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*January 8th, 2001, 7:00 pm
(corner of Exposition and Entfeld)*

**WAVA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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."*

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Hal Katz
President

Linda 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
Eric Cary
Chris Garrigues
Balie Griffith
Sara Madera
Susan Pascoe
Selina Serna
Irwin Spear

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COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

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

THE NEIGHBOR

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

December, 2000

President's Message December 2000

This month Representative Sherri Greenberg will conclude her tenure as State House Representative for District 48. Representative Greenberg was not only an honorary member of the Executive Committee, but has also been a resident of our community for many years. During her ten years in office, Representative Greenberg has been active in ensuring that the issues that are important to this community are addressed. She has been a resource and an asset to the Executive Committee, and we would like to recognize her for her contributions.

We are fortunate to have Ann Kitchen, the newly elected State Representative for District 48, join us as an honorary member of the Executive Committee. We look forward to working with Ann and are honored to have her on the Committee.

One issue that I would like to bring to everyone's attention is the effort of neighboring community groups to preserve the historic character of our neighborhoods. As an increasing number of older, historic buildings are being torn down in Austin's neighborhoods and replaced by new structures, some residents have proposed that a historic district ordinance is needed. Under this type of ordinance, an area in which more than one-half of the buildings are at least 45 years old and contribute to the character of the area may qualify as a historic district. All alterations to houses and all sidewalk and street

projects in designated historic districts would be subject to review by the Historic Landmark Commission. The Commission would consider construction and materials, as well as height and setback requirements on lots to ensure that all changes are compatible with the character of the neighborhood.

The ordinance could also offer financial incentives to historic district residents. For instance, homeowners that rehabilitate their home may be granted a five-year property tax freeze. A ten-year property tax freeze may be given to those who rehabilitate a commercial building. Property owners that substantially improve substandard buildings may receive a full abatement of city taxes for ten years. Some believe a historic district designation has the potential to stabilize or even enhance a neighborhood's property values, as residents are encouraged to improve their property.

A draft of a historic district ordinance is expected to go before the Historic Landmark Commission in January. The Executive Committee has designated members to follow this effort and determine if our community is eligible to participate. We welcome your comments, questions, and participation along the way. We will continue to monitor the issue and assist in promoting the passage of this ordinance so that Austin's historic neighborhoods can be protected.

Hal Katz
703-5715
hkatz@hwlaw.com

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

TAYLOR BRANCH & TAYLOR SLOUGH PROJECT

In the next two years, West Austin residents can expect some major changes to two wastewater lift stations. The City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility Department plans to construct a new wastewater interceptor that will completely relieve the Taylor Branch facility and enable its demolition. In addition, the Taylor Slough lift station will be renovated to meet city and state design criteria. Work on both projects will occur concurrently beginning in May 2002

Located at opposite ends of Scenic Drive, the wastewater pump stations are common utility structures. They feature mechanical pumps used to push wastewater uphill or over uneven terrain where gravity flow is prohibited. The pumps are secured within concrete underground vaults with metal roof doors to provide maintenance access.

TAYLOR BRANCH

The Taylor Branch lift station is at the southeastern boundary of Mayfield Park. It is accessible by steps that lead to the bottom of a steep hill and is not visible from Scenic Drive. The project calls for boring and tunneling construction, which is less disparag-

**Minutes of ExComm Meeting
December 5, 2000**

Members Present: James Allman, Joyce Basciano, Michael Cannatti, Linda Dickens, Chris Garrigues, Balie Griffith, Gwen Jewiss, Hal Katz, Sara Madera, Irwin Spear, Blake Tollett, Susan Pascoe, Eric Cary

Zoning Committee

In preparation for the December Board of Adjustments Meeting, the agent for the residents at 3701-3705 Gilbert Street had written to WANG asking for support for a variance to erect an 8' tall privacy fence. The fence would be a solid brick wall to match the cladding on the residences. Portions of the fence are to be built without the variance, as they are not along the street line. ExComm members questioned whether a 7' fence would suffice, but the plan is to pursue the taller version. Blake exhibited photos he had taken of the site, and requested that ExComm members drive by in preparation for a probable phone poll later in the week.

Mr. Richard Suttles and Mrs. Angela Topfer asked for WANG's support for obtaining a "limited use permit" to allow the Topfler Foundation to have its executive offices in Pemberton Castle. It was noted that there would be only a maximum of three persons

ing to Mayfield Park, in order to build the new 18-inch diameter interceptor. When completed, the sewer line will connect to the Cross-Town Tunnel located near the intersection of 35th Street and Balcones Drive. Once the new gravity sewer interceptor is in place, the existing one will be abandoned and the Taylor Branch lift station will be demolished.

