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2414 Exposition Blvd.
Suite B-105
Austin, Texas 78703

512/236-1611

*January 6th, 2003, 7:00 pm
Howson Branch Library*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Please Check Mailing Label for Renewal Date

Austin, Texas 78763-5722

P.O. Box 5722

West Austin Neighborhood Group



West Austin Neighborhood Group

Organized 1973

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

OFFICERS

Michael Cannatti
President

Susan Pascoe
Past President

Gwen Jewiss
Vice President

Erik Cary
Secretary

Selina Serna
Treasurer

Erik Cary
Assistant Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

James Allman
Joyce Basciano
Joseph Bennett
Linda Dickens
Stephen Griffith
Hal Katz
Ken Pfluger
Blake Tollett

HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Arnold
Sinclair Black
Hon. Lloyd Doggett
Hon. Will Wynn

NEWSLETTER

Hal Katz
Editor

Linda Dickens
Assistant Editor

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

THE NEIGHBOR

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

December, 2002

**President's Message
December 2002**

I am pleased to report that the Board of Directors for the West Austin Neighborhood Group held its annual retreat on December 2, 2002. At the retreat, a new group of officers was selected for the upcoming year, including yours truly – President; Susan Pascoe - Past-President; Gwen Jewiss – Vice President; Selina Serna – Treasurer; Erik Carey – Secretary; and Blake Tollett – Assistant Secretary. We are still in the process of identifying a President-Elect to complete the group of officers. The other Board members include Hal Katz, James Allman, Joyce Basciano, Stephen Griffith, Joe Bennett, Linda Dickens, Ken Pfluger and Michael Falk.

At the annual retreat, the Board members volunteered for various committee assignments. As you may know, the WANG Board currently relies on its committees to perform a major part of our operations. These committees reflect WANG's current priorities and include Zoning (Blake Tollett, chair), Communications (Gwen Jewess, chair), Liaison (Stephen Griffith, chair), Membership (James Allman, chair), Transportation (Susan Pascoe, chair), Historic Designation (Joe Bennett, chair), Infrastructure (Hal Katz, chair), and Bylaws (Susan Pascoe, chair). To assist with the committees' work, we are eager to identify non-Board members of WANG who are interested in assisting with the committee work. If you are interested in working with a WANG committee, please contact me or the committee chair directly. You can obtain additional information about the specific committee projects on our website at www.deepeddy.com/wang/committees.html. At the retreat, we also reviewed the accomplishments over the past year

and adopted new goals for the upcoming year, as reflected in the minutes set forth in this newsletter.

If there is one common thread among the various goals that we outlined for the upcoming year, it is that the membership of WANG needs to be expanded. This has been an objective for WANG over the past years, and will continue to be our highest priority for this year. While membership in a neighborhood organization typically grows only when there is a controversy or threat posed to the neighborhood, we cannot let WANG's strength and membership decline without risking losing some of the well-deserved respect and prestige this organization has obtained over the years. A vibrant and organized membership is important now because there are a number of potentially serious threats to our neighborhood that we must monitor and be prepared to address, including expansion of MoPac, zoning violations with commercial and residential development, and potential changes in the use of Lion's Golf Course or Camp Mabry.

As part of our campaign to increase membership, each of the Board members has agreed to sign up ten new memberships over the coming months, so please be supportive if you are approached with a request to join WANG. The cost is cheap (only \$20), but the benefits of WANG's activities redound to the entire neighborhood. As but one very concrete example (pun intended), when the proposals to expand MoPac were being considered by CAMPO, WANG participated forcefully in support of the local neighborhood opposition by circulating a publication to the entire neighborhood which alerted the neighborhood and encouraged attendance at the CAMPO hearing. As a direct result of this solicitation, the West Austin neighborhood turnout at the hearing was significant, including a fiery presentation by for-

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

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mer governor Ann Richards, who spoke eloquently in opposition to the MoPac expansion plans.

As always, we invite all current and new members to attend our monthly meetings on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at Howson Branch Library on Exposition Blvd. We are also working on our website so that it has more useful and up-to-date information for the neighborhood, so we urge you to visit us at www.deepeddy.com/wang and provide us with feedback whenever possible.

Michael Rocco Cannatti
338-9100
mike@hamiltonterre.com

**WANG Executive Committee
Retreat Minutes
December 2, 2002**

Attending Board Members: Susan Pascoe, Joyce Basciano, Michael Cannatti, Erik Cary, Linda Dickens, Michael Falk, Stephen Griffith, Gwen Jewiss, Hal Katz, Kenneth Pfluger, and Blake Tollett

The Executive Committee met for its annual executive session planning meeting.

Tree Planting: It was noted by Michael Cannatti that the Irwin Spear tree planting has been scheduled for the afternoon of December 29, 2002 in the pool area at Reed Park.

Committee Assignments

Membership - Linda Dickens agreed to serve on the committee along with committee chair James Allman.

Liaison - Stephen Griffith, Susan Pascoe, James Allman, Joyce Basciano, Gwen Jewiss, and Blake Tollett were assigned to the committee. Stephen Griffith agreed to serve as committee chairman. Susan Pascoe agreed to represent WANG at the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC). Ken Pfluger also agreed to assist with neighborhood parks.

Communications - Committee members were Hal Katz, Linda Dickens, Gwen Jewiss, Blake Tollett, Erik Cary, and Michael Cannatti. Gwen Jewiss will serve as chairman of the committee. Blake Tollett will continue to serve the committee by handling the advertising, and Hal Katz will serve the

committee as newsletter editor.

Transportation - Susan Pascoe will serve as chair with Selina Serna and Joyce Basciano as committee members.

