



SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING

September 9, 2013
9503 Research Blvd #400, Austin, TX
7:00-8:30 PM

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

Jimmy Flannigan, Robert Thomas, and Ed English then reviewed the status of the ICRC (Independent Citizens Redistricting Committee), and the process being used to draw districts. Maps for minority opportunity districts drawn by Austinites for Geographic Representation (AGR) were presented. Those maps can be found here: <http://trustaustin.org/agrs-4-proposed-4-minority-districts/>. The previous draft maps drawn by NWAC were presented as well as an alternative combination of how the two maps would be integrated.

An active discussion was held with the entire group on how these lines are drawn and how NWAC should continue advocacy. The core process for determining districts is 1) one person, one vote, 2) Voting Rights Act compliance, 3) compact and contiguous districts, 4) communities of interest. There had been some discussion outside of NWAC that Williamson County may be divided into separate council districts. It was reiterated that NWAC believes Williamson County should be contained within a single council district. There was no public dissent made from those in attendance.

Jimmy Flannigan confirmed that NWAC will make every effort to develop Asian American opportunity districts in Northwest, despite Asian American not being a required protected class under the Voting Rights Act in Texas.

NWAC will re-convene a redistricting subcommittee to identify a locally preferred alternative covering Northwest Austin and integrating with minority opportunity districts, using the AGR maps as a guide. Those at the meeting who expressed interest in serving on the subcommittee are Jimmy Flannigan, Robert Thomas, Ed English, Joyce Statz, Mary Rudig, and Gopac Guthikwpa. This committee will meet once NWAC leaders are able to identify a higher-quality mapping tool than used for the original draft maps.

Discussion was then had on our core issues of Transportation, Wildfires/Water, Affordability, and Public Safety. As lead on transportation issues, Jimmy Flannigan relayed information from his attendance at meetings related to central corridor, MoPac express lanes, Austin Chamber Transportation Committee, City of Austin bike infrastructure, and US Transportation Sec. Foxx press conference (TIGER grants for Capital Metro Red Line).

Joyce Statz gave an update on the future Wildfires training happening in NWACA, with a coming public event (date TBD) in which we may want our respective groups to participate. The coming state constitution amendment related to water infrastructure was briefly mentioned and supported by those in attendance.

The group then had a brief discussions on affordability (discussing the details of the November 2013 bond election) and public safety (city budget eliminated 24/7 trail patrols and will include 83 officers; less than the 92 requested by the city's public safety commission).

We ran out of time to discuss a planned HD50 candidate forum. Planning for this forum will continue outside of public meetings for October.

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

Jimmy Flannigan
Nora Ahadwani
Robert Thomas
Garry Brown
Paul Rhea
Johanna Kiraus-Darden
Nancy-Jane Grithr
Amy Juried
Robin Abbott
Phil Denney
Chuck Pace
Justin Jacobson
Susan Reed
Vik Vad
Shubhada Saxenth
Shahir Alvi
Sonia Kotehn
Joe Emmons
Sumit Dasgupta
Gopal Guthikwpa
Bobbi Kouwiueui
Joyce Statz
Ed English
Ashwin Ghatalia
Bhanu Ghatalia
Richard Jung
Joanie Arrott
Randall Slagle
Brigid Shea
George Thomas
Ed Kargzo