



Neighborhood Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Enhancement – Virtual Zoom

630 E Hopkins, Bldg. 5, San Marcos, Texas 78666

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Joe Cantu, at 6:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call

In attendance: Michael Adams, William DeSoto, Robert Dudolski, Margaret Yackel, Joe Cantu, Michael Vernon, Cathy Dillon, Bobbie Garza-Hernandez & Larry Mock. Absentees are Roland Saucedo.

III. Citizen Comment Period

Professor Lisa Marie Coppoletta who lives on 1322 Belvin St spoke on her Heritage Live Oak trees and how city staff to include, Shawn Wolfshohl, Sabas Avila and Bert Lumbreras refused to hear her concerns and since that time she has seen the damage that has happened to her critical roots. Coppoletta thanked the Neighborhood Commission, Lorie Moyer, Shane Scott, Maxfield Baker and Stephanie Reyes who took her concerns to the Executive Management team and the Neighborhood Commission. Coppoletta states that in the upcoming power point presentation from Public Services they will now be avoiding trees and they will not have sidewalks leading to nowhere. Coppoletta spoke to the Board on asphalt seal coats (black top overlay) and how damaging it is to health, pets and the environment. She states the neighbors need to understand the harmful effects to their kids and the environment when they implement these black top overlay projects. Finally, city staff need to be wearing respirators when black top overlay projects are being done. Coppoletta asks that Risk enforcement enforce city workers and contractors to wear respirators.

IV. Consider Acceptance of November 16, 2022, Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by Dillon to approve. Seconded by Garza-Hernandez. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

V. Guest Speaker

Ernest Luna, Streets and Transportation Crew Leader spoke on Sidewalk Maintenance and Gap Infill Program 2023 Locations & Street Overlay Program. Luna informed the Board his purpose for being here today was to review sidewalk locations, provide next steps, give a brief description of Mill & Overlay locations and answer questions from the Board. Sidewalk projects for April 2023 were reviewed stating no tree conflicts and all sidewalks will connect to existing sidewalks. Streets in this project include Warden, Monterrey Street, East MLK and Lockhart St. Sidewalk projects for July 2023 were reviewed stating no tree conflicts. Streets in this project include Clair and Conway St. 90 days prior to project being commenced, Public Services will send out 90-day mailer to all landowners and residents. Adjacent address will also be hand delivered a construction mailer two weeks prior to work beginning. Luna also informed the Board of upcoming streets paving and overlay projects. Cantu asked if the construction mailer will have specifics as to whether mailboxes will be moved, etc. and whether there was a beginning and end timeline. Sabas Avila, Director of Public Services, responded and said yes, the mailboxes will have to be moved temporarily but will not be moved away from the property. The property owner will still have use of the mailbox during construction. The mailboxes will be permanently set when all is complete adjacent to the new sidewalk. Vernon asked about right of way on his sidewalk. Avila responded that most typical roadways have right of way that goes beyond the actual curbs. Every street is a little

different but on average a street will have anywhere from 5 to 10 ft of right of way beyond the back of the curb and the city will install the sidewalks within that area which is city property. Avila also spoke and responded to the requirements for setbacks that Coppoletta mentioned during her Citizen comment period. Avila stated that City Council indicated that in no situation shall sidewalks be closer than 10ft from a front door. Avila has reviewed all streets where sidewalk installations are proposed and there are none that have offsets less than 10ft, in fact most are 15ft or more. Dillon asked whether the Historic district would have any more new sidewalks in the future. Avila stated the cities Capitol Improvement Dept. has several projects planned in the Historic neighborhood so no new sidewalks would be installed until after all CIP projects have been completed in that area. City Council also instructed staff not to construct any sidewalks in the Historic areas unless approval has been received from the Historic commission. Any projects planned in the Historic District will need Historic Commission approval before they can begin. Garza-Hernandez asked if there were any plans to connect the sidewalks on Riverside Dr. from Cheatham St to Hopkins. Avila responded and stated that in their 5yr plan they currently do not have any projects planned to connect that gap. However, if the Neighborhood Commission is interested in seeing that brought to fruition, please email Sabas Avila so they may include that street in next years plan. Garza-Hernandez stated this was a safety issue especially during the months where there are a lot of tubers.

