



AUGUST COMMUNITY MEETING

August 5, 2013
8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.
7:00-8:30 PM

In Attendance

Jimmy Flannigan	Jim Buchanan	Suzanne Buchanan
Susan Reed	Ed English	Joyce Statz
Robert Thomas	Paul Rhea	Chuck Pace
Jason Meeker	Kathy Carvell	

We started the meeting with introductions and a brief review of how NWAC was formed.

Ed English then reviewed the status of the ICRC (Independent Citizens Redistricting Committee), including their attempts to hire staff, starting with an Executive Director. The first slate of public meetings has been announced:

Press Release: <http://austintexas.gov/news/commission-seeks-input-single-member-council-districts>

ICRC site: http://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/116_1.htm (note the meeting dates file. This is what Ed provided at the meeting)

There are some conflicts between the two event listings, so stay tuned.

Jimmy Flannigan then demoed a free web-based district mapping tool that can be found here:

<http://gardow.com/davebradlee/redistricting/launchapp.html>

Jimmy will be demoing the usage of this tool at the Redistricting Subcommittee meeting on August 12th.

Discussion was then had on our core issues of Transportation, Wildfires/Water, Affordability, and Public Safety. Jimmy Flannigan will be taking the lead on representing NWAC at Transportation meetings around the city. There was specific interest that Northwest issues be represented at central transit group meetings. Also possible follow-up on the proposed(?) MoPac "wall"

Joyce Statz gave an update on the Wildfires training happening in NWACA, with a coming public event in October in which we may want our respective groups to participate.

Susan Reed gave an update from the Public Safety Commission meeting earlier this evening, with the commission recommending 92 new APD positions instead of 47 and adding an LGBT Community Liason. There was also discussion at the commission related to costs of special events/the impact on APD. A recommendation was sent to council for the city to fund programs for at-risk youth to keep them out of the criminal justice system.

We ran out of time to discuss the city's proposed budget. See the city's budget presentation here:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/745800-city-of-austin-2013-14-proposed-budget.html>

While we didn't get to discuss it, Jimmy Flannigan provided his notes related to the budget: 1) The .85 cent increase in property taxes raises just \$7.4mil (pg17). The "overall" budget increase is \$200mill. The overall increase includes the increased property values, sales tax collections, and "fees" raised (see pg 14) but couldn't find a clear calculation of how much of that 200mil is raised through fee increases

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- 2) The cost of adding 47 officers is 2.6mil in 2014 but 4mil annually (pg27). There is no estimate of what adding 92 would cost
- 3) Property Taxes account for 42% of general fund, 22.5% from sales taxes. Been searching for analysis on what geographic parts of the city raise the most of each but haven't found a good resource
- 4) 10% of the property tax increase (700k) is going to fund just 3 parks/trails to be open 24hrs (pg 28). I found this troubling.
- 5) Overall 1.5% raises for police, fire/ems (estimated), and civilian staff. Have found different numbers of what this will cost (pgs 11, 12, 68) but it's in the tens of millions combined. This is not including the 3% currently being requested by civilian staff.
- 6) All that being said, there were a variety of areas that needed investment and are getting it (new employees for wildfire protection, code and planning/development, etc.)

Finally, we closed with a discussion about holding an HD50 candidate forum. It was suggested by Jason Meeker (and agreed to by those in attendance) that we should solicit questions/concerns for the candidates through Facebook/Twitter then regroup in September to review the submitted questions and plan a late September/October forum event.