



# ALTA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 12174  
San Antonio TX 78212

## General Assembly Minutes

September 29, 2021

Board members in attendance: Cheryl Dozier, President; Matt Garcia, Vice President; Mary Kenney, Treasurer; and Corey Schultz, Secretary. Committee members in attendance: Erin Zayko, Technical Committee.

Other attendees: See Page 5.

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. via Zoom.

Cheryl Dozier introduced the board and put out a call for the three empty Directors-at-large positions. She introduced our guests. Then, she asked AV community members to introduce themselves.

The General Assembly approved the minutes from the May 26, 2021, meeting. Mary Kenney provided the Treasurer's report. Elva Cardenas asked if the figures included the Jimmy Contreras scholarship fund in checking or savings. Cheryl said she would look into it.

### District 1 Updates:

Anisa Schell, D1 Neighborhood Liaison, stated the Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zoning change request for 2602 N Flores. It will go to the City Council on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

W. Russell Street is undergoing resurfacing from Breden to Belknap. The project is scheduled to finish on October 27<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

Anisa stated Development Services Department (DSD) held a meeting last week on the Large Area Rezoning initiative and is ready to restart it. Beacon Hill is halfway through the project and Alta Vista is next. She predicted it will start in March.

Per Anisa, the DI Transportation Department is investigating a Union Pacific Railroad quiet zone south of Hickman. The Transportation Department and Director are new, as of February 2021. It will be a lengthy process and requires identification of funding sources. She will reach out to Congressman Doggett's office as the railroad is a federal entity.

Erin mentioned when AVNA advocated for the study with Union Pacific and the city regarding the crossings the crossing at Hickman, it did not score enough safety points. Anisa did not know the history but stated it was early in the process. The proposed quiet zone on Flores has been in the works since 2016. Anisa hopes Hickman will be resolved more quickly. She will provide an update in a few months.

Anisa stated D1 needs fifteen people for the bond committees to review proposed projects and make recommendations to the City Council. D1 gets three appointees per committee. The Bond 2022 projects are divided into the following categories: streets and sidewalks, drainage, parks and open spaces, municipal facilities, public safety facilities, and affordable housing. In addition, we are asking everyone who applies to also commit to two public town hall input meetings. Public participation is a priority for Councilman Bravo. Committees will meet late October through December. Residents should contact Anisa if they are interested in serving on the committees.

Anisa stated Councilman Bravo had finished his earlier engagement and is free now to address the GA. He discussed a plan to screen outdoor movies. The Alamo Master Plan included a series of videos with diverse historians on history of Alamo. He will share updates on the screening of these movies.

The Councilman updated the GA on the recently passed city budget. He abstained from voting as he did not support the process and hopes to improve it. Three committee chairs agreed to consider some of his proposals,



including a study on improving management's corporate culture at CPS Energy, a pilot program on saving and reusing materials of deconstructed buildings, and the city's procurement process. After weeks of voting to approve spending tens of millions of tax dollars, he wants a third-party independent contractor to study the procurement practices of goods and services and to recommend best practices, thus ensuring optimal use of the taxpayer's money.

The city is currently putting together the 2022 bond, and fifteen people will be appointed to bond committees. Interested individuals should contact him or Anisa. Today City Council staff gave a presentation on scoring and viewing bond projects. Affordable housing is a new category this year. There was only one slide, so he asked for details on scoring process. Anisa stated this week their office received information from the Public Works Department, and they will put out applications with an October 13<sup>th</sup> appointment deadline.

Monica asked what else the committee work entails in addition to the time commitment for meetings and public meetings. The Councilman responded probably one evening per week for two months. He will find out more information. Anisa stated she will confirm. The regular meetings take place from October thru December, but the schedule has not yet been finalized, and more information will be forthcoming.

People interested in participating should email Anisa at [anisa.schell@sanantonio.gov](mailto:anisa.schell@sanantonio.gov). She asked them to provide her with their contact information, a short biography, and committee preference.

She also asked residents contact her if there are any other specific issues or requests.

#### Old Business:

Traffic Islands. Cheryl stated work on the traffic islands had gone on hiatus over the summer but will begin again soon. The bricks ordered through the fund-raising campaign have been delivered, but there is still a need for filler bricks. The benches have been ordered and are projected to arrive in Nov. 2021.

