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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's heard when critical issues are debated.

- Yes, I want to join WANG.
- I want to renew my WANG membership.

I have enclosed:

- \$20 household membership
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Date _____

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Make checks payable to WANG
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WANG
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Howson Branch Library
March 3rd, 2003, 7:00 pm

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."*

OFFICERS

Michael Cannatti
President

Susan Pascoe
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Gwen Jewiss
Vice President

Erik Cary
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Selina Serna
Treasurer

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

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Sinclair Black
Hon. Lloyd Doggett
Hon. Will Wynn

NEWSLETTER

Hal Katz
Editor

Linda Dickens
Assistant Editor

THE NEIGHBOR

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

February, 2003

President's Message
February 2003

Fellow Neighbors:

As preliminary matter, I want to thank the many neighbors and other concerned citizens who attended our February board meeting for taking the time out of their day (and night) to participate in our neighborhood business. We had a number of items to address, including a report from our APD representative, a number of variance requests (including a report on the status of the proposed sale of the Dill School property for use as a private school), a vote to re-opt into the City's no-yard-parking ordinance and a special appearance by city council candidate, Brewster McCracken. The board of directors for WANG works very hard to seriously address neighborhood concerns, and we are gratified to know that others in our community are also concerned about what happens in this special part of Austin.

West Austin News Article:

WANG's February 3 board of directors meeting was the subject of an article in the latest edition of West Austin News entitled "West Austin Neighborhood Group Leaders Need to Shift Priority to Public Safety." The article described in good detail the various variance requests that were addressed at the February meeting, but also expressed concerns about WANG's response to a report that APD "SWAT teams stormed a home in the heart of Tarrytown on Richard Lane looking for a registered sex-offender," suggesting that WANG needs to shift its priority to public safety issues.

Without wanting to sound too defensive, I feel compelled to inform our membership that WANG's board did suggest, at the meeting, a number of possible responses to the situation, including coordinating

with the APD district representative for follow-up surveillance, registering any complaints about police efforts with the APD Central West Commander's Forum meeting and having the neighbors report any suspicious activity to the police. In addition, possible zoning-based remedies were discussed for addressing the situation. While neighborhood organizations have somewhat limited abilities to unilaterally resolve criminal activities, WANG is working to protect our neighborhood by working with the police, notifying the neighbors of the situation and monitoring the alleged activity. Hopefully, the handling of this situation reflects well on our community's awareness and responsiveness in addressing potential problems. WANG hopes that, by being neighborly, we will watch out for and protect our neighborhood.

As for prioritizing public safety, WANG does work on public safety issues. For example, WANG was instrumental in having an EMS station built in our neighborhood above Deep Eddy pool. WANG regularly coordinates with our APD district representative (Office Stephen Fleming) on police matters pertaining to our neighborhood. WANG worked vigorously to oppose the expansion of MoPac, which would have sent substantial cut-through traffic through our neighborhood. WANG is currently working to have sidewalks installed in our neighborhood to make walking safer for our neighbors. WANG has also sought traffic calming protections for our neighborhood. Through its website, WANG provides police reports of possible criminal activity affecting our neighborhood.

Mayfield Park Spring Gardening Symposium:

You are invited by Friends of the Park to Mayfield's 2003 Spring Gardening Symposium, TROWEL AND ERROR, will be held on April 5, 2003 in Mayfield Park.

continued, next page

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

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

continued from cover

A fundraiser for Mayfield Park and a long time tradition for Central Texas gardeners, the symposium will feature a series of "must hear" lectures by Jeff Yarbrough (aquatic garden specialist and owner of Emerald Garden Nursery) entitled "Pond Plants for Shade and Sun Gardens"; by Cathy Nordstrom (backyard habitat expert, owner of San Souci Landscape Design) entitled "Woodland Haven and Meadow Delight—The Joys of Gardening for Wildlife" and Trisha Shirey (grounds manager, Lake Austin Spa Resort) entitled "Made for the Shade: Well-Adapted Plants for Shady Places."

I can highly recommend this event to you, not only because my mom is involved in organizing the symposium, but also because it is a wonderful way to spend the morning in probably the prettiest park around. You can learn interesting and useful information, and at the same time, support a neighborhood jewel by contributing to Mayfield's sole fund-raising event. It will be the best multi-tasking you do all month. All tax-deductible donations benefit Mayfield Park/Community Project's restoration of the house and gardens.

