

# Restore Rundberg April 28, 2016 community meeting minutes

The meeting took place at Catholic Charities of Central Texas.

## Attendees:

- Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team members: Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills Neighborhood Planning Area representative Rachel Pry, North Lamar/Georgian Acres Neighborhood Planning Area representative Monica Guzmán, North Austin Civic Association Neighborhood Planning Area representative Randy Teich, Education representative (K-12 levels) Ann Teich, Faith-Based Community representative Michelle Fleming, Affordable Housing/Homelessness Prevention representative Ashlyn Riley, Public Safety representative Commander Donald Baker, African/African American; Asian/Asian American; Hispanic/Latino; or Indigenous Leadership representatives Roberto Pérez and Antonio Ramirez,
- Austin Police Department: Lieutenant Kevin Leverenz, Region 2 District Representatives Ray Kianes, Taber White, Frank Wilson, Public Information Office member Amanda Cole, Chief's Office Executive Assistant Patricia Gutierrez
- Council on At-Risk Youth: Executive Director Shana Fox, Lanier youth advisor Melissa Axton
- Caritas: Sarah Wagner
- Catholic Charities of Central Texas: Business Manager Christine Reyes-Paiz
- BlueCross BlueShield of Texas Medicaid Associate Outreach Specialist: Ruth Pacheco
- University of Texas School of Social Work: Paul Hassel
- Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care: Director of Integrative Medicine Kimberly Layne and Clinical Director Armando Hernandez
- Texas House Representative Celia Israel office: Scheduler Justin Perez
- CommUnityCare Rundberg Health Center Practice Administrator: Megan Clark
- League of United Latin American Citizens Young Adults Council #22318: President Manuel Alejandro Muñoz

*Call to order: 7:20pm.*

## ● Public Comment

- The [Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care](#) Director of Integrative Medicine Kimberly Layne and Clinical Director Armando Hernandez introduced themselves, explained that this Center providing affordable professional counseling, integrative medicine, telepsychiatry, and wellness education, especially for uninsured, low-income families and military veterans, is located on Research Boulevard near the intersection with Metric Boulevard, right outside the Restore Rundberg area, and is looking to further reach out to neighbors after accepting to participate in the 2016 edition of CEO For A Day, enabling area Middle School students to spend time with executives.

In response to a question from the Council on At Risk Youth Executive Director, Kimberly Layne explained that the Samaritan Center accepts kids as young as 3 years and a half for counseling, and can provide services in Spanish, although the Center is looking for more bilingual counselors.

- The League of United Latin American Citizens (**LULAC**) Young Adults Council #22318 President, Manuel Muñoz, introduced himself as “a lifelong resident of the East Rundberg community who grew up struggling just as many of the students and families of neighborhood” and is “blessed with the opportunity to come back to promote the leadership skills our community needs to prosper”. The LULAC Council #22318 ambitions to establish youth councils at different area high schools over the summer, to host a regional youth conference and to launch and host quarterly conferences for Latinos from Austin and other area school districts, as well as to establish a national education service center in the Rundberg/Lamar corridor to support area schools + technology centers through established corporate sponsorships at Reagan and Lanier high schools. He can be reached at [ATXManuel@gmail.com](mailto:ATXManuel@gmail.com) and 512 920 9307.

### **Rundberg Educational Advancement District (READ) update**

Officer Ray Kianes recalled the way the Rundberg Educational Advancement District was created as a way to sustain the results achieved in reducing crime in Restore Rundberg hotspot 1 (I35 and Rundberg), and presented the Hombre a Hombre Festival that took place at Dobie Middle School two days after the community meeting with Machete actor Danny Trejo’s participation.

Cecile Fandos said that she was scheduling meetings between READ Beautification Committee members and the groups organized at the different READ schools to participate in the **Trash Can beautification project** so that the decoration of the additional trash cans to be installed along Rundberg Lane by Austin Resource Recovery, as well as their monitoring by the different READ schools, could quickly get rolling in the fall.

Next Rundberg Educational Advancement District monthly meeting was about to take place, and the group had planned to make plans for **expanding to the whole Rundberg area** with support from Austin Voices’ new Lanier community team.