Zoning. Erin said the Zoning Commission recommended approval of the zoning change request for 2602 N Flores (Patsy's) on September 7<sup>th</sup>. It goes to the City Council on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Alta Vista neighborhood supports this request as a new site plan prohibits outdoor amplified music. D1 assisted in getting the noise restriction added to the site plan by hosting a meeting with DSD, the developer and Alta Vista. The restriction was left off the site plan in error. The developer thought it was included in the Infill Development Zone (IDZ) status. Location of the dumpster remains a concern to the neighbors. Erin also stated we will use the current letter as the neighborhood's position not changed. AV does not oppose the change as long the music restriction is enforced, and the developer continues to work with affected homeowners.

Block Captains. More block captains are needed. Corey asked those in attendance to pass the word to neighbors who may be interested in delivering the print newsletter five times a year and serving as a liaison between residents and the board. Erin volunteered to do more blocks for the newsletter delivery.

Corey stated the newsletter content will shift from in-depth information to expanding membership, with content designed to interest and excite neighbors about their community and opportunities to volunteer. More complicated issues such as zoning and bonds will be discussed via the MailChimp distribution email, as the people who have signed up for it are a subset audience that has already expressed interest.

Corey is auditing the newsletter distribution to ensure the block captains receive the optimal number of newsletters and is also encouraging outreach to commercial properties, especially ones with waiting rooms.

Mary suggested translation to Spanish for the neighbors who do not speak English. Erin noted that previously AVNA had someone on hand for Spanish translations. Corey suggested a one line note with phone number on front page of NL, if we could identify someone who is able to translate over the phone.

Pat Clayworth Scholarship. Cheryl stated nine recipients were awarded scholarships this past spring and fall, for \$500 per semester each, for two semesters. The fund was established in 2004 when community members raised over \$10,000 in honor of Clayworth, a long-term teacher at Mark Twain. It is now managed by Alamo Colleges Fund, which took several years of work to transfer from the San Antonio Area Foundation Fund. Kathy Bailey and past presidents were instrumental in this, and the money is now in hands of students. Two more



scholarships will be awarded in spring 2022, which will exhaust fund. Elva asked if the principle were exhausted. Cheryl said yes based on a General Assembly vote in January 2021. Elva also asked if current recipients are eligible for an additional award. Cheryl said this is determined by the committee.

#### New Business:

Contraras Funds. Erin stated there are \$13,000 in savings for the Contraras Scholarship. Cheryl stated the Board had determined there were no restrictions on the use of the Contreras funds. Elva added the Contrares scholarship is more word of mouth and less specific. The Board will form a committee to assess options and provide recommendations for a vote at future General Assembly. Elva recommended Bob Comeaux and Kathy Bailey should be engaged as they are knowledgeable about Jimmy Contrares. Erin said this scholarship should be used for education or gardening and the fund should be invested if not actively used for scholarship

November Board Elections. Cheryl announced board elections will occur November 17, 2021, during the General Assembly. All positions are open (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors-at-Large). The term runs January 1, 2022, through the calendar year. The Nominating Committee will form soon, and members can self-nominate thru email or during the November GA meeting. Membership dues must be current for 2022 as of November 17 to self-nominate. Cheryl will publish an announcement on Facebook and via email. Erin recommended posting the PC scholarship slide on FB to promote "this is what you can do in this position."

Membership Drive. Cheryl stated there 36 dues paying members and 4 business members. COVID 19 made it difficult to stay engaged, as events such as Porch Fest and movie nights have been cancelled for two years. Previously AVNA had used National Night Out to kick off the membership drive, but it has also been cancelled. New memberships as of September 2021 are good through December 2022. Elva asked this be mentioned in the next newsletter because many residents don't use FB or email. AVNA will kick off a membership drive using all available tools.

Courtney said reminders would be useful for those want to stay current. Cheryl will explore with Tobin Hill on how they do it. Anisa stated Tobin Hill does theirs by hand.

SAPD/SAFFE Update: Assistant Chief Jimmy Reyes spoke on behalf of SAPD Chief McManus. McManus has asked command level officers to participate in as many meetings as possible, at least one per week, so they can share messages on behalf of the Chief, discuss important topics, and answer questions. He will attend the meetings in person when COVID is less of a threat. He had two items: 1) New text notification system. Residents may text "SAPD" to 39987 to enroll and stay up to date on upcoming events, crime trainings, etc. Users can type in zip to receive specific notifications. 2) He encouraged participation in various informative programs, such as Citizens on Patrol (COP), a three-hour course offered at the Central Substation and Citizens Police Academy (CPA), an 11-week course on Tuesday evenings at the San Antonio Police Academy, along with several other opportunities.