The project team is working closely with Mayfield Park supporters, City Parks and Recreation staff and members of its Board of Directors to restore the trail to its original condition. A landscape architect will take an inventory of all plants, shrubs and trees along the construction site. Vegetation identified as "significant for salvage" will be removed and replanted elsewhere in the park or returned to the area when the project is completed. Vegetation that may be damaged will be replaced with similar plants.

TAYLOR SLOUGH

Located further south is the 30-year old Taylor Slough lift station. It sits directly behind a single-family dwelling and a few feet away from the shores of Lake Austin. This portion of the project calls for renovating the lift station and redirecting flow north along Scenic Drive to the soon-to-be con-

working there and that there would be no visible changes to the property. Neighbors present expressed concern over the designation should the Topfler Foundation vacate the property. It was agreed that the Foundation and the neighbors would confer and try to reach an agreement prior to going before any City boards. WANG Transportation Committee also to review and make a recommendation to the ExComm.

Committee Reports

The Communications Committee noted that the January newsletter would be an expanded version. Linda and Blake to work on the additional advertising. Linda also requested that all items to be included in the newsletter be to her by the 10th of the month.

James reported that the Tarrytown Pharmacy has agreed to post notices regarding the updates on the West Austin EMS Station.

Susan Pascoe noted that members of the Transportation Committee had attended a National Historic District Meeting held at Mathews School. Old Enfield and Pemberton neighborhoods are trying to organize to apply for this designation. Portions of Brykerwoods and Tarrytown may be old enough to meet the 50-years+ crite-

structured interceptor at Mayfield Park.

The proposed 8-inch force main on Scenic Drive will require trenching beginning near 3100 Scenic Drive to the 2500 block, where Taylor Slough sits. The existing line beneath the street will eventually be abandoned in place.

Construction equipment will be stored inside the City of Austin property at the Taylor Slough site. For safety purposes, a construction fence will be built and eventually replaced with a permanent one made of decorative wrought iron.

During construction of the force main, traffic may be reduced to one lane along Scenic Drive during regular business hours. Flagmen will assist motorists by directing traffic during the construction phase. However, residents can expect two-way traffic to resume in the evenings and on weekends.

The anticipated 10-month construction begins May 2002 and should not disrupt utility service. The project is expected to cost approximately \$2.2 million. For more information, please call the public involvement office at 448-4459.

— Hermelinda Zamarripa

ria. Volunteers for photo documentation and other tasks are being sought.

Balie Griffith of the Liaison Committee presented a letter of thanks and a memento from Mrs. Roberta Crenshaw to Michael Cannatti for his help on the Sand Beach Preserve. It also was noted that the Stratus Development / Robert Mueller land swap decision is before City Council, and all are asked to voice support for the call to consider the two issues separately.

Gwen Jewiss noted that the Heritage Society and Historic Preservation Officer Barbara Sullivan had made a presentation to the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) to ask for support in its effort to have a City of Austin Historic Zoning Overlay program established. The overlay would help to preserve the neighborhoods, as well as to stimulate restoration of properties in 'at risk' neighborhoods via tax incentives. (More information to be provided as the plan develops.)

Hal noted that Diane Land has received and was considering Gwen's letter asking for Mrs. Daniels' participation in the West Austin History Project.

Linda Dickens noted that she has been trying to get together with Dr. Aidman to discuss the school traffic issues on Northwood.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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Trees

Blake informed everyone that the City had contacted him regarding the proposed Tree Memorials. The City has locations available in Westenfield and Tarrytown Parks. It was agreed that the memorial for Robin Irwin should be located in Reed Park. It also was noted that WANG previously had committed money for Westenfield Park as part of that park's renovation. Paula Sullivan had requested that the donation cover the cost of construction of a sandbox cover.

Next Meeting

Everyone was reminded that the next

meeting would be held on January 8th, at WAYA, corner of Exposition and Enfield.

Minutes prepared by Gwen Jewiss

WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 AGENDA
 JANUARY 8, 2001

- I. Call Meeting to Order (7:10)
- II. Citizen Communications
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Communications

- 1. Newsletter
- B. Membership
- C. Transportation
 - 1. Update on Historical Landmark Designation
- D. Zoning
 - 1. Update on Methodist Church
 - 2. Variance Requests
- E. Liaison
- F. Recruiting
 - 1. Distribution of New Members List and their Interests
 - V. Treasurer's Report
 - VI. New/Old Business
 - VII. Adjourn (8:45)