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*January 7th, 2002, 7:00 pm
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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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

Sue Pascoe
President

Michael Cannatti
President-Elect

Gwen Jewiss
Vice-President

Selina Serna
Secretary

Ian Inglis
Treasurer

Erik Carey
Assistant Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEES

James Allman
Membership Chair

Blake Tollett
Zoning Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

James Allman,
Joyce Basciano
Joe Bennett
Linda Neavel Dickens
Balie Griffith
Hal Hatz
Irwin Spear
Blake Tollett

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

December, 2001

President's Message December 2001

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that the Board of the West Austin Neighborhood Group has held its annual retreat. We elected new officers, reviewed the accomplishments over the past twelve months, and adopted new goals for the up-coming year.

As I outlined in the newsletter before the annual social, the Board has accomplished a great deal over the past year and is poised to accomplish even more over the next twelve months. I would like to recognize and congratulate the following individuals for their roles for the upcoming year: Susan Pascoe – President; Michael Cannatti – President Elect; Gwen Jewiss – Vice President; Ian Inglis – Treasurer; Selina Serna – Secretary; and Erik Cary – Assistant Secretary. The other board members include James Allman, Joyce Basciano, Joe Bennett, Linda Dickens, Balie Griffith, Irwin Spear, Blake Tollett and myself. I leave you in good hands.

As your departing president I would like to encourage you to become involved in WANG. The efforts of our membership, liaison, communications, transportation, zoning, nominating, parks, and neighborhood plan committees could benefit from the participation of more community volunteers. Please look through the goals identified during the retreat and set out in our minutes to determine if there are any issues in which you would like to become involved. Our successes and accomplishments as an organization significantly increase with greater involvement from our membership. It is also wonderfully rewarding to play a role in preserving and protecting our neighborhood.

Again, I would like to thank the dedication and hard work of all of the board

members. I am proud to be a part of WANG and am grateful for the opportunity to serve as president.

Hal Katz
703-5715
hkatz@hwlaw.com

Minutes of ExComm Meeting December 3, 2001

Members Present: Joe Bennett, Joyce Basciano, Erik Cary, Gwen Jewiss, Hal Katz, Ian Inglis, Irwin Spear, Blake Tollett, Susan Pascoe, Selina Serna.

Guests: Marc & Carolyn Wilson, Sonja Taborsky, John Sandbach, Lisa Bosman and Sara Madera

Sidewalks

Selina provided an update on the sidewalk developments, noting that CapMetro is finalizing its plans through January of 2002 and expects to commence work in April 2002. From now through the middle of January is the appropriate time for neighborhood input. Selina has relayed all of the neighbors' concerns to Cap Metro.

Citizen Communications

Several neighbors attended the meeting to voice their concerns and learn more about CapMetro's plans. Hal noted that over the years neighbors have expressed safety concerns as reasons for requesting sidewalks. Since CapMetro is the group that had funds available, Selina had been working with them to target the arteries: to and from schools and shopping centers. The proposed sidewalk locations are along existing CapMetro routes. Ian also reported that one of the goals is to provide wheelchair accessibility at bus stops. WANG has been trying to provide citizen

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outreach for input from the neighbors. Some inquired as to whether CapMetro would consider relocating the bus stop in lieu of the proposed paving.

The Wilsons stated that they are not in favor of having a sidewalk in front of their house due to concerns about the possible loss of trees and concerns regarding the aesthetics of any possible retaining walls. Some neighbors also expressed concern about how the proposed sidewalks would impact their existing sprinkler systems. Discussion ensued regarding the setback requirements, as well as right of way, and what CapMetro would or would not possibly be inclined to do as remediation. Other questions included proposed widths of grass strips, proposed proximity to trees, and whether, with homeowner contribution, CapMetro would consider alternate paving materials. It is hoped that CapMetro will further clarify these issues.

In response to questions about putting traffic calming devices along Exposition, it was noted that since the road is a major artery for emergency services, road humps would probably not be an option.

All of the neighbors present requested that a CapMetro representative come out and look at their properties. Gwen requested that Selina try to get a representative from CapMetro to attend the January or February meeting and provide an update.

Zoning Issues

Zoning Chair Blake Tollett noted that there are two Board of Adjustment cases. One is for 2515 Woolridge, where the applicant proposes lessening the setback from 25' to 15'. At Joyce's request, WANG will support the Brykerwoods Neighborhood Association regarding a proposed expansion to an existing vet clinic, at 150 West 35th Street, where there is a request to eliminate the required seven parking spaces which should accompany the proposed addition.