Officer Maciel, Alta Vista SAFFE, stated National Night Out (NNO) has had its name changed to SA Neighbors Together, but due to the COVID 19, we will not be participating this fall. He briefed the group on the six -month crimes stats. Larceny, specifically package thefts have been increasing, and recommends bringing packages inside as soon as they are delivered. Erin asked about the location of a robbery in 2021. He said it was in the 500 block of W. Summit. Erin asked if there had been any homicides, He said there were none.

Officer Maciel stated there has been an increase of drone activity by the park, along Ashby. Erin stated she has heard drones on Magnolia, and Monica has heard drones on Mistletoe. They are loud and close to the rooflines. Officer Maciel asked all neighbors report this activity to him. Asst. Chief Reyes stated drones should not be operated above crowds and drones equipped with cameras cause privacy concerns. SAPD will attempt to ID operator. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is publishing new guidance to ID operators more easily.

Officer Maciel asked residents to report all traffic concerns such as speeding, running stop signs and lights, and parking violations.

Cheryl asked if he is also the SAFFE officer for BH. He confirmed he is for BH as well as Five Points. Cheryl stated someone has been dumping kittens in BH and she will have the people who saw it call him.



Courtney stated she is concerned that without an inclusion policy for COP efforts, the program might threaten people in our neighborhoods. She wants to avoid reinforcing systemic problems. Officer Maciel stated the concern about implicit bias was addressed in a previous conversation, but the COP course focuses on educating residents to inform police if something doesn't look right. All residents should CALL SAPD first rather than intervening. Asst Chief Reyes stated the course discusses "what is suspicious" such as someone walking in neighborhood. Not recognizing a person doesn't necessarily mean they are suspicious. The person must be DOING something potentially criminal. If residents see behavior that is between normal and suspicious, they should call the SAPD non-emergency. Officer Maciel said residents should email him with any questions.

#### Messages From Our Representatives:

Anna Alicia Romero left some PDF announcements in chat and will update them monthly. Currently the legislature in Austin is in its the third special session. The main agenda item is redistricting. Senator Menendez sits on the Business and Commerce committee in the Senate and has been addressing energy issues to avoid a repeat of the February 2021 utility failure. Before Winter, residents should look at pipes and line up plumbers before the winter storms. She also recommended they consider getting flood insurance. She asks residents to reach out to the office with any questions on legislation. They are working remotely due to the coronavirus Delta variant. People can schedule an in-person meeting, which requires masks or a virtual meeting.

Denise Riojas, TX Representative Bernal's Office stated the legislature is now in the third special session. Residents should call or message with important concerns, such as redistricting, property tax relief, and people accused of violent sexual offenses. The office is working from home, and in-person meetings depend on the status of pandemic in Bexar County.

Bernadette Armendariz from Congressman Doggett's Office was unable to attend but passed the following updates to Cheryl: The House Ways and Means Subcommittee is working to expand improve affordable health care (tax credits to lower premiums). For those too poor for federal assistance due to TX law, the subcommittee is working to get them Medicaid. Most families with children are eligible for a child tax credit. However, families who don't normally file taxes are left out. Congressman Doggett's office is ready to assist

#### Around the Room:

Johanna McLeod asked if a Halloween map will be disseminated this year. Erin stated the map needs a design refresh, and she and her husband will do it.

Johanna also stated neighbors should keep an eye on properties nearby, as the house next door had a homeless person living there. The owner reported, and the person arrested. She is interested in being liaison between AVNA and Friends of San Pedro Springs Park.

Cheryl reminded the group that anyone may attend the board meetings.

#### Future Dates:

- Board Meeting: October 3, 2021; 4:00 p.m.; Zoom
- Board Meeting: November 7, 2021; 4:00 p.m.; Zoom
- General Assembly: November 17; 6:30 p.m.; TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Approved by the General Assembly:

November 17, 2021

Recorded by:



Corey Schultz, AVNA Secretary

Other Attendees:

Elva Cardenas, Member

Jane Crow, Member

Monica Garza, Member

Courtney Mumma, Member

Johanna McLeod, Member

Daniel Muraida, Member

Jeff and Henrietta Saldana-Paz, Members

Erin Zayko, Member, Technical Committee

D1 Councilman Mario Bravo

Anisa Schell, D1 Neighborhood Liaison

Jimmy Reyes, Asst Police Chief, SAPD

Ben Maciel, SAAFE Officer

Anna Alicia Romero, TX Senator Menéndez'  
Office

Denise Riojas, TX Representative Diego Bernal's  
Office