

## Minutes of General Membership Meeting

SRCC July 15, 2025

Mary Fealkoff called the meeting to order at 7 pm. She thanked everyone for attending, emphasizing the importance of volunteers. Since we have no current secretary, she asked for someone to take the minutes. Ruth agreed to do that. Mary also indicated it was important to stay on the agenda and follow time constraints so meetings would not run long. While a quorum was being assembled, she thanked Robin for arranging the agenda and asked that folks submit agenda items, including special presentations, time requirements, & proposed votes, to Robin no later than the Thursday before the Tuesday meetings in order to have efficient meetings & provide adequate notice to members.

Mary Friedman indicated a quorum was present—35 total which included 29 members.

Mary asked if there were questions about the June 17th meeting minutes; hearing none, they were approved. In Will's absence, Sam Martin presented the treasurer's report, indicating the only current financial activity was issuance of a \$365 check to the Austin Parks & Rec Dept for the application to rename the Little Stacy Park Shelter House as the Jean Mather Shelter House.

**RE: Membership:** Mary Friedman reported an increase to 262 members from the 254 that we had last year at this time. She proposed setting up a table during the Travis Heights Art Trail to further boost membership. Ruth and Russell offered suggestions on locations and logistics. Mary will chat with Charlotte Bell, who coordinates the arts event, to see if that's possible.

Mary Fealkoff then called on reports from the standing committees.

**Planning and Zoning:** Anita T updated on committee efforts, particularly regarding light rail concerns and a new 500 ft condo development at the former Joe's Crab Shack (now Cidercade site) and encouraged members to reach out for more information. She also raised concerns about rapid development and overbuilding, particularly highlighting issues with flooding and resource usage.

**Historic Preservation:** Clif L & Barbara C provided updates on the Historic Preservation Comm indicating their meetings are always a week before the Historic Landmark Commission's mtg so they may be prepared to oppose demolition of structures in the neighborhood, etc. as needed. Clif stated the Norwood House is still a priority. They indicated there are plans in the work to form 2 new local historic districts, one on Newning and another on Alameda Street. They are seeking volunteers to manage the installation of National Register Historic District signs in the neighborhood (for which they have funds). The committee also plans to host another preservation party in the fall.

**Finance:** Sam M noted the Finance Committee hasn't met since the last general membership meeting but will discuss planned items at their next meeting.

**Public Safety:** Thomas G shared that crime has decreased during hot, humid weather, but there are still illegal activities occurring late at night.

**Parks & Environment:** Jeff K discussed plans to meet with Parks & Watershed staff to address tree growth and erosion issues in Stacy Park. He also reported on behalf of Gayle Goff on the ongoing efforts working with Austin Parks Foundation to improve Heritage Oaks Park by reducing the camping problem, eliminating poison ivy and improving the park trails. Mary Friedman shared that she had posted information about a new nature play area at Heritage Oaks Park on the website and Facebook.

**Mobility:** Mark T reported there has been progress on the Academy sidewalk project and that changes have been made to RPP costs (\$60/vehicle) but 0 cost in hybrid zones. He also noted that Project Connect's final Environmental Impact Statement is still pending.

**Schools:** No report

**Communications:** Ruth C asked for comments on the paper quality of the summer newsletter—glossy paper vs the lighter weight? Members generally agreed the lighter paper was fine so long as content was good & color was maintained. Discussion followed about some areas not getting sufficient copies. It was decided that a survey would be done to arrive at accurate numbers for each area. Ruth will conduct that survey to ensure full coverage is achieved.

## **New Business:**

### **A. SaveOurSprings Presentation Re: proposed MoPac South Extension Project**

Bobby Levinsky from SOS Alliance gave an update on the proposed MoPac South expansion project, highlighting community opposition that had led to its halt in 2012-2013. He explained the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) now plans to build 4-8 new lanes along an 8-mile stretch from Slaughter to Cesar Chavez; SOS is concerned about the project's width and environmental impact. Bobby emphasized that while the project would only save commuters 5 minutes in rush hour, it would have significant negative impacts on water quality, endangered species, and air quality. He concluded by advocating for a full environmental impact statement (EIS) to be conducted, rather than the current draft environmental assessment, to allow for consideration of alternative solutions.

Discussion then focused on a motion by Wendy proposing the adoption of a resolution, similar to the ANC resolution opposing the extension and recommending a complete environmental impact statement be done before any extension got approved. Motion was seconded by Jeff

but the motion was later withdrawn. The group discussed the resolution's intent and how it would be used to gather support for opposing the Mopac extension. Bobby explained the resolutions from different organizations would be collected into a package to be sent to CTRMA and elected officials. The resolution also urged donations be made through Keep Mopac Local. Mary Friedman then moved that SRCC adopt the ANC-type resolution; motion was seconded by Anita. A vote poll was set up to consider SRCC's adoption of the ANC-type resolution opposing the Mopac extension. After determining that a quorum was still present, the vote was taken. The motion was approved; 20 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained.

## **B. South Central Waterfront Development Concerns**

The meeting then focused on concerns about a City Council resolution (Item #121) scheduled for July 24, 2025, regarding a resolution to direct the City Manager to prioritize design elements for new amended Planned Unit Developments in South Central Waterfront that support the proposed light rail. Since Council Member Qadri and Austin Transit Partnership have not responded to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comments submitted in March by SRCC that support the "No Build Alternative," Wendy made a motion that SRCC consider sending our position to council as follows:

The Executive Committee of the South River City Citizens (SRCC) Neighborhood Assn. requests a moratorium on any new or amended Planned Unit Developments within the South-Central Waterfront due to ongoing concerns about public safety and environmental impacts.

The motion was seconded by Mary, membership chair. The vote would be conducted per the bylaws via email.

## **C. Roots and Wings Festival Planning**

The meeting focused on planning the Roots and Wings Festival, scheduled for October 18th at Little Stacy Park, with Ken Burnett leading the discussion. The event will run from 10 AM to 1 PM, with setup at 8 AM and breakdown by 3 PM, featuring activities like art projects, e.g., butterfly wings for kids, possible food decorating plus having vendor tabling. Ken highlighted that the festival aligns with Arbor Day and will include educational components, with free resources like community nature kits, tree seedlings, and guides provided by the organizing body. It was suggested that Betty be asked to provide guidance regarding venue booking and permits for Roots and Wings Festival. Mary Fealkoff encouraged locking in the date and venue, while Wendy suggested involving the Austin Public Library for additional activities. Ken invited volunteers to join the planning committee, and attendees expressed enthusiasm for the event.

#### **D. EC Meeting Planning and Voting**

The group discussed their August break and September 16th general meeting, with Ruth suggesting an in-person or hybrid format. The need to schedule an EC meeting quickly due to an upcoming vote related to the South-Central Waterfront PUD was discussed, and Mary Friedman offered to send a survey to gather input from all EC members. The group agreed to use email voting as a temporary solution, with a 24-hour response time, while working to establish a more permanent process for EC votes.

Mary Fealkoff agreed to send AI meeting notes to Mary Friedman and Ruth for preparation of the minutes. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Casarez