

THCA Community Meeting

Location: EcoCentro

Date | Time: February 16th, 2023 | 6:30 pm

Opening Comments:

- Board introductions
- Alfonso, Laura, Paula, Rick

Guest Speakers

- State Rep. Diego Bernal's Office - Bethany Gutierrez, Analyssa Garcia –
 - Email to Community Presidents, Bills will be shared further.
 - Snap final emergency allotments this month.
 - Phone: 726 888 2652
 - Housing Resources Links to be shared – connect after the meeting.
- City of San Antonio Engagement Manager – Esteban Garza
 - COSA engagement manager
 - Originally from Austin (south Texas)
 - Goal to dive into the construction work, meet with folks tonight and further.
 - Connect with community “I don’t work for COSA, I work for you.”
 - Want to be able to take information here and take it back to the city.
 - Familiar with the communication styles that occur.
 - Attending monthly meetings, or a rep from office will attend, add transparency and connection.
 - Available for questions after the meeting.
 - Phone: 512 826 0741
 - Engagement Manager – Build a conversation between the city and residents, bring the concerns directly to Comms folks and engagement folks.
 - Public Works
 - Parks and Rec
 - Build a communication plan and developments to residents.
 - Empower more neighborhoods to have a voice, space to engage.
 - If we want to spark conversation, should we go through engagement manager? Or direct to COSA?

- Esteban will attend meetings with the COSA if they are held.
 - Can engage through Esteban if communication is failing.
 - Develop foundational conversations.
 - Resident – Expresses concerns about an interaction from a drunkard, where the rifle was brought to their home and shot through the house, what can we do about that? What action can be taken?
 - Esteban wants to connect this testimonial to the City and help confirm how the conversation moves forward to become further discussion and ultimately policy.
 - Wants to share experiences from the neighborhoods directly to the members who can make a difference.
- Safe Officer Update – Year to Date
- District 1 Councilman Bravo & Adrian De Anda
 - NSM Police Substation – Broke ground, 28 new police officers working out of that office.
 - NSM Construction – Office is pushing, Parker Dixon and he went out to visit the business leaving flyers for the small business grants.
 - New Criteria not working with business has been indicated. However, 10 business on N. St Mary's have applied and qualified, but it can be modified to make sure that the businesses are not falling through the cracks.
 - Advocating for a % threshold for the smaller businesses / trucks because 10k could be low for them.
 - 2.25 million originally, added a 1.5 million.
 - ARPA Grants – see above.
 - Fire at 715 Baltimore
 - Abandoned building.
 - Similar buildings in the area (3 and 4 plexes)
 - Spoke with neighbors and received story that it was a crackhouse and squatters were fighting over rent and started a fire.
 - 20 people have come and gone.
 - Reviewing that area for vacancies and similarly owned buildings.
 - Pushing for the owners to maintain their properties, but property taxes are being paid for.
 - Illegal Dumping at 215 E. Dewey between McCollough and SAC
 - Reported and previously addressed.
 - Back on the site
 - District 1 is on it, Solid Waste Management is trying to push back, but they are trying to get them on it.

- District 1, Bravo is Meeting with City Manager and Assistant City Manager to address the gunshots.
 - Walking the site, will review the illegal dumping at the same time.
- Homeless Concern
 - Displacement from the highways has looked like they are coming into the neighborhood.
 - Homelessness 101 workshop talking about chronic homelessness.
 - Short term strategy – South Alamo regional alliance – provide a 101 workshop, connection to those resources.
 - Long term strategy – Homes for the homeless and wrap around services (case manager onsite, access to medications, drug and mental health counseling)
 - Actually, can save tax payer dollars in the long run
 - Always using up 911 resources (high need from emergency services).
 - 45 million to build permanent supportive housing, 25 from Affordable housing bond, 20 from the COVID acts
 - RFP for permanent housing was put out in November, brought to Planning and development in March, and then select bid in April.
 - There are not online resources, but there is a great brief with the PowerPoint and good Q&A afterwards.
 - Can be scheduled to come to the neighborhood, will get one scheduled with the district 1 office
 - Billy Mahone – 210 413 5513 – billymahone@sarahhomeless.org
 - Bring an homelessness outreach professional.
 - Department of human services,
- Vacant Properties –
 - Contact Crystal Grafft
 - 210 207 7921
 - Crystal.grafft@sanantonio.gov
 - Vacant Properties are supposed to be registered with COSA so that the house is monitored, secure, and maintained.
 - Great POC to get the ball rolling if necessary.
 - Access for that can be on the OHP website.

Historic Committee

- 312 W. Courtland (Hughes House) – demolition request was put out last year but has been saved.
 - This is in zoning to become a historic landmark, 3 steps and 2 of them have been made,
 - Approved by zoning commission to be a historic landmark.
 - District 1 can make the motion to discuss and vote.
- HDRC Hearing – overwhelmed by the number of cases that are trying to be handled after the fact.
 - People are doing work without going to OHP first
 - Often choosing the wrong materials
 - Tearing down chimney's
 - Not respecting the historic buildings in the historic districts, they are working on.
 - Need to go to the OHP to get materials, and resources to help the building.
 - Need to have a Certificate of Appropriateness – if not get in touch with OHP so they can look.
- OHP review is largely administrative but does require documentation and confirmation.
 - Email in, certificate back
- Historic Homeowners Fair
 - Membership success
 - Good engagement

Zoning and Development Committee

- 312 W. Courtland (Hughes House)
- Also receiving cases at the Creamery for bar and restaurant
 - Operating hours set to close at Midnight for the bars and restaurant alcohol service (following lead of Hawthorn Academy)
- District 1 for the cases passed have had neighborhood support as they are passed through Tobin Hill for zoning.
 - Discussions are happening first for the neighborhood to be included, must come to community associations.

Financials & Membership – Rick Schell & Paula Starnes

- 3 additional memberships since last meeting
- More on the website further report forthcoming

Community Events Committee

- Community:
 - Every Friday at 4pm – NSM Construction Update at St. Sophia's

- 02/18/2023 - 9am to 12pm – District 1 Basura Bash
- 02/21/2023 – District 1 Public Safety and Quality Town Hall at the Public Theater of SA at 6:30 pm
- 3/16/2023 – 6:30pm – THCA Meeting at EcoCentro
- Socials:
 - 2nd Friday Socials are Back!
 - 2/16/2023 – Tycoon Flats
 - 3/10/2023 – Robalin House 428 E. Myrtle 6pm
 - 4/14/2023 – Singhs 6pm

Comments, Questions, Concerns

- None raised at this time.

Contact Information

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