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September 10th, 2001, 7:00 pm
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Please Check Mailing Label for Renewal Date

West Austin Neighborhood Group
P.O. Box 5722
Austin, Texas 78763-5722



West Austin Neighborhood Group

Organized 1973

"To preserve our neighborhood and protect it from deterioration."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hal Katz
President

Linda Neavel Dickens
Vice-President

Gwen Jewiss
Secretary

Ian Inglis
Treasurer

STANDING COMMITTEES

James Allman
Membership Chair

Blake Tollett
Zoning Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joyce Basciano
Michael Cannatti
Erik Cary
Chris Garrigues
Balie Griffith
Sara Madera
Susan Pascoe
Selina Serna
Irwin Spear

HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Arnold
Sinclair Black
Hon. Lloyd Doggett
Hon. Beverly Griffith
Hon. Ann Kitchens
Hon. Will Wynn

Background Photo of Lime Kiln #PICA24140,
Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

THE NEIGHBOR

P.O. Box 5722 • Austin, Texas 78763-5722

August, 2001

President's Message August 2001 NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

DILL EMENTARY PROPERTY SOLD

As you may know, the Austin Independent School District decided several months ago to sell the property on which Dill Elementary School is located. Over the summer, AISD released requests for bids to the public relating to the sale of the property. Four separate bids were submitted to AISD. On August 27, the AISD Board, during a public meeting, approved the sale of the property to A&D Development. It is our understanding that the property was sold for roughly \$1,500,000 and is to have six luxury town homes. The date for closing the sale has not been set due to delays in the readiness of the school to which the Dill students will be transferred.

NEW DEVELOPMENT ON FOREST TRAIL

Many of you may have driven by the property at Woodmont and Forest Trail and have wondered what is being developed on the property formerly owned by Joe and Kay Hart. Sam Stewart, of Stewart Custom Homes, purchased the land from the Harts and is now in the process of developing the land. Before commencing, Mr. Stewart met with neighbors to give them an opportunity to provide input on the manner in which the property was to be developed, and is in the process of coming up with terms to sell to the rear neighbors a 50 foot strip of land to increase their lot size. At this point, if the neighbors proceed with the purchase of the 50 foot strip, Mr. Stewart has indicated that he will develop three lots, a half acre each, for the building of single family houses. As for the Hart house, no decision has been made and options include moving it to one of the three lots or even to a location in East Austin.

WANG NEWSLETTER RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

WANG has received the prestigious Clarion Award, presented by the Association for Women in Communications. The award is given to professional communicators to recognize excellence in communications. WANG was selected for its work in maintaining The Neighbor, our primary way of maintaining communications with its members. As you know, The Neighbor is distributed to members monthly and annually to every resident within WANG's boundaries. This was the first time that WANG has been honored on a national level.

The award was presented on August 3rd in Baltimore. A significant amount of time and ener-

gy is spent in maintaining The Neighbor. We could not do it without Linda Dickens, WANG's Vice President and editor of The Neighbor, and the staff of McCarthy Printing, who do a terrific job with both the creative and substantive aspects of the newsletter. Achieving national recognition, especially from a prestigious group such as the Association for Women in Communications, is very rewarding and most appreciated. The Association for Women in Communications was founded in 1909. It is a non-profit organization with over 7,500 members. Its goal is to promote communications, including print journalism, advertising, and broadcasting, as well as several other mediums.