WANG Web Site:

For those of you who enjoy pottering around the world wide web, please be sure to visit our new and frequently (if not continuously) changing WANG web site – www.deepeddy.com/wang. We are working hard to keep it updated with relevant neighborhood information, such as relevant police reports, neighborhood events, zoning ordinance information, and status information on the Dill School. Also, lots of useful information is provided at the "Helpful Information" button (www.deepeddy.com/wang/helpful.html).

As always, please feel free to contact me on matters of neighborhood concern.

Michael Rocco Cannatti
338-9100
mike@hamiltonterre.com

WANG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 3, 2003

Attending Board Members: Michael Cannatti, Joyce Basciano, Joe Bennett, Erik Cary, Stephen Griffith, Gwen Jewiss, Hal Katz, Susan Pascoe, Kenneth Pfluger, Selina Serna, and Blake Tollett

Guests: Ron Magnuson, Dr. George Edwards, John Joseph, Jr., Steve Turnquist, Terry Irion, Vince Huebinger, Officer Stephen J. Fleming (APD), and numerous other neighbors were in attendance.

Update from Austin Police Dept.

Officer Stephen J. Fleming reports that the Commander's Forum will be held on February 6, 2003. One of the topics of discussion will be a construction scam that has been perpetrated in Austin.

Officer Fleming reports that the man wanted by APD in connection with a car jacking and robbery in the area of East William Cannon was arrested in Harris County.

Officer Fleming also reports that the APD along with the U.S. Marshall's Office sought the assistance of the Travis County Sheriff's Office and APD's SWAT team to execute a warrant at a residence located on the corner of Richard Lane and Hillview Road. The individual who was the subject of the warrant, Jeffery Scott Fields, was wanted in connection with the alleged disappearance of a woman and with regard to two alleged sexual assaults. Mr. Fields, who is believed to be a Registered Sex Offender, was thought to frequent the Richard Lane residence owned by Ms. Saxon Fox. Mr. Fields was not located at the residence, and is still sought by local and federal authorities.

Neighbors expressed concern about the situation and Officer Fleming indicated that there was an ongoing investigation pertaining to these matters. If you have information about Mr. Fields or any illegal activity in the area, you are asked to contact crime stoppers or Officer Fleming. His information is available on the WANG website at <http://www.deepeddy.com/wang/>.

In response to neighbor concerns, Officer Fleming indicated that patrolling of the area around Good Shepherd Church would be stepped up on Sundays when numerous cars are illegally parked. Officer Fleming indicated that parishioners would be likely first warned and then ticketing would begin within one or two weeks after the notification.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 2003 meeting were approved.

Committee Reports

Zoning: Good Shepherd Church — Dr. George Edwards reports that there was a meeting between the Windsor-Exposition Neighborhood Group ("WENG") and officials at Good Shepherd Church and its architect. Dr. Edwards reports that WENG has several concerns with the expansion plan including, 1) parking and traffic congestion, 2) maintenance and trash disposal; 3) the height of structures, and 4) the fact that the Church's expansion will exacerbate existing problems. As a result of ongoing negotiations, Good Shepherd has tentatively indicated that it will its parking to include some underground parking, will reduce the height of the building from three stories to two stories, and will move the pickup and drop-off site for children attending school. The Church has not responded to WENG's request that the size of the second fellowship hall be reduced.

2608 West 7th Street (Maudies) - A variance has been requested by Mr. Joe Draker of Draker Enterprises (Maudies) to decrease the off-street parking requirement from 72 off-street parking spaces to 61 off-street parking spaces in order to expand the size of the restaurant into the space formerly occupied by the previous laundromat. No representative was present from Maudies. Blake Tollett reported that, as of yet, there has been no neighbor opposition, despite the fact that overflow will likely end up in the neighborhood. Blake indicated that he will continue to monitor the situation.

2418 Scenic - The owner, through his agent, is requesting a variance from a 25 foot front set-back to a zero foot set back. No representative from the owner appeared at the meeting. Several neighbors indicated that they were opposed to the proposed changes. No one indicated that they were in favor of the change. The Board voted unanimously in favor of opposing the proposed variance, with Erik Cary abstaining from the vote.