It was noted that in the recent rains, Stamford Lane had flooded, and a woman and her children had been trapped in their car. Apparently, flooding along this street has long been an issue, and recent increases in impervi-

ous cover along the street are only worsening the situation. Specifically, 2200 Stamford was pointed out as having been right at the limit of impervious coverage in 1999, and it was noted that there had been additional paving work done at that address. It seems that there should have been a case before the Board of Adjustment if more impervious cover was added. It was determined that WANG had not received a response from the City regarding the enforcement of impervious cover limitations. Blake will follow up.

Annual Retreat

Everyone was reminded that the retreat would be held on December 13, 2001, from 6-8 PM, location to be announced.

Historic District

The areas of the neighborhood to be photographed for consideration of historical designation have been identified. Irwin is planning to do the photographing before the next meeting. Susan reported that the historical consultant had been released since the Old Enfield, Pemberton, and Brykerwoods Neighborhood Associations had not been able to raise the \$20,000 to retain the consultant. If WANG is planning to pursue the designation, a major fundraising effort will be necessary.

Transportation Committee

The MoPac crusade continues. This year, CAMPO can claim a victory for limiting the expansion plans study to Phase 1.

Ian was thanked for his ongoing efforts. Irwin suggested that one situation that leads to considerable rush-hour back-ups on MOPAC are the stoplights on the southern portion of the roadway.

Nominating Committee

It was noted that the proposed successor to Sarah Madera's spot failed to attend the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ian reported that there is \$969.98 in checking, \$5164.26 in savings, \$1190.91 in Oak Wilt funds. The current membership stands at 397 members. Three new members joined at this

evening's meeting

Minutes

The November minutes were corrected to indicate that Irwin Spear was in attendance.

Minutes prepared by Gwen Jewiss

Reed Park Oaks Inoculated Against Oak Wilt

The centerpiece Live Oak trees at the bend of the creek in Reed Park were inoculated against oak wilt in November. As previously reported, oak wilt was discovered at Reed Park in July, 2000, in the trees on the south side of the swimming pool. The infected trees were treated within days, and since then city forester Jay Culver has been checking regularly on the condition of these and other Live Oaks in the park.

The trees at the bend of the creek are close enough to the infected trees to be in danger of getting the disease by way of intertwined roots. If left untreated, an infected tree will typically die within a short time. To prevent possible infection and loss of these much-loved trees by the creek, Mr. Culver prevailed upon Oak Wilt Specialists of Texas to help. Jon Long, owner of Oak Wilt Specialists of Texas, donated both chemicals and labor, a value to the neighborhood of \$1,100.00.

Asked about his generous gift, Mr. Long stated, "We love trees. Big, majestic trees are something to be preserved for future generations." He started his business three years ago because he saw a need for a company focused on dealing with oak wilt in Central Texas. He serves on the state oak wilt board, and keeps current with the problem state wide. He says the battle against oak wilt goes on and on, but it's important to keep rescuing trees from certain death sentences so they can live on for years to come. For more information about oak wilt, see www.stopoakwilt.com.

For more information about the trees at Reed Park, or to support enhancements to the park, contact Ann Phipps of Friends of Reed Park at 472-3199.



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Construction Update

In Spring 2002, the City of Austin will begin roadway and utility reconstruction projects: Enfield Road (Exposition to the bridge over Lamar), Enfield Road/Parkway (Windsor to Lamar), and West Lynn Street (Enfield to W. 6th).

Along Enfield, improvements will focus on street reconstruction; new water, wastewater (sewer), storm drain and inlets; and new sidewalks on the north side of Enfield Road. This project may last approximately 24 months. The 6-8 month long Enfield/Parkway Project will create new water and wastewater lines, plus pavement overlay of Enfield. The West Lynn Street Project, projected to take less than one year, will involve street reconstruction.

Construction will be phased to reduce disruption. Appropriate detours and traffic control measures will be used during construction. Please note that street widening is not part of any of these projects. In addition, no intersections are scheduled for widening.

If you have questions about the work, call Anne Scharlach, Project Manager for the Enfield Road/Parkway project (505-5627), Dennis Crabill about the West Lynn Project (974-7232), or Paulinda Lanham-Mackie (974-7178) about the Enfield Road Project.

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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