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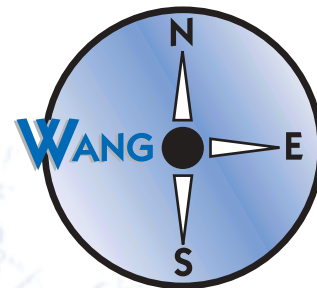
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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."*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Pascoe
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Michael Cannatti
President-Elect

Gwen Jewiss
Vice-President

Selina Serna
Secretary

Ian Inglis
Treasurer

Erik Cary
Assistant Secretary

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James Allman
Membership Chair

Blake Tollett
Zoning Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

February, 2002

President's Message January 2002

Your Executive Committee conducted its annual retreat in December 2001 to review the year and determine goals for 2002. Goals this year include: increasing membership to strengthen both the association and the representation; continuing the investigation of a westside historic district designation; continuing efforts with traffic and transportation (sidewalks, congestion issues, MoPac); continuing efforts to preserve and enhance the neighborhood with a variety of activities, including at least one Neighborhood Safety Meeting.

Of course, the BIG news this month is the surprising decision by TxDOT to halt work on central MoPac. Through persistence and hard work, our neighborhoods had made significant gains with the MoPac issues. CAMPO had established a Special Committee which included neighborhood representation. The Special Committee then hired nationally known consultants to review TxDOT's concepts and develop alternatives. Resolutions from the Special Committee were adopted by CAMPO at their December 2001 meeting. Important components of the resolution required that the consultant recommendations be included in the environmental impact study as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and that CAMPO be a "cooperating agency" during the process. That would occur with a committee of CAMPO members and public representatives who would provide oversight and report progress to CAMPO.

On January 30, at a meeting of the CAMPO Executive Committee, with Federal Highways Administration staff present, TxDOT admitted to Senator Barrientos, CAMPO Chair, that they were not moving forward due to lack of "consulting" funds for this fiscal year. Interestingly, Bill Garbade, TxDOT District Engineer, when questioned, stated that TxDOT knew about the funding deficit in early October. Senator Barrientos then asked Garbade if the motion passed by CAMPO in December had anything to do with the decision not to proceed. Garbade stated that it did not. The Senator asked that his questions go on the record to clearly indicate that it was a TxDOT decision

not to proceed with the MoPac project.

The neighborhood representatives involved with this for the past months and years agree that the decision to stop is absolutely the wrong decision. There is no doubt that improved mobility along the MoPac/US 183 corridor is important and the consultants convincingly demonstrated that it could be done without destroying the adjacent neighborhoods. In next month's newsletter, we will print the resolutions adopted by CAMPO which will give you details on the consultants recommendations.

And, an interesting continuing note happened during the CAMPO meeting on February 11th. TxDOT requested approval for a study of HOV lanes for South MoPac. This is now being represented as a separate project and pulled out of its original context of the studies on north MoPac through the central city. The study was approved 10-9 with all members of the City Council on CAMPO, Reps. Kitchen, Naishtat and Dukes and Commissioner Sonleitner voting "no."

My thanks to Sid Convington, Old Enfield Homeowners Assn. and Karen Sonleitner for information used in this message. Stay tuned for the continuing story...

Susan Pascoe
494-1386
spascoe@ascensionhealth.org

WANG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 4, 2002

Attending Board Members: Erik Cary, Joe Bennett, Selina Serna, Linda Neavel Dickens, Gwen Jewiss, Blake Tollett, James Allman, Balie Griffith, Hal Katz, Emily Covich, Michael Cannatti

Guests: Virginia Thomas, Sonia Taborsky, Jaaron Wood with Stewart Homes Corporation, Marshall Durrett, APD Officer Tim Atkinson; Sara Madera

Citizen Communication

Virginia Thomas— expressed concern about a blind spot at the corner of Pecos & Enfield, reiterating a similar concern brought up by Sonia Taborsky at the January board meeting.

