**NACA MONTHLY MEETING**

Thursday February 20, 2014

North Austin Community Recreation Center

1000 West Rundberg Lane

**Introductions:**

John Green called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

**Announcements**

The January 2014 meeting minutes were distributed and approved.

John asked for people to identify projects in the area to be completed for UT Project 2015.

One resident suggested we clean up the dead trees in the area.

Susie Milam asked for volunteers to hand out door hangers for the two Republic Services bulky item collections that will occur on 15 streets twice during the year.

Marco Mancias has established the North Austin Democrats Club. The first meeting will occur in April.

Caro Dubois stated It’s My Park Day on March 1st at Ron Rigsby Park. Weeding, replanting and planting bluebonnets will occur.

Lanier High School will install a community garden next to the Ag farm.

The installation of the community garden is under way at the North Austin Community Center

**2014 Budget Approval;** Brian LaCour stated we have an annual budget of $10,000. General Funds covers basic operating expenses. Board Member insurance is usually $2,000. Beautification Funds are exclusively for beautification projects. Heron Hollow maintenance is $2,000 per year. There are a few changes to the budget this year. First, NACA will only mail newsletters to paid members; no more bulk distributions. There will be no more advertising. We are estimating an annual newsletter expense of $3,000. Beautification income will be adjusted upward to include the $1200.00 per year donation from Republic Services.

Brian stated NACA historically gets 180 members per year. Currently we have 90 members.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended budget.

**Project Connect Update: Roberto Perez**

Issues discussed include: Congestion, roads, funding, service characteristics, speed, stop spacing, frequency and reliability. The REIT development (Red Leaf Properties) will redevelop the unused parking lot into vertical mixed use (retail on bottom, residential on top).

**Austin Neighborhoods Council Update: Melinda Schiera**

The following website has been established: www.ancweb.org

Melinda and Dominic are on the Communications Committee of ANC.

They voted to reduce occupancy from 6 unrelated adults to 4 and to slow down the process of the land development code rewrite.

**Restore Rundberg Initiative (RRI) Update;** Brian Almon represents NACA on the Revitalization Team. The January public meeting was cancelled. At the team meeting last week, policies and operational procedures for the team were established. With the work groups and committees, anyone can participate. Priority 1: revitalization of four areas: Brownie Drive behind the bowling alley, Northgate/Galewood area, Sam Rayburn/John Gardner area and the property behind Thomas Buffet.

APD informed the team they spent $150,000 during the first year. APD expects to get feedback from the Justice Department on the plan by the March. The UT research team will be focusing on youth programming options during 2014. In March, there will be a presentation to the city council on March 6th.

**Vacant Property Development; Don Shephard from the Georgian Acres Neighborhood.**

They are trying to identify landlords who own significant amounts of properties.

The Nuisance Abatement Law does not affect public property. City municipalities and schools are exempt. You must have at least 3 serious crimes during a 6 month period.

When you file on a neighbor, the Code Compliance Inspector will go the house and look for additional violations. Two letters (one regular, one certified) will be issued to the violator.

If the violation is not corrected, the City may take further legal action. The fines are $2,000 per day.

He discussed the vacant property behind Showplace lanes where there is a danger of innocent trespassing victims. The area was recently cleaned up; 20 people known as habitual drug dealers and prostitutes were removed. A commercial dumpster was delivered and filled up the next day. This is nuisance abatement in action.

**CodeNEXT Community Character in a Box: Brian Almon and Melinda Schiera**

This is the city’s effort to rewrite the land development code to tell developer what they can and can’t do. This code was last revised in 1984. The goals of the new code: to preserve the care of the city, to align with community goals. The final schedule is expected to be approved in 2016.

In Code Next the staff emphasized that single member districts will not go away, residents and stakeholders will provide feedback. City staff has asked residents to comment on the neighborhood plan.

Code Next wants us to analyze our neighborhood. Identify assets, constraints and opportunities. The second part is to get pictures of the assets, constraints and opportunities. Send pictures to Melinda or to the website. Return the map to identify where you are walking. Identify what you love about single family residences.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm**