, keeps track of the accounts, and facilitates our input on projects to be considered.
  - Challenges:

- How do we identify what improvements are planned by the city versus opportunities for the Neighborhood Partnering Program?
  - Only one business is providing inputs to city for 6th Street improvements.
  - Limited visibility on what's going between City and numerous stakeholders.
- Sidewalk Master Plan Update - Carmen Schofield
  - ECC has many infrastructure challenges. The Absent Sidewalk [map shows an inventory of the City's absent sidewalks](#). Page 45 of the [Sidewalk Master Plan](#) shows a prioritization map for the City's sidewalks - District 3 ranks highest on the priority list.
  - Discussion:
    - ECC has many sidewalks blocked by wood AT&T poles that inhibit use for handicapped, strollers, and children.
    - 4th Street
      - Navasota needs four-way stop
      - 4th & Waller: missing sidewalk on East side of Waller
      - crossing at Frontage Road is particularly dangerous. Pedestrian crossing is planned, but status is unknown.
- Next steps: Goal is for team to have update/action-items for the March 2021 General Meeting.

#### Safety Committee Update; Eric Pace

- Update:
  - Sara Zamarripa along with a group of businesses and Willow St residents met with the Mayor's office, who has promised to take action to remove the encampments around the library.
  - The Terrazas Library and surrounding area will be the City's pilot project for the addressing the camping issue. The City is providing weekly updates; however, there's still no timetable and City updates currently lack substance.
- Discussion:
  - The ECCNPCT agreed to draft a letter to City Council regarding the location of the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) and encampments surrounding the Terrazas Library.
- Next steps: The Safety Committee will work to prepare a draft to review during the February General Meeting.

7:00pm

#### **New Business**

##### Vietnam Memorial Beach - Update from Austin PARD (Parks and Recreation Dept.)

- Update:
  - Ricardo Soliz and David Carol, from Austin PARD, are supporting nonprofit, the [Austin Travis County Vietnam Memorials Association](#), to build a Vietnam War memorial adjacent to the Nash Hernandez Jr building within Festival Beach Park off of Nash Hernandez Jr road. The two story building, across the street from Martin Middle School, and is boarded up because it lacks funding to renovate. The proposal is to place the memorial just west of the building. Austin PARD supports to help revitalize the surrounding property existing and help secure funding to renovate the Nash Hernandez Jr building.
  - The PARD board has approved a parks improvement and maintenance agreement, but the Association will be responsible for designing, construct, instal, and maintain the memorial. The memorial is in concept phase and has not yet been designed.
  - PARD is seeking feedback on concept prior to entering design phase. The designer/artist has not been selected yet.

- Proposed concept:
  - Primary Monument: Bronze statue on eight foot diameter stone base with two memorials walls (dark lines, 20' by 8' high with black granite slab with names of those who've served etched on the stones)
  - Secondary Monument: statute with benches for visitors.
  - Sidewalks designed to accommodate visitors along Two to Three flag poles: US, State, POW flags.
- Discussion:
  - ECCNPCT members request to see specific design proposals and would like to see an inspired, high quality design.
  - Austin PARD will return to present proposed design and additional details.

#### TXDOT I-35 CAPEX Corridor Update from Susan Fraser, I-35/Mobility35 Program Manager

- Update:
  - I-35 is most congested highway in Texas. CAPEX North & South construction will both begin in 2022 and will provide vehicle bypasses needed prior to beginning Capex Central project, expected to begin as early as 2025 with estimated cost of \$4.9 billion.
  - There are three build alternatives to support I-35 Capital Express Central proposal:
    - Includes eight miles of I-35, from US290 East to SH 71 Ben White;
    - Adds two non-tolled HOV lanes in each direction;
    - Reconstructs ramps, bridges, and intersections;
    - Improves frontage roads;
    - Enhances bicycle and pedestrian paths; transit routes.
  - I-35 Capital Express Central design options include, Downtown bypass system, Downtown-access controlled frontage road, Downtown boulevard concept, Direct transit access at Riverside and Dean Keaton Street.
  - Austin Downtown Alliance is leading separate [OurFuture35](#) effort proposal deck plaza in the downtown section. TXDOT is supporting any design, but cannot expend public funds on deck plaza.
  - I-35 Capital Express Central Timeline, updates posted online at [My35CapEx.com](#):
    - January 2021: Noise analysis of existing conditions
    - March 2021: Second virtual public scoping meeting
    - Spring 2021: Complete scoping.
    - Spring 2021 - Fall 2022: Conduct environmental analysis of alternatives
    - Summer 2021: Noise analysis of future conditions.
    - Fall 2022: draft Environmental Impact Statement and Public Hearing
    - Fall 2023: Record of Decision
    - TBD 2024: If analysis indicates that a noise barrier is needed, impacted residents will be able to vote “yes” or “no” on whether a noise wall should be constructed
    - 2025: Begin construction.
- Discussion:
  - Noise meters are being placed in selected locations next the highway.
  - Those interested in participating can sign up for the newsletter and find public meetings online at [My35CapEx.com](#). Susan Fraser will return to present update the ECCNPCT this Spring/Summer.

- o Susan Fraser will reach out to see if she can figure out status on pedestrian crossing @ 4th Street crossing at Frontage Road.

7:36pm

**Adjournment**