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS

As you may recall, the committee has discussed considering the creation of a legal entity within which the West Austin Neighborhood Group would operate. WANG exists much like a partnership and as with partnerships the partners are exposed to potential liability. So far there has not been a problem. I have some concern that at some point things may become a little contentious between property owners and WANG and some property owners may wish to pursue legal action. Since we are not a legal entity, ExComm members could be sued individually in individual capacities since we are not board/committee members of a legal entity. I recommend conversion into a Texas Uniform Unincorporated Non-profit Association. This would be a tax-free event and we could keep our existing tax ID number, bank accounts, etc. A TUUNA is treated as a separate legal entity as opposed to an aggregate of individuals. A TUUNA is permitted to acquire, hold, and transfer property, in its own name; the authority to sue and be sued as an entity; and the contract and tort liability of the officers and members of the nonprofit association. A person is not liable for tortious acts or omissions of a member or other person, tortious acts or omissions of the TUUNA, or a breach of the TUUNA's contract merely because the person is a member, is authorized to participate in the management of the affairs of the nonprofit association, or is a person considered to be a member by the nonprofit association. The bylaws I have drafted have some additional features that are not included in the current bylaws. These features include the past president and president elect, 3 year term limits for officers, and formalizing the committees currently in place to name a few. These issues will be discussed at the September 10th meeting, and any decisions made will require the approval of the members at the annual meeting in October.

Be sure to visit our website at <http://www.deepeddy.com/wang/>!

**Minutes of ExComm Meeting
August 8, 2001**

I. Meeting Called to Order.

Executive Committee Attendees: Chris Garrigues, Blake Tollett, Selina Serna, James Allman, Hal Katz, Linda Dickens, Balie Griffith, Joyce Basciano, Susan Pascoe, Sara Madera, Ian Inglis, and Mike Cannatti.

II. Citizen Communications

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald reported that a vacant lot on 2604 Hillview is neglected and overgrown, and they requested suggestions on how to have it cleaned up. The Executive Committee suggested working with the City Health Department, contacting Police Rep. Atkinson, contacting the Fire Department, or having WANG write letter to the City Sanitation Department. A motion was passed to have WANG send a letter to the City Sanitation Department.

The McDonalds also expressed concern about the need for a light on the south end of their street, explaining that the City has reviewed issue and will place light between 2711 Greenlee and 2801 Greenlee and has notified owners of plan to place the light. The McDonalds request that WANG support the light placement by pressing the issue with the City. The McDonalds agreed to write the City and copy WANG so that WANG can follow-up.

Ed Barbee (sp?) reported that he is seeking a variance to expand his garage by five feet at 2613 West 10th on front setback for the garage portion only (20'), and requested WANG's support. Hal explained that WANG's role arises usually after a notice of a variance request is filed, and is generally not to oppose if no neighbors object.

Betty Stahly reported her concern about the City's inability to address problems in various parts of the neighborhood, such as rats, vacated houses, drug dealing, traffic, etc. The Executive Committee suggested contacting the Police to address drug issues, to raise parking concerns with the City Council by revising the zoning.

The WANG nominating committee has recommended Joe Bennett to join the WANG Executive Committee. Joe is an architect who works on Lake Austin Blvd., has lived in Austin since 1985 in Deep Eddy since 1995.

III. Committee Reports

Zoning Committee Report: None.

Communications Report: Linda reviewed the status of various assigned projects for the upcoming Neighborhood Social with the Executive Committee. It was decided that Joe McDermott would be invited to play children's music at the Neighborhood Social and would be offered \$100 to play.

Transportation Report: Selina reported on the results of the survey of neighborhood sidewalks. Selina presented a color-coded map of where the neighborhood sidewalks are located. The Executive Committee considered a number of recommendations about where the sidewalks need to be placed, and Selina will write an article describing the proposals for the next Newsletter.

Susan Pascoe reported on the current status of the efforts to obtain historic designation for the WANG neighborhood areas. According to Susan, the National Register Coordinator will outline the requirements of a request letter and will identify the information to be collected for the request letter. If the criteria are met, the NRC will conduct a neighborhood survey. The Executive Committee agreed that efforts should be directed to the MoPac area on the west side of MoPac and the east of Exposition.

CAMPO/MoPac report by Ian. Ian will be on the committee designated by CAMPO to provide input on alternative options for MoPac expansion. The plan is to have a charrette in September, so that a technical team can review options and receive stakeholder input. Passenger rail to be considered.