### **Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) programming update**

CARY Executive Director **Shana Fox** recalled that her organization focused on the at-risk youth is wrapping up its first year in the Rundberg area, and that it’s been doing a lot over the course of this year (beyond **servicing 850 students** at Lanier High School, Dobie Middle School and Hart and Barrington Elementary Schools), taking part in different Rundberg Educational Advancement District projects and community fairs, organizing cleanups, etc.

“Another area of focus currently is the **summer camp** that will provide fun for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as services to the families, and make sure the kids remain enrolled in school,” pointed Shana Fox, before handing the floor to **Lanier** youth advisor Melissa Axton, who presented the high school’s first **community soccer tournament** benefiting the school’s athletic department and reserved to area kids.

- **CARY potential grant funding discussion**

In order to continue CARY programming in the Rundberg area, “we are looking at two federal grants with Austin Police Grants manager Kyran Fitzgerald”, indicated Shana Fox. “In case those federal grants are not granted, we will go to the City and talk to everyone. CARY has never closed shop at school where it was present and hopes not to do it this year.”

## Community Engagement updates

- Cecile Fandos shared that she started working with Austin Police Public Information Office on the Restore Rundberg website and social media presence in prevision of the end of the grant, so that the Revitalization Team benefits from continued support, although it will not be as important as it is today.

She's connected the Healthcare Workgroup to a group of University of Texas students working on an information packet regarding health resources in the Rundberg area so that they don't repeat the work that's already been done as part of the revitalization initiative, and she's connected the Economic and Workforce Development Workgroup to a Rundberg resident who's an employment attorney and has interest reaching out to area businesses, for example to help organize a business district along North Lamar between Rundberg and Braker Lanes.

Restore Rundberg was also contacted by a group of pastors interested in organizing a 5K on Rundberg Lane, which neighborhood revitalization leaders know cannot be closed, but she's exchanging with the City Special Events interdepartmental team to figure out what is it that could be done.

In the hotspot 1, she's been mainly working on the Rundberg Educational Advancement District beautification and expansion projects (see READ update above).

Cecile also organized a meeting to take place the day after this community meeting between the Sustainable Food Center, Dobie CARY youth advisor Amber Sarpy, Rachel Pry and Austin Voices' Burnet community school coordinator, that has an interest in community gardens about ways schools and their communities can collaborate around their gardens and strengthen each other. The hope is for connections to be created between both school and community gardens across the Rundberg area with support from Austin Voices.

In hotspot 2, she's been encouraging the young group of neighbors to organize a new cleanup following the first one that took place on April 9 in partnership with the Georgian Acres neighborhood association and support from the Principe de Paz church volunteers. The Georgian Acres neighborhood association keeps rotating its cleanups across the neighborhood but is ready to sponsor regular Sam Rayburn cleanups by donating gloves and trash bags. But it was discouraging for the group leaders to see trash accumulate on their street days after the cleanup. Cecile has made contact with Austin Resource Recovery about ways to prevent at least some of the trashing from happening and hope those information will keep the residents going. (A debate on the best ways to do trash abatement ensued.)

In parallel, Cecile is also encouraging Sam Rayburn residents to organize other kind of events like a car burglary prevention event, while she and the neighbors continue signing up the residents in the Sam Rayburn group created on the messaging app Remind, that's used by a lot of schools across the country, and serves the purposes of a neighborhood watch organization on Sam Rayburn.

She concluded her intervention by stating that she hoped to be able to make it to the next Restore Rundberg meetings since she was now 7 months pregnant and her baby is due June 7 but could arrive early.

- Randy Teich invited to volunteer with the neighborhood association in order to paint the many bridges NACA is renovating as part of a Neighborhood Partnering Program.
- Commander Donald Baker shared an opportunity to give one's opinion on community policing by filing a community survey for the Police Department.

He's also shared a proposition by the Chief of Police to replace some sworn police officers by civilians and that the District Representatives were considered for that change.

Roberto Pérez concluded the meeting by thanking Catholic Charities for hosting it and inviting each participant to bring a guest to next meeting, to take place on May 26 at IDEA Rundberg.