Historic Preservation - Joe Bennett will continue to serve as chair with Gwen Jewiss as committee member. Others may be asked to serve as committee members.

Zoning - Blake Tollett will continue to serve as chair, with Erik Cary, Ken Pfluger, and Joe Bennett assisting.

Nominating - Blake Tollett and Michael Cannatti indicated interest in the committee. The President-Elect will also be expected to serve as chairman of the committee.

Bylaws - Susan Pascoe will serve as chairman. Hal Katz and Michael Falk will be assisting the committee. Erik Cary agreed to assist with editing as necessary.

Infrastructure - Hal Katz, Michael Cannatti, Gwen Jewiss, Joyce Basciano, Blake Tollett, and Susan Pascoe agreed to serve as committee members.

Officers

President - Michael Cannatti.
Vice-President - Gwen Jewiss.
Secretary - Erik Cary
Treasurer - Selena Serna
Assistant Secretary - Blake Tollett

The committee reviewed last year's goals and then moved into this year's goals. Each committee will review the following goals and approve and/or add to the goals for the year as are appropriate.

Goals for the Year

A. Directors terms and offices: It has been proposed that terms of office be two years, rather than one year in order to promote continuity.

B. Committee Appointments: Committee appointments were discussed as above.

C. Membership Growth - It was noted that membership is down from 400 members to 319. Michael Cannatti indicated that one of the most important goals for the year should be attracting new members. It was decided that each executive committee member would commit to increasing membership within the next 6 months by 10 new members each. The membership committee will come up with additional ideas to increase membership. Key issues which will drive membership this year are as follows:

1. Zoning - The zoning committee is to

come up with proposals with regarding to maintenance of the neighborhood. Among this years goals are coming up with plans to deal with flooding issues and the possibility of taking on a long-term project with regard to municipal bonds for dealing with flooding problems.

2. Communications - Hal Katz indicated that an informal discussion was held regarding the newsletter. Some changes in the pricing structure of advertising was suggested. Michael Cannatti indicated that he has been making progress in updating the web site. A discussion was had regarding the goal of obtaining e-mail addressed of the membership to facilitate electronic distribution of the newsletter, and important communications that cannot be done by newsletter.

3. Transportation - A discussion was had regarding transportation and sidewalk issues. Among transportation goals are the continued identification of critical areas for sidewalk development, including Enfield and Windsor Roads. The committee agreed to continue monitoring traffic issues relating to Texas Dept. of Transportation plans. It was suggested that efforts in this regard be emphasized this year in the historic preservation areas. The committee indicated that among this year's goals were greater participation in Envision Central Texas and other planning workshops.

4. Historic District - It was suggested that greater efforts be made to involve the neighborhood in historic preservation efforts, such as by publicizing plans in the newsletter or annual.

5. Liaison - Various boundary issues were discussed by the committee with regard to adjoining neighborhood groups. Various committee members agreed over the next year to involve neighboring groups to a greater degree. It was discussed that greater emphasis could be placed this year upon WANG's outreach to other neighborhood groups for the common good of Austin. Several committee members indicated this could be accomplished by more involvement with the Austin Neighborhood Council.

6. Long Term Projects - The committee discussed such long term projects as flooding bonds, and continued efforts on the neighborhood plan.

D. Treasurer's Report - WANG's financial status was informally discussed. Selina Serna, our new treasurer, has been in the process of converting our prior financial and accounting records over to a new system and will give her official report in January.

E. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned. Next month's regular meeting will be at Howson Library at 7:00 p.m. on January 6, 2003.

Sara Madera
REALTOR®.CRS.GRI.ABR.BROKER

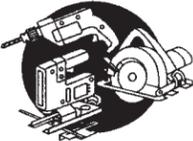


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ABIA unveils Barbara Jordan statue

A sculpture was unveiled last month at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to honor former U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan. The sculpture is in the lower level of Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The life-size statue is the landmark for the terminal which bears her name.

Jordan, a legendary U.S. Congresswoman, orator and civil rights leader, represented the people of Texas as State Senator then U. S. congresswoman for more than a decade. Her achievements included being the first African-American to serve in the Texas Senate since Reconstruction 1966-1972). Jordan was the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress from the South (1972-1978).

City's new reverse 9-1-1 system ready

The City of Austin now has something that only a few cities in Texas or the nation have - a system that can deliver an emergency message via a direct call into every home and business in any area of town. The system is an Emergency Notification System (ENS) and is managed by the Austin Police Department. How does it work? Let's assume Austin gets massive rainfall and flooding is expected in various areas of town. APD can go into its computer, open a map, and literally draw a line around the area of potential flooding. The system then calls 48 homes and businesses at once in the outlined area and plays an emergency message. Once a telephone is hung up at one location, the system automatically calls the next home or business. A recorded message up to 35 seconds long can be delivered to more than 300 homes in less than five minutes. If the system gets a busy signal at a home or business, it can be programmed to call that number back as many times as desired. The Emergency Notification System utilizes the State of Texas 9-1-1 database, which is the most accurate listing of telephone numbers in Texas. The State's database even includes unlisted numbers. The ENS was tested for the first time in September in the Holly neighborhood. The bi-lingual test message was delivered to about 400 homes. The APD delivered a survey to residents in advance asking them to rate a test and send the survey back. The majority of responses rated the system highly.

M C C A R T H Y
P R I N T

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Take care of your neighborhood! Please take forms to your friends and neighbors and ask them to join WANG. An active membership will be a strong voice that ABIA unveils Barbara Jordan statue

Yes, I want to join WANG.
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I have enclosed:
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