

SRCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (www.srccatx.org)

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 7:00 PM

1. Welcome and Announcements-- President, Mary Fealkoff
2. Approved Minutes from previous meetings. Meeting minutes available at srccatx.org
3. Treasurer's Report—Will Andrews reported. Report available upon request: treasurer@srccatx.org
4. Membership Report—Mary Friedman reported membership total of 270
5. Reports from Standing Committee Chairs
 - a) Planning and Zoning—See Item 10 below;
 - b) Historic Preservation— Barbara Cilley reported that a demolition permit for a contributing structure on Drake was being reviewed by the Historic Landmark Commission's architecture committee;
 - c) Finance—no report;
 - d) Mobility-- Mary Friedman provided updates from Mark regarding the Austin Transit Partnership presentation, parking committee meetings, and upcoming I-35 construction affecting the Butler Trail;
 - e) Public Safety-- Tom Groce shared public safety updates, noting decreased crime in neighborhood areas and ongoing efforts to address issues with overnight campers in parks;
 - f) Parks and Environment—David Todd discussed environmental efforts, including invasive species removal at Blunn Creek Preserve and upcoming native plantings;
 - g) Schools-- Gretchen Otto reminded the group of the Austin Independent School District's ongoing process of consolidating schools, which will affect boundaries and vertical teams across the district, including potentially special plans for underperforming schools;
 - h) Communications – Betty Weed announced that the next meeting in October will be hybrid and reported that the Executive Committee decided against purchasing equipment for microphones due to complications in set-up and implementation required at each hybrid meeting. Ruth Casarez requested articles for the upcoming 8-page newsletter by the end of the week or early next week, aiming for publication in mid-October.
6. Reports from Area Coordinators and Group Representatives
 - a) TECHS CAT; b) ANC; c) SCC—no reports;
 - d) EROC—Gayle Goff shared updates on Heritage Oaks Park, including a celebration on September 27th for a new “nature play” installation and plans for an It's My Park Day event on November 1st.;
 - e) GSRC NPCT; f) SCWAB; g) St. Edward's –no reports

GUEST SPEAKERS

7. Barbara McArthur regarding legislative actions during the 2025 session. Barbara has a wealth of knowledge and will provide relevant highlights from the most recent Regular Legislative Session. (For a

deeper drive than our meeting time allows, check out Barbara's PowerPoint: 2025 Legislative Actions link in the agenda)

HB 24 (Orr) changes petition rights for zoning (changes valid protest from 20% required to 60%), eliminates protest rights for high-density residential developments while maintaining them for commercial developments, and sets a 60-day statute of limitations for filing lawsuits against zoning changes.

SB 840(Hughes) allows residential development on commercial properties without requiring zoning changes, though height restrictions remain in place. Barbara explained how these laws will impact specific areas of the community, noting that while some properties will see increased density (up to 54 units per acre), height limits will generally not increase, though limited office and neighborhood commercial zones may see height increases from 40 to 45 feet.

She noted that while 8-9 bills were passed, some negative proposals were defeated. She offered to create customized maps for the community showing specific neighborhood boundaries and agreed to provide blow-up versions of the presentation maps to help residents understand the changes.

8. George Morales, the Constable of Precinct 4, described his office's community policing efforts, including providing dedicated deputy coverage in Travis Heights and surrounding areas, handling civil and criminal processes, and managing homeless outreach and property issues. Constable George discussed his office's presence in the neighborhood and offered support for community events, including National Night Out and the Roots & Wings Festival.

<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/constables/4/command-staff-deputies>

NEW BUSINESS

9. Proposed Housing Navigation Center (City of Austin Press Release:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/news/city-austin-announces-potential-site-new-housing-navigation-center>) and (<https://www.speakupaustin.org/a63884>)

Gayle Goff discussed the many concerns about locating a proposed housing navigation hub at 2401 South IH35, which would replace the current Sunrise facility at Menchaca and Ben White. The following motion was presented, seconded and passed unanimously:

"For the following reasons, SRCC does not support the use of [2401 S IH35](#) as a Housing Navigation Hub location:

- It places undue additional pressure on an area that has struggled for years with issues of crime and encampments and threatens the achievement of a healthy community;
- There have been no provisions for overnight housing for the unhoused folks who come to the center for meal, shower and mail services (The closest shelters are continually filled to capacity.)
- There have been no provisions to ensure the safety of nearby residents and pedestrians along Oltorf and the frontage road, especially high school students walking back and forth to school;
- There have been no promises of zero tolerance policy for drug use and camping or a police staff to enforce it;
- It is 3/10 mile from Travis Early College High School and abuts single family homes;

—There has been insufficient notice to and engagement with the surrounding community: nearby businesses, schools, community organizations, neighborhood associations. As of 9/13 there has only been 1 community meeting and that was with the EROC Executive Committee, not the community. And we have been told it is going to Council for approval on 10/9!”

Discussion continued about an upcoming meeting with Councilmember Zoe Kadri on September 25th at Travis Heights Elementary School, where community members can voice their concerns and a zoom meeting with the Homeless Strategy Office on September 24. The group discussed sending an email to SRCC members and city officials about the issue.

10. Cidercade Development, 600 East Riverside--Developer application to City:

<https://abc.austintexas.gov/citizenportal/app/folder-detail>

Anita Tschurr outlined concerns about a proposed 510-foot development at 600 East Riverside, which would include 7 stories of parking and residential units. Anita and Mary Fealkoff reported meeting with the developers, who are from Trammell Crow in Dallas and are also developing the Austin Statesman property. Key concerns included the building’s small footprint on flood-prone land, lack of river setback, and potential ecological impact. The group explored potential mitigation measures, including reducing the building’s height, requiring LEED certification, or improving the appearance of the parking structure, though they expressed pessimism about successfully negotiating significant changes given the developers’ position. Other concerns were raised about the proposed glass building design, with participants noting the need for bird strike prevention and expressing hope for a more distinctive architectural approach. The group agreed to send a letter to City Council and Mayor opposing the development while requesting certain mitigations.

The vote on the approving the letter passed with 20 votes in favor and zero opposed. Following the vote, Barbara Cilley suggested taking out a full-page ad in the Chronicle to raise awareness about the development.

<https://www.srccatx.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Proposed-letter-of-opposition-Cidercade.pdf>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

--Prop. Q (Nov. ‘25 tax vote) will be a featured item of discussion at next month’s GM meeting October 21, 2025. Barbara Cilley stated that this tax increase proposal on the November ballot could result in property tax increases of 16-20% if passed and the potential impacts on homeowners, renters, and local businesses. The October meeting will feature a debate on Proposition Q. Mary Fealkoff reported contacting Mayor Watson’s office to invite him to the meeting, while Barbara Cilley suggested inviting Jeffrey Bowen to speak against the tax increase.

--Update on Roots & Wings Festival