



LAVACA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Proudly Serving San Antonio's Oldest Residential Neighborhood

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General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7:00 pm

Via Zoom Conference Call

Officers and Directors	
Cherise Rohr-Allegrini, President Sarah Sorenson, Vice President Kat Doucette, Secretary Vik Gudi, Treasurer Nick Melde, Planning Amy Young, Communications Dir.	Douglas Mendizabal, Membership Director Jim Johnson, Transportation & Public Safety Billy Lambert, Southtown Business Owner Darryl Ohlenbusch, Zoning & Historic Pres. Alma Gonzalez, Events Coordinator Nataly Jennings, At Large

Board Members Present: Cherise Rohr-Allegrini, Kat Doucette, Darryl Ohlenbusch, Amy Young, Sarah Sorensen, Vik Gudi, Nick Melde, and Jim Johnson

Board Members Absent: Nataly Jennings, Douglas Mendizabal, Billy Lambert, and Alma Gonzalez

Guests: Steve Lecholop – current Board Trustee for SAISD

1. Call to Order	Meeting Called to order at 7:05 pm
2. Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House float parade – joint effort between King William, Lavaca, Roosevelt Park, and Lonestar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o People decorate their houses and there are drive-bys o A map of participating houses will be provided. To sign up, check the e-blasts. - This meeting will be recorded.
3. Presentation from Steve Lecholop, SAISD Board Trustee re the Bond/Burnet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The School bond was the largest bond passed in San Antonio's history at \$1.3 billion. - After the bond has passed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o They've been in planning since November o This month, they are formally approving architects for the bond project o Next is the idea-generating phase. The first brainstorming session will be in April 2021. - The Burnet Building was a building that was voted upon in the

	<p>Bond to re-activate it to a school from its current position as offices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question from Jim Johnson: What grade levels will be applied to the Burnet Building? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Answer: That's part of the brainstorming session. Because of the size of the lot, it is unlikely to be a high school because there likely isn't enough space. The most likely options are anywhere from Pre-K through 8th grade. - Question from SAcriste19: Are they going to keep the building or knock it down? Will they keep the name? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Answer: The building is not historically designated, so they will engage in that discussion with the community about what to do with it. The name is also up for discussion with the community. - Question from Nick Melde: has there been a conditions assessment on the building to determine what conditions may lie ahead to determine best uses for the school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Answer: that assessment is underway now, and will inform decisions moving forward.
<p>4. SAISD School Board D1 Candidate Forum Steve Lecholop and Sarah Sorensen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarah Sorensen – platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o https://www.theschoolsourstudentsdeserve.org/ o sarah4saisd1@gmail.com o Been a volunteer parent at Bonham since her daughter started school in kinder. She has been active in the PTA and was on the charter writing committee for Bonham. o Professionally, she has done public policy research, coalition building, and project management. She worked for a decade in school policy in NY State. She has an education in social work. o For the last 9 months, she has been working on COVID-19 cases o She believes that high academic achievements are not mutually exclusive o The lack of transparency in public engagement in our public school systems is problematic. The current school board has entered management agreements with 3rd party entities without public engagement. Sarah would like to engage the members of the district to help brainstorm best practices for the schools moving forward. - Steve Lecholop – platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o steveforeducation@gmail.com o www.steveforeducation.com o (210) 289-3303 o He has been rep for 8 years on the SAISD School Board. o When he was elected to SAISD board in 2013, it was

- continuously one of the worst performing school districts.
- He initially focused on student achievement.
 - The district has improved from F-rated district to B-rated district
 - The board now focuses on:
 - Student achievement
 - Always creating and building excellent schools
 - Supporting teachers and principals by providing resources and autonomy to thrive.
- Questions:
- How would you fix the lack of transparency?
 - Sarah: Relating to the management agreements discussed before, of the 5 that are being voted on by the SAISD board tonight, one of them Bonham Academy had a public process where school families got to vote on whether or not to enter into the management agreement. She was able to organize that by being on the charter committee. She will build in opportunity for review and discussion.
 - Steve: the board focuses on increasing transparency. That was one of the first items he enacted when he joined the board. He drafted the policy to codify transparency policies. They have town hall forums with the superintendent at the high schools.
 - Equitable Funding – Can you address how it works where schools with higher need get more funds? Across all schools in the districts, not just charters that have programs targeted at specific populations
 - Steve: It is true that not all schools receive equal funds. Student-based budgeting – the goal is for students to have a certain amount of dollars follow them (additional funds for students with special needs or ESL). Senate Bill 1882 allowed additional funding if school districts enter into partnerships with non-profits or universities. Tonight, the board is voting on a similar partnership for Bonham.
 - Sarah: It is state money that incentivizes districts to “charterize.” Districts get a cut of the state money, and then they get funded at the level that charter schools are funded at. The groups (partners) have decisions over the budgeting, staffing, and other controls over the schools.
 - Social justice approach to education – Sarah, what does that mean for how you’re running on your platform?
 - Sarah: Her goal is for our students to be seen as