2201-2205 Exposition — Owner is Exposition West Joint Venture. Variances have been requested to 1) decrease the minimum front street setback requirement from 25 feet to 0 feet for Lots 1B and 2A in order to maintain a single-family attached residential use on each lot in an SF-3 zoning district; 2) decrease the minimum lot width requirement from 25 feet to 15 feet for Lots 1B and 2A in order to maintain a single-family residence; and 3) decrease the minimum rear yard setback requirement from 10 feet to 0 feet for Lots 1B and 2A in order to maintain a single-family residence. Several neighbors indicated that they were opposed to the proposed changes. Terry Irion, representing the

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developer, indicated that the changes were merely to effect a change in ownership from a condominium regime to that of individual home ownership. The Board voted (6-3) to oppose the variance, with Erik Cary and Mike Cannatti abstaining from the vote.

2007 McCall Road (Dill School property) – Owner is Austin Public Schools (Jack Kinkel). The applicant proposes to apply for a change of use from public school to a private primary school. Representative Vince Huebinger appeared and presented plans for the French primary school, Lycee Français Austin (LFA). The school plans to provide a French-American curriculum in a multicultural environment and is open to students of all nationalities. The school plans to use all existing buildings, and the primary changes will be additional parking and a curb cut onto Windsor Road to facilitate the drop off of children in order to meet City zoning requirements. The Board decided to solicit neighbor input so that meaningful input could be made to the City's Zoning and Platting Committee. The hearing is presently scheduled for February 11, 2003.

City's Parking Ordinance - The Board has previously voted to opt into the City's no-yard-parking ordinance. However, the City changed its opt-in requirements. The Board ratified its previous vote and again voted to approve the ordinance and to do all acts necessary to meet the City's requirements to opt into the ordinance.

Communications — No report.

Liaison — The liaison committee met in separate session. Subcommittee member Joyce Basciano reported that at the Jan. 28th Monac meeting Will Wynn and Betty Dunkerly agreed to look into the noise ordinance as it pertains to MoPac and consider raising noise barriers.

Joyce also reported that at the ANC executive committee meeting held on January 8, committee members were supportive of the residents' concerns. Susan Pascoe indicated that at the general ANC meeting held on January 22, the committee entertained discussion about the noise ordinance, and the Lance Armstrong Bike Route was also discussed.

Membership Committee — No report.

Transportation Committee — It was reported that the Enfield Road construction is expected to begin in the Spring to early summer of this year.

Historic Preservation Committee — No report.

Infrastructure — No report.

Nominating – It was reported that long-time resident Al Almanza is expected to be nominated for the executive committee.

Treasurer's Report — It has been reported that the checking account balance is \$2,775.70; savings account balance is \$3,172.22; oak wilt account balance is \$1,194.57, and membership is currently 331.

New Business

It was proposed that WANG sponsor Mayfield Park's annual "Trowell and Error" Spring Gardening Symposium this year. It was

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noted that WANG has supported this event in the past. The Board voted to approve a contribution of \$250 to sponsor the event.

MAYFIELD PARK GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

On April 5, from 10 AM to 1 PM, Mayfield Park, dressed in its best Spring finery, will host Trowel and Error, the symposium that annually attracts gardeners from far and wide to hear experts give time-tested tips for beautiful gardens.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks, Trowel and Error will present Jeff Yarbrough, aquatic garden specialist, Pond Plants for Shade and Sun Gardens; Cathy Nordstrom, backyard habitat expert, Woodland Haven and Meadow Delight—The Joys of Gardening for Wildlife; and Trisha Shirey, Grounds Manager, Lake Austin Spa, Made for the Shade—Well-Adapted Plants for Shady Places.

For those who arrive early enough, Mayfield's hard-to-find heirloom bulbs, perennials and possibly water lilies may be purchased for your April garden. Also featured will be the legendary raffle of "garden goodies". No one ever leaves Trowel and Error without a smile and many with an armful of heirloom plants.

It's a wonderful way, rain or shine, to spend a morning; learning how to add color into your Spring landscape while at the same time relaxing in West Austin's own beautiful back yard...and for only a \$5.00 donation!!