



City of San Marcos Regular Meeting Minutes
Neighborhood Commission
May 15, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.
Code Compliance Conference Room
630 E Hopkins (Neighborhood Enhancement Building)
San Marcos, Texas 78666

I. Call to Order

*Meeting was called to order by Chair **Lizbeth Dobbins** at 6:15 p.m.*

II. Roll Call

In attendance: Joe Cantu, Lizbeth Dobbins, Estella Enriquez, Jennifer Katz, Michelle McWatters, Roland Saucedo, Shane Scott, Angie Ramirez and Cathy Dillon, Lupe Costilla and Kendra Wesson. None were absent.

III. 30 Minute Citizen Comment Period: *Each speaker signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will be called in order of sign-up, and will be allowed three minutes to speak about items posted or not on the agenda*

Sara Lee Underwood Myers – 1415 Harper – Sector 6 – saying hello. Thank you for your service. Participated in Community Clean up on Saturday. Met with Lupe Costilla this morning and helping to make big changes in neighborhood. Will be doing a petition to reduce speed limit. Still having problems with speeders. CONA meeting is coming up. Invited Shanna O'Brien and code staff to come. Enjoying new developments in code.

IV. MINUTES

Consider approval, by motion, of the **April 17, 2019** and **May 8, 2019** meeting minutes.

- *Motion made by **Roland Saucedo** to approve minutes as written of April 17, 2019 minutes. Seconded by **Jennifer Katz**. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried. Motion made by **Roland Saucedo** to approve minutes as written of May 8, 2019 minutes. Seconded by **Kendra Wesson**. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

V. PRESENTATIONS

(None)

VI. ITEMS FOR ACTION/DISCUSSION

- a) *Discuss the scheduling and possible re-naming of 2019 Neighborhood Workshops. Staff has received feedback from staff and public that the term "workshop" is confusing and not engaging. Discussion was made about a new name for these events. **MOTION** made by **Jennifer Katz** and seconded by **Estella Enriquez** to change the name from Neighborhood Workshop to Neighborhood Conversations. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried. Further discussion was made regarding the advertising of future Neighborhood Commission events. **Roland Saucedo**, **Lupe Costilla**, and **Michelle McWatters** noted that their sectors are not always computer savvy and versed in Facebook, so advertising methods for their areas will need to look different. The need for a translator in some neighborhoods was noted. An overview of past workshops and their locations was provided. **Roland Saucedo** noted that in these types of events, commissioners attend to support the chair and the sector representative and serve as helpers, not speakers. Discussion was made regarding the*

scheduling of 2019 Neighborhood Workshops. Previously the commission identified specific sectors for 2019 schedule as: Downtown (Sector 8) – first quarter; Blanco Gardens (Sector 6) – second quarter; Rio Vista/Victory Gardens (Sector 4) – third quarter. Discussion was made regarding hosting Sector 4 event at Centro and possibly including E. Guadalupe. **Roland Saucedo** noted that these events have always been done by sector and moving forward feels it should be done by sector. **MOTION** made by **Roland Saucedo** and seconded by **Estella Enriquez** to “discuss and possibly revisit Sector 5 for the 4th quarter.” Due to the passion and intensity of the Wallace Addition meeting the prior Thursday, **Roland Saucedo** believes they need some attention regarding drainage, small area plan, etc. It was noted that Sector 2 has a new commissioner, **Joe Cantu** and they have not been visited since 2012. **Roland Saucedo** and **Estella Enriquez** requested to **WITHDRAW MOTION AND SECOND**, respectively. **MOTION** was made by **Joe Cantu** and seconded by **Roland Saucedo** to host Neighborhood Conversations in Sector 2 during fourth quarter. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

- b) Discuss and consider action regarding a possible resolution to City Council related to speed display signs in school zones.

Discussion was made by **Shane Scott** regarding the need for increased safety in school zones. There are not currently speed display signs in Blanco Vista or Crockett. Clarification was made that the signs being discussed are those that flash speed of passing cars. **MOTION** made by **Shane Scott** and seconded by **Michelle McWatters** to “incorporate speed display signs into all school zones.” Discussion was made regarding the specific wording of a resolution and a **MOTION TO AMEND** was made by **Jennifer Katz** and seconded by **Kendra Wesson** to word resolution as, “to send a resolution to City Council recommending direction to City Manager and appropriate staff departments to install speed display signs in school zones in San Marcos.” All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

- c) Discuss and consider action regarding a possible resolution to Council regarding a walk bridge at Sessom and Comanche.

Discussion was made regarding Alamo and Academy where there are not a lot of safe places to get to campus, and a blind corner on Academy. **Lizbeth Dobbins** feels there is no possible way of slowing down traffic on that street and that it is a very dangerous place. There has been a lot of research and many commissioners have driven it. **Shane Scott** noted this is not new to the Council. All commissioners can do is to give Council plenty of examples from the City of Austin and notes that the City will work with the University in funding. Commissioners discussed giving other options to a walk bridge, but felt options would make things cloudy and that a walk bridge over or under is the safest bet. **MOTION** made by **Michelle McWatters** and seconded by **Shane Scott** to send a resolution to City Council recommending direction to City Manager and appropriate staff departments to install a walk bridge at Sessom and Comanche. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

- d) Discuss and consider action regarding a possible resolution to Council regarding changes to Neighborhood Commission bylaws based on strategic planning exercise.