VI. Commissioners Expiring Terms

Cantu went over the expiring terms for 3 Commissioners. Sector 1 – Dillon, Sector 2 – De Soto and Sector 5 – Saucedo will all be expiring terms on February 28, 2023. Palacios stated that if anyone was aware of possible candidates for the new term year to please give them her contact info so she may direct them to an application to be filled out.

VII. Item up for Action/Discussion

The Board reviewed and discussed approving sidewalk program plan and confirming there are no sidewalks that lead to no-where. MOTION made by Adams to approve. Seconded by Dillon. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

VIII. Report

Commissioner Garza-Hernandez updated the Board on Mexican American and Indigenous Cultural Heritage District Street signage. Garza-Hernandez stated that they have reached out to all three (3) neighborhoods, and they are in the process of confirming meetings. Their goal is to have those completed within the next few weeks. The meetings will finalize the logos that each one of the neighborhoods has selected.

Vitality Coordinator, Tiffany Harris reported on happenings in the community. Harris spoke on the new neighborhood app. Harris asked the Board if everyone was ok with the app and if any additional changes needed to be made prior to rolling the app out. Mock asked whether the public will be able to see where the closest Police and Fire Station is at? Harris stated that yes, she believed it was under the city facilities tab and it shows where the nearest city buildings are to your area. Harris stated she would get with IT to see if there was a way to make finding those a little easier. Harris spoke on the Neighborhood Conversations. Meetings are as follows: 1st quarter – Sector 5 March meeting, 2nd quarter – Sector 1 Historical District at Dunbar April meeting, 3rd quarter – Sector 2 Sept meeting, 4th quarter – Sector 7 October meeting. Harris updated the Board on a ‘Stop the Bleed’ training that is being offered by the

city and would like to encourage all Commissioners to attend. This will be scheduled for February. Palacios will send out the information to all Commissioners.

IX. Future Agenda Items

Dillon stated she received a call from a concerned citizen that there has been an uptick in crimes in the Blanco Gardens neighborhood. Vernon agreed and have asked for data on recent crimes. Dillon stated that citizens in the Historic District are also asking for special street signage and is wondering if any neighborhood can request new signs. Carr stated there is no real policy on how a request can be made for new and special street signage and how this will be handled in the future but can see how one would be needed. Carr also stated we would work with Planning and Development on the details for creating a policy for new street signage. Vernon also brought up Stokes Park and River Rd. Improvements such as crosswalks, trails and safety issues, etc.

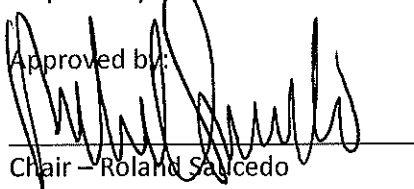
X. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public

Coppoletta complimented the Board on their future agenda items. Coppoletta also asked several questions to Avila in reference to sidewalks in the Historic District. Avila stated no sidewalks would be constructed in the Historic District without the approval of the Historic Commission. Coppoletta also asked Avila what products were being used/sprayed on the streets within the Black top coverings (slurry seal). Avila responded and stated that asphalt is made up of several materials such as rock and asphalt emulsion. There are different ways to make asphalt emulsion and one of the ways is to use cold tar which is not safe for the environment nor people. Coppoletta asked which product our city is using. Avila stated the city of San Marcos uses a petroleum-based emulsion. Coppoletta asked if this was dangerous for the river and Avila stated, yes, it could be dangerous, however, any paving that is done by Public Services is maintained in the roadway and is not being disposed of into the river.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION was made by Dillon and seconded by Garza-Hernandez to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

The minutes for the January 18, 2023, meeting of the City of San Marcos, Texas Neighborhood Commission are respectfully submitted on February 15, 2023, by Yvonne Palacios, Staff Liaison, Neighborhood Enhancement.

Approved by:

Chair – Roland Saucedo