

Motorola Austin Alumni Club:

General Meeting: November 21, 2017, at the North Lamar Senior Center

Mike Coley called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Secretary's Reports were published in the Newsletter and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Obie said our balance was reduced by \$126.56 due to expenditures for the May General Meeting. We received \$70.00 in dues and P\$70.00 was added to the scholarship fund.

Scholarship Fund: We received \$125 on November 21, 2017, bringing the total for the year to \$595. We have decided to name the scholarship in honor of Gary Daniels. Members can donate to the fund in addition to the raffles. Applications can be submitted by June 30, 2018, for children and grandchildren of current members, who are attending a post-secondary educational institution (university, junior college or trade school). The award will be made in August, 2018, and will be paid to the institution the winner is attending.

Communications:

- Our new website is at maacweb.org
- Our new club email is maacweb@yahoo.com
- There is a FaceBook group "We Worked at Motorola Semiconductor" with about 1658 members.

Christmas Party will be December 12, 2017 at Maggiano's, and costs \$30* for members or guests. **Note that the fee was incorrectly stated as \$35.00 elsewhere.** Please indicate your intention to attend by December 7.

Election of Officers: Officers were elected for the 2018 year at the general meeting on 11/21/2017. The elected officers are:

President	– Mike Coley
Vice President	– Jim Binneboese
Treasurer	– Obie Hasty
Secretary	– Jules Campbell

Non-elected Chairpersons (volunteers):

Communications	– Ray Voith
Membership	– Warren Wiemann
Newsletter	– Danna Redford
Event	– Wayne Harned

Medicare: The insurance sign-up window will be from October 15, 2017 through Dec 7, 2017. USAA offers health insurance to persons who aren't veterans or their descendants. Each "letter plan" is equivalent at all vendors, but the premiums vary.

Speaker: Jimmy Flannigan, Austin City Council Member, District 6

This was a very interesting and informative talk. The following is an attempt to summarize some of the points in the talk.

Mr. Flannigan talked about the quality of life in Austin and problems facing the city council in promoting that quality. He indicated the following four factors involved:

- growth
- transportation
- infrastructure
- affordability

He said that many people only think about one of these factors when considering quality of life. He stressed that any solution for the city of Austin must be a comprehensive one, and not one geared to individual locations or constituencies.

Some points in his discussion:

Income inequality

Income inequality can be a problem. Austin has many earning over \$100,000 a year and also many earning \$15.00 per hour. There is a need to provide opportunities to those in the middle of these extremes. The council would like to have Austin grow in such a way to allow current residents to continue to live here and not be priced out.

Housing

Housing also presents problems. CODENEXT tries to solve these. Builders like to build expensive single family units in the range, or, since they can get loans to do so. But this is not a solution for many. Some problems are:

- where to put houses
- build new homes or tear down/renovate old homes
- how big
 - \$1 million homes
 - 5 story multi-family units
 - single family units
 - City developers like the first two options, since they are able to get loans to build them.
 - This is less of a problem further out where developers can build many units with a small selection of plans.
- Density
 - 10 homes on street vs 20 homes on street
 - same cost to support these, but different tax income
 - For city amenities need X people/acre
- again it is necessary to solve for all neighborhoods - not just localized solutions

Roads

This is a regional problem. CAMPO members tend to be from rural areas - what's good for rural not necessarily good for Austin. The city council has less power here.

An interesting point was made about the MoPac expressway lanes. Mr. Flannigan said that the main benefit is not for individual cars, but the use of those lanes by express buses, thus encouraging

people to leave their cars at home in favor of a dependable transit option. He further stated that this process would be aided by extending express lanes elsewhere, e.g. 183 north.

Incentives for companies to move to Austin

Mr. Flannigan said that there have only been about 10 such incentives offered in the last 10 yrs. The main goal is to optimize ROI for the city. Amazon may be a good case for Austin, in that it wants a city experience, and needs less land. In addition, the jobs would tend to be in the middle income range. He also said that this is usually more of a state issue, with the council only coming in late in the game for a Yes/No decision.

Infrastructure problems

Mr. Flannigan indicated that there are infrastructure decisions to be made. For instance, there are many swimming pools in the city that are leaking. It would cost \$130 million to fix them, but there is no money to do so. With the leaks wasting thousands of gallons of water, the decision may have to be to close the pools.

State preemption of city decisions

Often, the city will set in motion laws that can be beneficial for the city, only to have the State come in and override them.

Red tape bureaucracy

Bureaucracy causes problems for small companies. The approval process to add companies/locations is complex and sometimes requires multiple passes through the system to get approval. Some companies have decided not to build more due to this difficulty.

The climate

Austin is on the cutting edge of beneficial actions to protect the climate.

One person asked about solar panels. There are too many trees in some neighborhoods to put up panels. He asked whether the city might help promote allowing individuals to pay to put panels on industrial buildings and get benefit from the generated power. Mr. Flannigan thought that this is a good idea. Maybe the city is involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 for Pizza, Bingo and the scholarship fund raffle.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ray Voith for:
Jules Campbell, Secretary of Motorola Austin Alumni Club