

**Zilker Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
Zilker Elementary School
May 18, 2015**

The quarterly meeting of the Zilker Neighborhood Association (“ZNA”) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on the date set forth above.

David King opened the meeting and introduced Amber Elenz, AISD Trustee for District 5. She provided an overview of the AISD budget and indicated that about 40% of school taxes collected in Travis County are sent to the state to be redistributed to other school districts in the state. Edna Butts, AISD Director for Intergovernmental Affairs gave an update on the status of bills in the state legislature that could affect AISD. Members asked questions and discussed.

Next, Ann Kitchen, Councilmember for City Council District 5 gave a presentation on initiatives and issues affecting the neighborhood. She discussed the new Parkland Events Taskforce, potential City property tax exemption, potential challenge of commercial property appraisals, City budget priorities, transportation impact fees, South Lamar Corridor Study, repairs to the Barton Creek Bridge on Barton Springs Road, strategies to fund more sidewalks in the neighborhood, and parking and traffic issues on Treadwell Street adjacent to Lamar Union. The members asked questions and discussed.

Marya Crigler, Chief Appraiser for Travis County Appraisal District gave a presentation on property tax appraisals, appeals, and exemptions. She indicated that Texas’ non-disclosure laws make it more difficult for appraisal districts to appraise properties at market value. Bruce Elfant, Tax Assessor Collector for Travis County, then provided information on exemptions and strategies to avoid or reduce penalties and interest on past due property taxes. The members asked questions and discussed.

David presented the Austin Neighborhoods Council resolution on clean renewable energy. Jeff Jack’s motion to approve the resolution was seconded by Lorraine Atherton. David asked for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, a vote was taken on the motion. The motion was approved on with a vote of 24 for, 5 opposed, and 3 abstained.

David asked members to discuss strategies to increase participation and engagement with members and residents of the neighborhood. Ideas such as online voting, online surveys, live-streaming meetings, and attending meetings were discussed. A suggestion was made that Zilker should monitor how other neighborhoods like Barton Hills handle online voting.

Next, Gardner Sumner gave a report on oak wilt in the neighborhood. He provided information about protecting against oak wilt by not pruning and cutting oak trees from February 1 through June 30 and painting the wounds to inhibit infections from insects. He indicated that oak wilt can spread through insects and tree roots.

Gail Rothe discussed the work that the Friends of Robert E. Lee Tributary has done to remove invasive species and plant native species in the Tributary. She invited volunteers to join the efforts to beautify the Tributary.

Lorraine then discussed the Friends of Little Zilker Park and asked for volunteers to help plan and improve the Little Zilker Park next to the Zilker Elementary School.

David briefly discussed the Transportation and Mobility Committee and asked for volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

APPROVED:

President