

Note from HOA meeting, Tuesday, September 5, 2017

We were fortunate to have many county and city representatives to update us on numerous items. Here are the compiled notes of the board members for the benefit of those residents who were not able to attend.

Guests:

Sergeant Don Rio, Travis County Sheriff
Josh Anderson, Captain Wildfire Division
Justice Jones city of Austin Wildfire Division
Palbo Ruiz, Asst Chief AFD
David Greear, Travis Co. Traffic Engineering
John White, Travis Co. Director, Environmental Quality & Natural Resources
Melinda Malia (?) natural resources dept.
David Bailey, chief of ESD 4
Travis County Precinct 2 Commissioner, Brigid Shea

TRAFFIC: Recent radar sign from county measured 11,000 vehicles entering WG Ave during the week of August 7-14th. More patrols will happen on WG Ave. in the future. The average speed of all 11,000 cars was 32 mph. ~4000 were under the speed limit, ~7000 over from 1-9 mph over. ~577 (4%) were >10 mph over. re: Sergeant Don Rios from Travis Co. Sheriff. The use of cameras to catch speeding cars within neighborhoods is not supported by the Travis County Sheriff's office. They will not mail out tickets based on photos. However, if there is a troublesome car we could notify them so if they are in our area they could be on the lookout for it. We will share the info from our radar signs so they may plan patrols better and they have agreed to engage more moving forward. All of Travis County shares twelve motorcycle police and eight highway cars. This number gets cut in half to cover shifts. Motorcycles ride in pairs (6 per work shift). This makes only four patrol cars and three sets of motorcycles available per shift per day.

Compound this with the fact that school zones get priority over neighborhoods. This is why we cannot hire officers to patrol. Sergeant Rio said, in his experience, that sidewalks do slow down traffic speed. He also confirmed that a neighborhood sign on Narrow Ridge may help to warn drivers that they were entering a neighborhood. David Greear said that Brian Burke is now the acting Traffic Manager. Report pot holes, and road issues to him at (512) 854-9433. Brigid Shea said that CAMPO is the most likely candidate to fund the 620/2222 bypass. However, they keep taking it off the agenda. Commissioner Shea does not know why but wants citizens to get involved as that would be the best solution. It would cut from 620 to 2222 behind Walgreens.

FIRE: We are ranked #4 in the nation for wildfire risk so this is a main focus of Commissioner Shea. Pablo Ruiz said that as of Oct. 29 ESD 4 will have a contract for service with the City of Austin and can help clear brush. Justice Jones said we should work together to come up with a plan to mitigate fire risk and make sure we know our best egress. David Bailey said they will bring a brush trailer for free if you cut and load up brush and cedars etc. they will come get the trailer after you load it and haul it away. You can reach them at ESD.org 512-836-7566. Justice Jones said he will consult with us using a risk assessment approach to help come up with a plan to reduce brush, if possible, for lot 21.

VHS ROAD: A secondary road to Vandegrift High School (preserve road) that uses existing electrical and utility right of ways has been proposed by Leander School District and others. John White reported that Travis County is resisting development of this road because the land is part of original environmental set asides (termed section Section 10a mitigation) agreed to during original high school development. The County believes that a rollback on this position would be precedent setting and inconsistent with the original goals of environmental mitigation. In lieu of the preserve road, the County could support the use of "the 3M road" as it is viewed to be safer for fire-wise risk management considering evacuation circumstances. They are still looking for options including extra lanes and turn lanes on 2222 to access the schools. This is still under study and discussion with LISD.

DEVELOPMENT: Brigid Shea reported that Texas Counties have no land use authority per state regulation. This means that they cannot enforce land use restrictions that otherwise might be applied by the

City of Austin. They have two methods to regulate continued development: 1) sufficient water to support fire fighting; and 2) two entry/exit points for transportation.

SIDEWALK: Our sidewalk project made the bond out of over a billion dollars in projects considered, our sidewalk was included and is considered a speed deterrent. Congratulations to all of the neighbors who came and spoke at various bond meetings to share their stories. The bond projects will be spread over 5 years and we don't know where the sidewalk will be in that prioritization. They came up with the cost based on previous experience. It will be 5 ft. wide for ADA compliance. It will be offset from the roadway and will not be located adjacent to the ribbon curb. It may meander some and cross some creeks with a bridge.

IDEAS:

- Add signage: we are a neighborhood with walkers and children, drive according.
- Add marker: Narrow Ridge neighborhood entrance.
- City/County: Study a solution for safe cycle/auto coexistence on City Park Rd., and to trim brush
- Create a boy scout project to develop hiking trails inside Lot 21. This project would be compatible with fire-wise, get the neighborhood involved. Robert Taylor, a person that owns land adjacent to Lot 21 is excited by this idea and will help us champion it with the City. Justice Jones agreed to meet with him and Jim Rumbo to discuss the risk assessment.