

Meeting Notes: June 3rd, 2008

Highland Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting

Welcome new neighbors!

Dorothy Johns Triangle - we currently don't have a volunteer coordinator and the triangle needs a little gardening care. If anyone is interested in being the volunteer coordinator or volunteering to help with the triangle let Damon know. We also need a hospitality chair. They do a few items including

Collette got new signs for our neighborhood meetings.

National Night Out is now Oct 7th instead of August this year. Should be much cooler. Feel free to contact EMS, Police, Fire for assistance in your group.

Contact Team for Neighborhood - responsible for community input on variances, zoning changes, and working the neighborhood plan with the city. 2 Issues that have come up recently, Sign variances of 30ft to 40ft. Feel free to come to contact team meetings, minimum 2 for official membership, to express your ideas. The other issue, 400 W. Odell (corner at Northcrest), they are requesting a reduction of 15ft to 5ft variance on the side near the Waller creek "head waters" 7507

Northcrest, 5:00pm this coming Sunday, June 8th, 2008.

Dorothy Johns volunteer coordinator for the 4th of July Festivities. Already got a firetruck ready to go!

Brewster McCracken - Neighborhood Issues Discussion

Q: How are you going to link/integrate the Light-Rail system?

Crestview station will be cheap, one line that runs every 30 minutes starting in November and December. \$1.50 each way on the light-rail.

Q: Home Depot will be moving to Mueller site, what will take it's place?

A new Municipal Court is slated to move into it's place. Cops are most surely to be there. This is most certainly to help with crime in our area!

Q: New Apartments on Lamar, negative impact to traffic?

Go to www.highlandneighborhood.com#email-counsel and submit a form for **East/West Traffic concerns for Lamar**. Please send ASAP, as this is actively being discussed.

Q: Growing Drug Problem, what to do?

Call 911, anonymous is an option, be prompt and try and remember clothing and descriptions. Only way to stop it, is to report it!

Q: Cross-Walk Traffic concerns for Crestview Station at Lamar, what to do?

The city has acknowledged that this intersection will need to be reworked. Please go to www.highlandneighborhood.com#email-counsel and select **Lamar Cross-Traffic to Crestview Station**. If you have any ideas, please let them know.

Q: Light-Rail stops running early. Possible alternative to driving drunk?

The light-rail system is currently single-tracked in most places, this is a hindrance to timing and coordination. It is difficult to take on costly renovation projects in a down-sloping economy; however, they will be toying with the existing infrastructure to try and make the most out of what they have.

Q: Energy Efficiency and Home Upgrade Mandates on the Sale of Homes

Home upgrades: Before you sell your house, you need to upgrade your home to meet certain requirements. Brewster is against this, as it would have a damaging affect on the economy. Power Partners computerized power cycles off your air conditioner to help level off your power consumption. Counsel is split on this issue, but please email the counsel as this will be discussed for quite a while.

Note: Please confirm traffic studies and impact on Highland Neighborhood for new residence across from Lamar. Example case-study, Rob Roy near Bee Caves. Second reading of this plan for Lamar statement scheduled for June 18, please contact the Highland Neighborhood Contact Team for more information. If you'd like to attend the 2nd reading, you are more than welcome.

Q: Bus Travel is scary due to unruly behavior and many times smelly?

Discussed options of empowering bus drivers; Brewster to follow up with Capital Metro to better understand the situation.

Note: Energy Efficiency: City to put Energy Efficiency into building codes? Things on the horizon, but this is a sensitive issue.

Q: Can we look at alternatives to reduce total size, and or retail space.

There are currently changes in affect that are being vetted, that should reduce new developments; however, not much to do for legacy establishments.

Q: How can we move forward with the Highland Mall redesign?

Highland Mall has 7 different ownerships, that makes it very problematic to redevelop it all. The area is subject to heightened rules and regulations as it is a rail stop. No doubt once the light-rail is there, renovations will be quick to come.

Note: More money for the "Denson drag-way" and other traffic calming devices. There is some headway on this effort, so make your voice heard. Get us the Turtles!

Q: Bicycle safety issues, what is the city doing to assist?

Possibly dedicated bike lanes in new developments in the city. Places like Shoal

Creek, Guadalupe, and 360...we need to create a dedicated bike safety lane. Please go to www.highlandneighborhood.com#email-counsel and select **Bicycle Safety Ordinances for Austin**.

Note: Reward for 2 white cats are missing and there is a \$100 reward.

Note: New website - email webmaster@highlandneighborhood.com if you have ideas for what we want to do with it...for example a pet section...register your pet or post lost pet.