

Heritage Neighborhood Association General Meeting
Senior Activity Center, Austin TX
March 3, 2014

In attendance: Dana Anthony, Arthur Flatau, Gretchen Flatau, Steve Holzheuser, Debbie Holzheuser, Roger Steward, Maria Steward, Erin King, Sofia Martinez, Edna Ledesma, Lindsey Crow, John Boardman, Brent Heatherington, Kathie Tovo, William Weber, Paul Pedersen, Nick Doyle, Annie Doyle, Susan Rodenko, Jolene Kiolbassa, Ming Chu, Jay Farrell, Anne Heinen, Wade Odell, Betsy Greenberg

Anne Heinen called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Introductions were made. Anne Heinen took minutes.

Neighbors present re-upped their membership dues.

John Boardman updated HNA re: stealth dorms. He pointed out it's multifamily in a single-family zoning. City Council passed on first reading an ordinance to reduce occupancy from 6 to 4 to help reduce the incentive for developers to build large rental houses. The proposed ordinance has a two-year expiration because they're hoping the city's land code rewrite will encompass this. The Austin Board of Realtors is opposing occupancy reduction. A team is working on education and fact gathering for Council. Another tool suggested: Another idea is to create a local historic district, but that does entail home owners giving up some property rights.

Betsy made a motion for HNA to be an interested party on any permit put it on a property in our neighborhood. The motion was passed by consensus with one abstention, from Jay Farrell, who noted that stealth dorms are a serious issue in Heritage, but it would be nice if there was another mechanism we could arrive at with the city to contest them.

Parking: Heritage has lots of pressure from businesses, stealth dorms, etc. Can we address that? Yes, via residential parking permit program, if someone wants to pursue it. Nick and Annie Doyle volunteered to head up researching a RPP for the neighborhood.

Noise issues: Jay Farrell shared history of noise in hood and especially from Spider House. Enforcement is very difficult no matter what agreement we have. Spider House owner agreed to hold decibel limit of 70 db at all times and to end music at that sound level by 10:30 PM. Two violations or more the permit will not be renewed. John shared an idea to have one person collate all code enforcement calls about noise, property issues, etc. in neighborhood. People thought it's a good idea.

Kathie Tovo reported that the problem property tracking ordinance uses verified citations.

Edna Ledesma reported about work underway to create a vision for future development in Heritage that would also serve as an update to our 10-year-old neighborhood plan that's currently part of city development code. The plan looks at key development sites in Heritage and will enable Heritage NA to make a proposal to the city. The effort would possibly include a NCCD (Neighborhood Conservation Combining District), a tool used by nearby neighborhoods.

Officer and Steering Committee elections. The HNA members present unanimously voted in the following slate of officers: John Boardman, president; Betsy Greenberg, treasurer; Anne Heinen, secretary; Steering committee members: Susan Rodenko, Jolene Kiolbassa, Dana Anthony, Roger Steward, Gretchen Flatau, Nick Doyle, Annie Doyle, Brent Heatherington. The Doyles volunteered to head up a committee to investigate residential parking permits and restrictions for Heritage.

In other business, Steve Holzheuser mentioned the abandoned lot at 3112 Grandview and plans to call code enforcement about it. He also reported that refuse trucks emptying dumpsters from nearby businesses at wee hours of the morning are a big nuisance for residents at 3200 Grandview, and discussion about how to successfully address this issue included contacting the business owners, contacting the city and contacting the refuse truck companies before seeing if we need to escalate the issue somehow using the leverage of the neighborhood association.

The revisions to bylaws were approved by consensus and will be posted to the neighborhood website.

The meeting was adjourned around 8:45 PM.