	<p>whole people at the schools rather than from a deficit mindset. The goal is to center the students' voices for what they're experiencing in the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steve: he taught 4th grade in Maryland. He has a child in SAISD schools. We need to give students what they need to succeed no matter where they're coming from in their life. They implemented student surveys and asked students for their input so that they could implement a student bill of rights to codify what the students believed to be important in their district.
<p>5. Southtown Community Garden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thoby Kennet and Valerie Morales presented. - Valerie has been the garden steward. They have a lot happening behind the scenes. - They have \$3,000 secured to go toward beautification, and they are seeking more funding for garden security. - There have been issues with people camping out at the garden. The funding will go to help prevent people camping out. - They would like community feedback about how to move forward with the garden. They are seeking community leaders. - southtowngardencommunity@gmail.com
<p>6. February Snow Storm Impact and FEMA Resources – Kat Doucette</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because the February winter storm was declared a major disaster by President Biden, FEMA may assist residents of most Texas counties by providing financial assistance to those who have experienced great harm at the hands of the disaster. That assistance could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing assistance ○ Home replacement assistance ○ Rental assistance; or ○ Transitional sheltering assistance - Other Needs Assistance could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal Property ○ Transportation ○ Medical, dental, childcare, funeral, moving & storage, cleanup, or miscellaneous expenses - Unfortunately, FEMA often denies initial relief to applicants for common issues that are easily remedied. - San Antonio Legal Services Association (SALSA) is teaming up with Texas Riogrande Legal Aid (TRLA) to provide pro bono legal assistance to qualifying applicants who have applied for FEMA assistance after the snow storm in February but have been denied assistance. SALSA has attorneys on standby to help with initial appeals. - TRLA does intake of the applicants, and those that are appropriate pro bono cases are referred to SALSA to be matched with a

	<p>volunteer attorney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We ask that neighbors spread the word to anyone in the neighborhood who has applied for these services or plans to apply for these services. We're in the process of creating a flyer for client recruitment. Once that is created, we will share it on the LNA's e-blast so that applicants know where to sign up.
<p>7. 418 Florida – Jeff Coyle to speak on the old gas station property located between Florida/Carolina off I-37</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The property used to be a fleet gas station. They have pulled the tanks out of the ground and listed it for sale. - The property just recently sold to a Dallas developer who wants to build a fast-food restaurant or convenient store. - That property is a gateway to Southtown. The immediate neighbors would like to see something better there, so he wants to raise the issue to see if we can have a conversation with the owner to add something of value to the community. - The property is zoned C-2, and we can't change zoning unless the owner wants to re-zone. Where the neighborhood can have an impact is at HDRC. - Meeting participants showed interest in creating a committee.
<p>8. Victoria Commons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAHA/Catellus would like to schedule a meeting for March 30, and they will send out an invite. - Jacob Davis: neighbor on Leigh St. They are not against affordability or public housing. They are asking transparency from SAHA/Catellus. Wants a committee to get neighborhood input. - SAcriste19: neighbor on Leigh St. - SAHA keeps changing their plans, and they want SAHA to stick with what they say. - Selsa Gonzalez: they get frustrated with the changing of the plans. The APHOA is advocating against a 5-story building with no step-downs. SAHA says they can't get the financing if they don't do 5-story. APHOA's position is if SAHA can't finance it as a 3-story building, then maybe they shouldn't be placing it there at all. - May Fernandez: neighbor on Leigh St. There is not enough parking, and the townhomes haven't even been built yet. She is concerned about the IDZ zoning. - Lawson Picasso – City Council District 1: the councilman and other staff members presented updates to this project. There were several changes on it that were being asked by the neighborhood. For example, the YMCA building will be left out of the re-zoning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Jim Johnson: to Lawson Picasso, parking right now is a monster. Adding more cars on a daily basis is going to be impossible. He hopes political leadership will take leadership and force the developers to account for the parking for the people who live there. - Abby Dubay: her concern is traffic. When you break down the map that SAHA says is an acceptable amount, it's a car every 10-15 seconds coming down the street, which is not acceptable.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Jim Johnson: to Abby, there is a transportation committee that is distributing flyers to get neighborhood participation. He welcomes her participation and looks forward to working with her.
9. Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm