



MARCH COMMUNITY MEETING

March 24, 2014
8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.
6:30-8:30 PM

The meeting began with brief introductions a run through of NWAC core advocacy areas of transportation, water/wildfires, affordability, and public safety.

Jimmy Flannigan led a discussion about the urban rail plan being discussed at the city. He missed the most recent Project Connect Central Corridor¹ Advisory Committee meeting but pulled up related documents to review route selection. Most of the previous route options have been narrowed down. The route goes down East Riverside from Grove, crosses the river into downtown at TXDOT to Trinity, through UT campus on San Jacinto, up Red River to Hancock Center, then up to the Highland Mall along the Red Line route. There are some minor discussions about the final destination at Highland. The next phase of alignment talks will cover specific routes, mode selection, and methods for crossing Lady Bird Lake.

Joyce Statz informed the group about an event coming on May 3rd called National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day². There will be two parts to the event, one for neighborhood leaders at the JJ Pickle campus and then an afternoon event for the public at Fire Station 31 at 2222.

The main topic of the night was the City of Austin's Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP)³, presented by Justin Golbabai, NPP Manager, City of Austin Public Works Department. The presentation⁴ covered a high-level explanation of NPP, which provides opportunities for community and neighborhood organizations to affect public improvements by sharing in the costs of those efforts with the City of Austin government. Grants up to \$500K are provided in a tiered system of cost sharing. The program runs semi-annually, with application deadlines in June and October. Matching funds can include volunteer hours and donated physical labor. Projects must be done on City land (including streets and medians controlled by the City). The NPP is a good way to implement projects that could not be accomplished with other City funds or that were a low priority in the regular process.

There was a brief presentation by the Leadership Austin – District 6 team, led by Bill Barton. They are doing a survey of civic engagement to establish what level of understanding and activity exists in the new council district. They encouraged NWAC attendees to share their survey link⁵ with their neighborhoods.

The next NWAC meeting will be April 28th, 6:30pm at the Spicewood Springs Library. Austin Police Department will be there to discuss issues facing NW Austin and to provide information and handouts for our community.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/549252565189890/>

In Attendance (as listed in sign-in sheets where legible)

¹ <http://www.projectconnect.com/connect/central-corridor>

² <http://www.WildfirePrepDay.org>

³ <http://austintexas.gov/neighborhoodpartnering>

⁴ <https://www.dropbox.com/s/eqkipm4y89duvfs/NPP%20Program%20Overview.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZX3TDPZ>

Our Mission: To support leaders in Northwest Austin and address the needs of our communities through collaboration, communication, and education.

www.nwaustin.org

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Jimmy Flannigan
Susan Reed
Luisa Gavino
Tina Cannon
Chuck Pace
Justin Golbabai
Mary Rudig
Mandy Dealey
Joyce Statz
Shailee Gupta
Cavan Ó Raghallaigh
Bill Barton