

CNA Member Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2015
Journey IFC Church

EC in attendance: Dave Considine, Anne-Charlotte Patterson, Ali Thompson, Nancy Mohn Barnard, Roland Rodriguez, Melissa Zone, Elaine Stegant and Matt Armstrong

Additional Attendees: Approximately 66-75 people

Meeting begins at 7:01 PM

Pastor Diamond of Journey IFC welcomes attendees to the meeting.

Dave Considine thanks Pastor. Introduces himself and new officers to the audience. Explains that he hopes to bring people together to talk and discuss—the only way to resolve problems is to engage in dialogue.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

--CNPCT MEETING - Time is wrong in newsletter. The Contact Committee's next meeting is Tuesday, June 16th, 6:30 PM at Episcopal Resurrection Church. At this meeting, a developer will ask to change zoning requirements at the Korean church to allow for a 54-apartment complex to be built. Also, the Contact Committee hopes to fill the position of secretary.

II. AGENDA – Considine explains that although CNA tries to publicize meeting agendas, sometimes the agenda changes. For example, Leslie Pool requested to speak this evening.

A. LESLIE POOL

1. CRESTVIEW PARK: Leslie Pool has been advocating for park. Presents two possible funding options.

a. Larry Weis--head of Austin Energy (AE)--is looking to relocate AE site on Ryan elsewhere in town. State law requires that anytime a public utility company releases title to property, it has to be sold at market rate. This land is currently valued at \$5 million. Weis thinks that the sale of this land can be amortized over 5 years. This amortization could reduce the amount of money needed up front from \$5 million to \$1 million. Another option is to leave title in Austin Energy's name because then the law only requires a fund transfer. The Park and Recreation department's budget has been on a decline in recent years. Pool hopes to increase the department's budget. Bottom line – nothing else would go on site but a park.

b. Barlin (sp?) owns adjacent property (Corner of Justin and Lamar where Walker Tire and title company are) on which he has considered adding housing and using the revenue toward CNA parkland.

2. KOREAN CHURCH – City Council denied developer David Kahn’s plan for the Korean church on Justin Lane. However, Kahn has a secondary plan for a smaller development. CNA should look at the plan and give their feedback. Pool wants to see more housing; neighborhood wants more owner-occupied housing. Pool thinks that condos can be an option.

A discussion ensues about the fact that Kahn seemingly had two plans for review on file at the same time, which is against the rules. Pool explains that this issue, among others, highlights problems with the planning and permitting department.

3. MEDIAN ON MORROW AT NORTH LAMAR

Pool introduces Dipti Borkar-Desai and Justin (?) who work in Public Works and Transportation. Pool then explains that district 4 is asking for barrier on North Lamar and Justin to be removed. She says that although it’s a convenience for Highland, it’s a safety issue for people in Crestview. Pool would like us to work with Highland before going before City Council.

Discussion ensues about an agreement struck between Highland and Crestview in which Crestview agreed to remove the median if sidewalks were created on the northbound side of Morrow from Lamar to Burnet and if traffic-calming procedures were put in place.

Neighbors raise concerns about the increase of traffic on Morrow. Dipti presents a traffic volume study for Morrow starting from 1990 – 2009 (see graphic below).

Daily Traffic Volumes on Morrow Street (vpd)			
Traffic Count Year	West of North Lamar Boulevard		
	Eastbound	Westbound	Total
1990 – Unrestricted movements	2,600	5,670	8,270
1996 – Restricted movements	1,810	550	2,360
2009 – Restricted movements	1,261	648	1,909
Traffic Analysis Projections:			
2009 – Unrestricted movements (Morrow barriers removed)	1,261	1,217	2,478
- Low end of range	1,261	1,137	2,398
- High end of range	1,261	1,263	2,524

Prior to installation of islands

After installation of islands, with partial completion of US183

After installation of islands & US183 complete

Traffic analysis 2009 projections

Concerns are raised about this area's population increase in the past six years, and Dipti affirms that her department is not changing their position.

Attendees discuss the poorly designed intersection at Lamar/Anderson/183 and how there are no state funds to fix it. There is discussion about increasing traffic calming on Morrow if the median is removed.

Leslie Pool ends discussion by stating that she needs to leave. Invites people to help campaign for an increase in the Park and Rec department's budget.

B. ALEKSIINA CHAPMAN--*Arroyo Seco Pedestrian/bike lane Project Coordinator for the City*

Chapman introduces self and Justin with the Neighborhood Partnering Program. Justin worked with Brentwood Neighborhood Association (BNA) to bring the pedestrian/bike lane project to fruition.

Justin discusses the project's history. BNA helped raise over \$5000 for the project by going door-to-door. They also helped design it. Originally the path was going to stop at Justin, but CNA wanted to extend path and also helped fundraise to be a part of it.

The path has had a mixed reaction from the neighborhoods. Chapman is collecting feedback.

Feedback:

1. Path is two-way for cyclists and pedestrians but cars can only go one way. People don't expect people or cyclist two-way traffic on a one-way street.

Chapman explains that this configuration has been done in other parts of Austin. They tried to think about how people would be using the path. BNA wanted a shared path area. Didn't know if it was feasible to ask some users to go one way only. So the design reflects how they think people will use it. Path is being installed in two phases. One phase is in place right now – painted lines and markings. Second step is to put a physical barrier up.

People also feel like path is designed for bicycles and not pedestrians. If you're walking or jogging it feels more comfortable to be closer to curb.

Chapman points out that vehicle speeds have slowed down because of narrower lanes. As a result, cars are more predictable.

2. Poles are unattractive. Chapman explains that they are trying to figure out what kind of barrier to put down. Have had lots of feedback from BNA that the white poles are not aesthetically pleasing.

3. Lanes ending behind Crestview IGA are dangerous. Markings are unclear.

Chapman explains that the problem is how to get cyclists back over to right side of the curb. They based the lane markings on what they thought people were going to do anyways.

Also the lanes narrow at Justin because in the future, there will be a protected bike line on the north side of that street.

Chapman asks CNA to coordinate comments/feedback and to pass this information on to BNA.

C. HENRY LEVINE – ART AT ENTRANCES

Levine explains that before further action can be taken with Art at Entrances, funding and ideas need to be in place at the same time. The CNA board needs to figure out what kind of project we want to have in the neighborhood (signs or art?). Suggests that the community can vote on what they'd like to see.

Potential areas: Justin and Reese--Block of public space. Also St. Joseph's where it becomes Morrow.

What needs to happen – CNA needs to work with Neighborhood Partnering Program and also VCCW. Levine estimates that a Crestview sign will cost between \$5-15K per site. An art installation will be \$20–40K per site. It will be a fundraising issue that someone on the CNA EC needs to champion. Whatever we decide, we need to coordinate with city and have a working plan and money. There is no current committee to judge perspective designs. The past CNA board was considering having a panel to help solicit submissions.

III. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A request is made to add the Easy Wind gate to the next meeting's agenda. Considine states that he will first confer with EC before setting the next agenda.

Meeting adjourns at 8:40 PM.