Ian reported that MONAC is now addressing extensions of MoPac north and south because the Council and County Commissioners considering funding extensions. MONAC seeks to prevent or slow funding, and WANG support for MONAC position is submitted. Irwin noted that overpass funding and construction would slow MoPac expansion. Joyce reported on Cap Metro refund status and City's efforts to use CAMPO refund for neighborhood uses instead of right of way acquisition. \$20 million is available. ExComm passes motion to support legislative efforts to rededicate \$29M for neighborhood purposes, not right of way.

Liaison Report: Balie provided Liaison Report. The EMS station coming is coming in on budget because of the work of James Allman. Blake reported on traffic consolidation efforts. Bailie reported that a new neighborhood PAC is being created to support council members friendly to neighborhood concerns.

Neighborhood Plan Report: Blake reported that WANG can have its neighborhood plan considered with Brykerwood and Pemberton by 2003. Hal agreed to contact Carl Williams, President of Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association.

Membership Report: James Allman reported that dues forms need to include a return mailing address.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Ian reported that there is \$2057.82 in

checking, \$4571.44 in savings, \$1189.51 in the Oak Wilt fund, and 362 paid members.

V. New/Old Business

Mike conveyed a message from Ann Phipps: Due mainly to the efforts of council member Will Wynn, Austin PARD has found money to keep all neighborhood pools open 5-8 M-F, 12-7 Sat-Sun and Labor Day, through Labor Day. All swimmers are encouraged to contact all council members and ask for this to be built in to next year's budget. Budget is in process now. A motion was passed to thank the council members for designating funds for keeping pools open. Hal will also send a letter to council requesting adequate funds for pools through Labor Day in next year's budget.

A motion was passed urging the City to water new trees.

Hal mentioned the upcoming proposed revision to WANG's by-laws revisions to convert WANG to TUNPA.

It was reported that there was an article published in a San Antonio paper concerning WANG's efforts to mediate the Tarrytown Shopping Center dispute. Hal reported that he was interviewed on a local radio show about the topic.

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was passed.

**WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 10, 2001**

- I. Call Meeting to Order (7:10)
- II. Citizen Communications
 - A. Grande Communications
 - Update on Community Activities
 - Ida Hinojos Community Liaison
 - B. Mary Arnold
 - Lumberman's Proposed Zoning Change
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Zoning
 - B. Communications
 - 1. Annual Social
 - C. Transportation
 - 1. Sidewalks
 - 2. MoPac
 - 3. Historical District Update
 - D. Liaison
 - E. Neighborhood Plan
 - 1. Discussions with Pemberton and Brykerwoods
 - F. Membership
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. New/Old Business
 - A. New Organizational Documents
 - B. Other
- VII. Adjourn (8:45)

Minutes prepared by Gwen Jewiss



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Sidewalk Sub-Committee Update

The ExComm sidewalk subcommittee has completed a survey of the existing sidewalks within the WANG boundaries. The results were discussed at the WANG August meeting, and the ExComm prioritized desired sidewalk improvements and additions.

First priority was given to gaps in existing sidewalks throughout the neighborhood such as: NE corner of Exposition and Enfield; SE corner of Windsor Road and Exposition; south side of 35th Street west of Exposition; and both Westover and Windsor Roads at Mopac.

Second priority was given adding sidewalks to streets with the heaviest traffic such as: the west side of Exposition between 10th St. and Gilbert; the north side of Enfield between Forest Trail and Exposition; the south side of Windsor Road between Rockmoor and Pecos.

With this list of priorities, we will begin talks with the City of Austin and Capital Metro for funding of these improvements. Anyone with leads to additional funding possibilities is encouraged to contact Selina Serna at 477-5913.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Take care of your neighborhood! Send in this membership form or call Blake Tollett at 477-4028. Please take forms to your friends and neighbors and ask them to join WANG. An active membership will be a strong voice that's heard when critical issues are debated.

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