

Swede Hill Neighborhood Association

August Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 5

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Carver Library, 1161 Angelina St., Meeting Rm #2

- **Announcements**

- **Item #1** Development Committee Update – Hunt Andre

Hunt Andre updated members on the progress of the sale of Tracts 3 and 5 to Butler Equity. The closing was delayed again from August 1 due to legal issues. Butler's developer, Austin Stowell, relayed to Mr. Andre that the delay in closing should not be more than 2 weeks from August 1. Mr. Andre also updated the membership on the Wes Peoples' FLUM plan amendment filing, and noted that a meeting would take place between the developers of the East 16th St. site and the neighborhood's representatives on the Development Committee.

- **Item #2** OCEAN update – Louisa Brinsmade/Jeff Harris

Jeff Harris and Louisa Brinsmade recount the presentations given at the July OCEAN meeting regarding the Saltillo Plaza development project and Reconnect Austin proposal. OCEAN President Stan Strickland requested responses from the Central East Austin neighborhood associations on the Reconnect Austin proposal in order to formulate a letter from OCEAN to TXDOT and COA regarding the NA's support or opposition to the proposal. Ms. Brinsmade offered to request a delay at OCEAN on the creation of the letter in order to give SHNA members more time to consider the proposal and respond to it.

- **Item #2** – By-Laws Discussion, led by members of the Bylaws Committee, discussion by members

In the absence of the Bylaws Committee Chair Kirsten Siegfried, Louisa Brinsmade and Hunt Andre headed up the bylaws discussion, introducing "Version B" of the proposed bylaws that includes new language in response to membership discussion from the July SHNA meeting. Version B extends voting rights to "Non-Resident Residential Property Owners," excluding those operating their property as an STR 2 or STR 3.

Discussion amongst the members ensued regarding the inclusion of commercial property owners as voting members as well. A straw vote was taken, 15-8 in favor of commercial property owners having a vote at SHNA meetings. This result will be taken into account by the Bylaws Committee and language will be included in a version of the proposed bylaws.

Further discussion ensued regarding absentee voting with several members describing such voting as a more inclusive, and more modern, method of neighborhood voting. Others described absentee voting as a labor-intensive method for our volunteer members, and one that leaves the neighborhood vulnerable to fraud and/or misrepresentations by interested parties. A straw poll was not taken on this issue.

Result: No vote was scheduled, and no vote was taken, on Version A or Version B.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.