Staff provided summary handout from strategic planning exercise that commissioners participated in during April 2019 meeting. Asterisks indicate priority as set by commission during exercise. **MOTION** made by **Lizbeth Dobbins** and seconded by **Jennifer Katz** to send resolution to City Council recommending ordinance incorporation of the changes recommended by two City Councilmembers and other aspects of the strategic planning exercise. **Roland Saucedo** notes his opinion that the resolution should indicate “all aspects” terms in the resolution. Suggestion from staff is to review current charge and see what additions/revisions the commissioners feel

are needed. **Lizbeth Dobbins** notes that the specific areas to be reviewed are within the Purpose and Duties section and language needs to be molded to create a draft resolution. Offer was made by **Lizbeth Dobbins** and **Roland Saucedo** to get together to craft a resolution that will be brought back to commission. **Lizbeth Dobbins** and **Jennifer Katz** requested to **WITHDRAW MOTION AND SECOND**, respectively. **MOTION** made by **Lizbeth Dobbins** and seconded by **Roland Saucedo** to “draft resolution language for consideration by the Neighborhood Commission at the June meeting.” All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

- e) Discuss and consider action regarding a possible resolution to Council regarding protection of Heritage trees when making changes to neighborhood areas.

Lizbeth Dobbins shared her research of Development Code in Chapter 6, Article 4 that addresses tree requirements for developers, but does not specifically address already established properties. She has brought this forward to the agenda to address City changes and developments with the intent to emphasize that the City take extra care when making improvements in existing neighborhoods with regards to heritage trees. A draft proposal that Ms. Dobbins crafted was distributed to commissioners. **Shane Scott** notes his opinion that the City should follow the same rules as they apply to developers. Discussion was made about the involvement of the City arborist in improvement projects. **Cathy Dillon** asked if commissioners were aware of any potential tree desecration in the City beyond Belvin Street and notes that sidewalks are going in all over town so this is a City issue, not just a particular street issue. **Roland Saucedo** stated his belief that the commission needs to use extreme caution and rephrase the draft provided by **Lizbeth Dobbins**. **Shane Scott** offered to work with **Lizbeth Dobbins** on the draft. **MOTION** made by **Shane Scott** and seconded by **Kendra Wesson** to “create draft for resolution to City staff to include the direction to follow the same rules of the Land Development Code applied to developers” and bring back for commissioners to review at June meeting. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

VII. REPORTS

- a) Commissioner Report: Post Office update from Lizbeth Dobbins (Sector 9)
The post office at Stagecoach Trail and Hunter added a retail facility some time ago and now they are cramped for space. They have been looking for a new, already developed, site with a minimum number of parking spaces and have found a place on Bugg Lane next to the Social Security office. The lease has been signed and they are planning to move. An update will be provided once the timeline becomes available. The existing location will be left for collection boxes and carrier space.
- b) Commissioner Report: Citizen concerns regarding narrow streets/parking from Joe Cantu (Sector 2)
Commissioner Cantu received an anonymous call from a neighbor who was concerned about street parking in Southwest Hills and the viability of getting emergency services to his house should the need arise. There are a lot of college students who live in apartments and use the green belt to do cookouts, shoot guns, drink beer, etc. If there is a fire, he is concerned that first responders will not be able to get through.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (motions to place a discussion item on an agenda for a regular commission meeting)

- a) Discuss and consider discussion items for future agendas.

- **Shane Scott** requests the agenda item of discussing a time limit to speak about an item be placed on a future agenda in order to stay focused, possibly two minutes. **Michelle McWatters** seconds the request. **Roland Saucedo** requests staff to check with Jamie Lee Case, City Clerk, about the proposal.
- **Cathy Dillon** asks about the commissioner report given by **Joe Cantu**. What will be done with it? Will it be brought back? What is the process? Commissioners feel that nothing can be done by this group. **Jeff Caldwell**, Director of Neighborhood Enhancement, indicated that the information can be shared with other staff and connections made for Mr. Cantu and this citizen to share concerns.
- **Roland Saucedo** requests the agenda item of receiving a report on the Land Development Code and discussing for possible action. **Jennifer Katz** seconds the request.

IX. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public

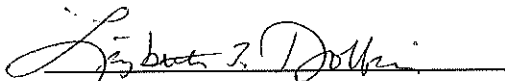
- None

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by **Shane Scott** and seconded by **Joe Cantu** to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. All approved, none opposed, motion carried.

The minutes for the May 15, 2019 meeting of the City of San Marcos, Texas Neighborhood Commission are respectfully submitted on 6/19/2019 by Tammy Strakos, Staff Liaison, Neighborhood Enhancement

Approved by:


Chair or Vice Chair