

Park Springs Neighborhood Association  
Report on our May Meeting  
May 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved as read.

The treasurers report was given. There were no questions.

Carol Shinn spoke on behalf of the nominating committee and a motion was made to approve the nominations of Rebecca Carpenter as treasurer and Allen Davisson as secretary and to reelect John Williams and Germaine Swenson to their current positions of President and Vice President respectively. The motion was approved by members without opposition. There was no nomination for a webmaster to replace outgoing Jeff Bradham.

JOE GIESELMAN, Travis County Executive Manager of Transportation and Natural Resources joined us and detailed the following information about the status of County plans for traffic improvements in our neighborhood.

-Displayed were area maps showing all the proposed, CAMPO approved, but unpaid for, future necessary road changes and additions. A few among these, these, FM 973 would extend up the east side of Manor to connect with 973 N at hwy 290. Parmer Lane would continue south to reconnect with 130S. Blake manor Rd would be 4 lanes and Braker Lane would intersect FM 973 south of Blake Manor Rd to serve new development there.

- Currently applied for and CAMPO plotted new developments in our area could bring up to 10,000 new homes. It will take 5 to 15 years for those to actually be built. The area will be, quoting Joe Geiselman "unrecognizable". Existing roads are insufficient for the projected demand.

-Powers and limits of power of the county office: The counties operate as extension of the state and currently have very limited power to create funding for or demand developers to assist in financing road access to their developments. Currently developers are only required to pay for and meet code requirements for road construction within and directly in front or adjacent to their developments.

-Current and future financial limitations and options: Revenues for currently proposed new road projects are being cut drastically due to decreased economic growth and are expected to worsen into 2011. Pending state legislation HB 2693 now in committee, authored by Representative Rodriguez, would give the county authority to hold developers responsible to share the cost of road improvements necessary for access to their developments. Also, state legislation granting the option for voters to approve additional county taxes, possibly in the form of a \$.10/gallon gas tax, are also in the works but further details of this legislation were not discussed.

-The City of Austin could require developers, to include in their plans, road construction or necessary improvements to accommodate the traffic.

-In summary, both extensive home developments and extensive road developments are assured and unavoidable. Both are already on paper and approved by CAMPO but traffic impact analysis must be completed before developments can be approved. Both construction and roadways will be drastically delayed by faltering economic conditions.

Manor City Manager, Phil Tate discussed Manor's growth, subdivisions, streets and plans for Manor's future. Members expressed concerns of the attractiveness of the downtown area. He responded with similar frustrations as those being experienced at the county level regarding current economic and legal limitations. He discussed Manor's two million dollar investment in Capitol Metro's Green Line, and also highlighted the city's explosive growth. He announced, "We have annexed the area along 290 all the way to Eltex." He also answered questions water availability to the expanding needs of the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 with no further business to discuss.