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

A member of the transportation committee was to research the placement of the bus stop at this intersection - board will follow up on the results of this research. Ms. Thomas puts much effort into keeping the trash on Enfield Road picked up (thank you, Ms. Thomas!). Blake will contact the City of Austin, the Golf course, LCRA and WAYA about improving upkeep and trash clean up on the Enfield Road sections of their properties. Michael will contact a local boy scout club to ask if they might be interested in adopting Enfield Road.

APD Officer Tim Atkinson—Property crime is on the rise in our neighborhood. Intruders target unlocked doors and old wooden windows that can be pushed out—most often entries are not forced and happen in the mid-afternoon. Home security inspections are provided by the Austin Police Department. **Call the APD mainline 974-5340 to schedule an inspection of your home.** Insurance discounts for these inspections are available.

Officer Atkinson is being promoted to Special Events coordinator with the ADP and will no longer be our District Representative as of February 28, 2002. There will be no replacement for the foreseeable future due to shortages in the police department. It was motioned and approved that Blake (a member of the Police Chief's Forum) write a letter protesting this delayed replacement. It was pointed out that the City Council approved additional funding for the police department, but hiring and training appropriate personnel is a slow process. Officer Atkinson was thanked for his hard work as or neighborhood representative; a letter to the chief of police will be written expressing how valuable a resource he has been to our neighborhood.

Marshall Durrett—is building a house at corner of Exposition & McCullough and will be seeking a back corner variance. Variance will be discussed when it comes up to the board of adjustment.

Mark Schwartz—will be sending a letter to the City of Austin regarding lack of adequate drainage in our neighborhood, especially Stamford Road. Lack of enforcement of impervious cover regulations aggravate this problem. It was motioned and approved that WANG also write a letter expressing similar concerns and requesting that a representative from the Watershed Department attend a neighborhood meeting in the near future to discuss this issue. Future action—form a committee to further investigate drainage problems in our neighborhood. **Neighbors with major drainage problems are asked to contact a member of the Executive Committee so that we can track**

other areas with this problem.

**Committee Reports
Communications Committee**

Motioned and approved that we pay \$250 for the February issue of the newsletter.

Membership Committee

Membership has fallen recently. Members are asked to share their issues of the newsletter with their neighbors and discuss benefits of membership.

Liaison Committee

Our new EMS station is under construction adjacent to Deep Eddy Pool. The board needs a new member to attend the regular Austin Neighborhood Council meetings. Gwen will communicate via e-mail with other board members to find someone to fill this role.

Zoning Committee

3202 Cherry—previously reported variance request passed 4/1.

2201 Woodmont—house previously built with 56% impervious cover, exceeding the 45% maximum per city code. The current owners are requesting a variance to renovate and maintain this excess impervious cover, although renovation plans filed during the permitting process appear to show that the excess impervious cover would be removed. Blake will investigate the % of impervious cover approved by the city at the time a permit was issued. Motion was approved to oppose any variance request, particularly in light of the drainage problems already occurring in the Woodmont area.

3202 Enfield—city cannot move forward on investigating previously reported private improvement of city right-of-way due to lack of evidence.

Parks Committee

Friends of West Enfield Park have requested additional money for improvements. Blake will ask a representative from the group to write an article for the newsletter discussing their planned improvements.

Transportation Committee

Joe Bennett is taking the lead on the neighborhood historical designation project. His focus initially will be reviewing maps to identify the area we want to target for historical designation.

Treasurer's Report

The following account balances were reported: Checking \$1,358.98; Savings \$5,165.20 (\$750-1,000 of which is encumbered); Oak Wilt \$1,191.31. Current paid membership stands at 378.

New Business

Lions Municipal Golf Course The board was notified of on-going discussions regarding possible trade of Lions Municipal golf course land (owned by UT) for comparable

acreage at Robert Mueller Airport. This trade could threaten the mixed-use development being planned for the Robert Mueller airport land. This issue will be addressed by the city council in the near future. The board will discuss further at our next meeting.

