



Neighborhood Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Enhancement – Virtual Zoom
630 E Hopkins, Bldg. 5, San Marcos, Texas 78666

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Interim Chair, **Roland Saucedo**, at 6:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call

In attendance: William DeSoto, Joe Cantu, Estella Enriquez, Roland Saucedo, Kendra Wesson, Angie Ramirez, Jennifer Katz and Lupe Costilla. Absentees included: Cathy Dillon.

III. Citizen Comment Period

Lisa Marie Coppoletta, from 1322 Belvin, spoke on issues of concern. Coppoletta doesn't understand why City Council is not meeting in person. Coppoletta spoke about no video archives of this meeting. Says it can be uploaded within 30 minutes of ending of meeting and doesn't understand why they are not uploaded. Coppoletta has concerns over the speed bump installed by the Streets Dept. as a personal favor to 1333 Belvin. She states that 99.99% drive in the middle of the street, speeding. She states the speed bump has created damage to cars.

IV. Consider Acceptance of December 16, 2020 Meeting

MOTION made by Wesson to approve. Seconded by Costilla. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

V. Guest Speaker: Community Enhancement Initiatives Manager, Amy Thomaides

Thomaides spoke on updates for Keep San Marcos Beautiful. She informed the Board that the Mural committee is looking for a spot on the east side of San Marcos to install a mural. Please let her know if there is a wall with high visibility. Thomaides informed the Board of important event dates to include; February 6 - Hot Spot Clean up where they walk the neighborhood picking up litter in the right of way to keep it from going into the river. This day will be in the Victory Gardens neighborhood from 9 – 11 a.m. February 6 - Keep San Marcos Beautiful and the Urban Forester will be giving away 100 native and fruit trees. This will be first come first serve at the Victory Gardens Park on Roosevelt St. March 6th - Great Texas River clean up – Covid Style. Another event that is occurring will take place at Willow Springs Park at Victory Gardens neighborhood. This includes Melanie Howard, the Habitat Conservation Plan Manager and Thomaides doing a native prairie grow zone pilot area. They are encouraging the native habitat to be restored. April 9th – LCRA does an annual 'LCRA steps forward day' where they volunteer in a community that uses their services. Thomaides stated LCRA has chosen San Marcos as one of their project sites. They have chosen to restore the old train depot which would include; repaint, roof work, landscaping/plantings around the depot, and other restorations that will make it more appealing. Also, in the Victory Gardens neighborhood, Howard and Thomaides are working with the Senior Center installing a rain water harvesting system, pollinator garden and a community garden. Saucedo commented that he is excited about the project at the Senior Center. He is seeking out to get a full 100% donation or as much as he can. Costilla asked when LCRA will be starting their project on the old train depot. Thomaides stated they are working on the design right now but LCRA has planned on starting April 9th, 2021.

VI. Items or Action/Discussion

Saucedo opened item up for Discussion. Items for discussion include what Sector to choose for the March 10th Neighborhood Conversation meeting. MOTION made by all to the following dates: Sector 1 for March 10th and Sector 6th on October 13. All in favor, none opposed.

Cantu asked where the proposed location will be for all Neighborhood Conversation Meetings, what kind of awareness campaign will be conducted and will meetings be virtual? Harris, Vitality Coordinator, responded that meetings will be determined by locations of Sector but the Activity Center might be the best place to have them due to the amount of people they will allow. Harris stated that meetings might be hybrid, meaning they will be virtual, but being recorded as well for Facebook live. There will also be limited number of seats where people can join in person if they do not have internet/TV access.

VII. Vitality Coordinator Report

Harris spoke on a few topics that include renewing contract with Austin Tenant’s Council. Their service is available for people who are facing eviction. Also, great for mediation between landlords and tenants. Harris reminded the Board of College Students going back to school on January 19, 2021. They are required to get a Negative Covid Test prior to moving into residence halls. Harris also stated that TXST will have their normal spring break schedule of March 15-19.

VIII. Directors Report

Carr, Director of Neighborhood Enhancement, informed the Board on Rental Property Registration. He stated this ordinance is not new and has been around since 2018. It was voluntary but on January 1, 2021 it became mandatory. If you own a rental property, you now you must register with the City.

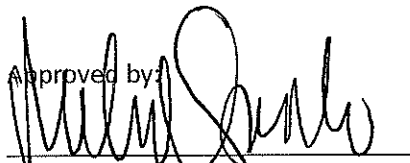
IX. Future Agenda Items

The Board suggested inviting Chief Standridge to attend and speak at the next Board meeting. They would like to hear about his plans on neighborhoods and plans with the homeless community.

X. Adjournment

MOTION was made by Saucedo and seconded by Enriquez to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

The minutes for the January 20, 2021 meeting of the City of San Marcos, Texas Neighborhood Commission are respectfully submitted on March 17, 2021 by Yvonne Palacios, Staff Liaison, Neighborhood Enhancement.

Approved by: 
Interim Chair