"Trowel and Error" Gardening Symposium, the annual fund-raising event for our treasured Mayfield Park, has been scheduled for March 30, 2002. All tax-deductible donations benefit Mayfield Park's on-going restoration of the house and gardens. It was motioned and approved that WANG join in sponsoring this event with a donation of \$250.

The March 4, 2002 board meeting will include a presentation on the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer by their conservation district. The presentation will include a slide show and discussion of how the aquifer works, how and where it is laid out, and potential threats to the aquifer.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Minutes prepared by Selina Serna.

**MAYFIELD PARK
GARDENING SYMPOSIUM**

On Saturday, March 30, from 10 AM-1 PM, Friends of the Parks will host the 8th in a series of "must hear" lectures at **Trowel and Error**, Mayfield Park's annual rite of Spring for Central Texas gardeners. In *Roses For Austin*, Dicke Patterson, nurseryman and ultimate rose person, shares his special interest in roses—antiques, modern and English. Claire Smith, landscape specialist and owner of Murffy's Landscapes, describes, in *Deer Resistant Native and Adaptive Plant Varieties*, how to design landscapes using native and adaptive plants that are deer resistant. To round off the day, Ellen Zimmermann, certified herbalist, discusses landscaping, culinary, cosmetic, and medicinal uses in *The Wonder of Herbs*.

For those who arrive early enough, Mayfield's hard-to-find heirloom bulbs and perennials are available for your April garden. Also featured is the legendary raffle of "garden goodies." No one leaves **Trowel and Error** without a smile, and many leave with an armful of heirloom plants.

It's a wonderful way to spend a morning on the day before Easter...a beautiful setting, interesting and useful information, and a chance to support one of Austin's favorite and enchanting parks, right in our own backyard.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks, a non-profit organization, **Trowel and Error** is the solitary fund-raiser for historic Mayfield Park. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

Old West Austin Historic District Progress Report

Ralph Newlan, an architectural historian retained by OWAHD, has completed the following architectural aspects of the nomination: verified the volunteer-completed survey, redone volunteer-completed photography as needed, and made determinations about the "contributing/ non-contributing" status of the 1400+ properties in the area. He selected forty-eight properties to be highlighted as "typical" of the different architectural styles in the District, and created a database of all OWAHD properties with date of construction and contributing or non-contributing. He has completed a map indicating the contributing/ non-contributing properties, and a map with each house color-coded by its date of construction (in 5 yr. increments). This clearly shows the development patterns within the three neighborhoods of BrykerWoods, Pemberton and Old Enfield. He has determined that the mean construction period for the District is 1935-40. This "development map", which also distinctly shows all post-1953 houses (the cut-off date), will be used by the Texas Historical Commission to draw the final District boundaries. Currently OWAHD is 65% contributing, which well exceeds the requirement of more than 51%.

OWAHD also contracted with Amy Dase, an architectural historian with Prewitt & Assoc., to undertake the historical research for the nomination. She will write the "contextual" component of the nomination which describes how OWAHD meets the criteria to be a National Register District.

Mr. Newlan and Ms. Dase will present the OWAHD nomination to the Texas Historical Commission Board of Review. After the nomination is approved, they will incorporate any changes into the Nomination before forwarding it to the National Park Service for final approval projected for early 2003.

The OWAHD effort has raised over \$29,000 in the three neighborhoods to date to pay the costs of the architectural historians. Fund raising continues in order to raise an additional \$15,000 to complete their contracts. The Nomination will cost approx. \$45,000.

OWAHD volunteers are presently completing a descriptive brochure for mail-out to all OWAHD property owners that will include information about whether the owner's property is contributing or non-contributing, and provide information about that status.

Make donations to the National Register District Nomination Phase II fund-raiser on the Internet at <http://www.charitygift.com/CharitySearch> to make your 2002 tax-deductible donation for long term preservation of BrykerWoods, Pemberton, and Enfield.

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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P R I N T

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