

M C C A R T H Y

P R I N T



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From the bylaws of WANG:

This association shall be a non-profit, non-partisan organization open to all residents within the boundaries of a designated area within the City of Austin. The association shall be concerned with community development, the ecology, the safety and other related matters that indirectly and directly affect the quality and character of the neighborhood and the City of Austin. The association's goal is to preserve the neighborhood and to protect it from deterioration.

Protect Our Water!

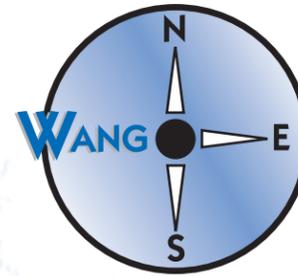
If you see anyone dumping illegal or unknown substances into the storm sewers, please report this to the City of Austin Environmental Hotline: **499-2550**.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Howson Branch Library
February 7th, 2000, 7:00 pm

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 through advocacy and action."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Blake Tollett
President

Hal Katz
Vice-President

Walt McCool
Secretary

Ian Inglis
Treasurer

STANDING COMMITTEES

James Allman
Membership Chair

Linda Dickens
Historian

VACANT
Zoning Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joyce Basciano
Michael Cannatti
Don Cook
Chris Garrigues
Balie Griffith
Dudley Houghton
Gwen Jewiss
Sara Madera
Irwin Spear

HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Arnold
Sinclair Black
Hon. Lloyd Doggett
Hon. Sherri Greenberg
Hon. Beverly Griffith

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

THE NEIGHBOR

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

January, 2000

President's Message January, 2000

Fellow Neighbors:

Your Executive Committee (ExComm) went on retreat Saturday the 8th. In this newsletter you will find five proposed WANG committees with tentatively specified areas of responsibility. We are asking the membership to review this table of organization, and if you have suggestions for change, or just comments, give me a call or come to the next scheduled meeting on 7 February (7pm at the Howson Library). The list includes all the goals, long-term and short-term, brought up at the retreat. We tried to think ambitiously but realistically, keeping in mind our purpose "to preserve our neighborhood and protect it from deterioration through advocacy and action." Change will come to our area, as it has come to all of Austin. We will need to not only react to, but also anticipate and guide, these developments. I believe that now is a very important time for neighborhood organizations. We have been empowered as a key stakeholder by the City concerning what transpires within our designated boundaries, as well as in the entire City, which makes sense since we are the people who live here. Your ExComm is going to be looking to the membership for help in tackling some of these goals. As you read through and consider the list, I ask each of you if you might have some time and expertise to donate to one of the proposed committees. We will keep you informed as to which goals will be addressed first and whom you can contact to help. I want to especially thank Linda Dickens for suggesting and organizing the retreat and Hal Katz for working closely with Linda and allowing us the use of his office conference room.

School Board Election: It appears that neighbor Ted Whatley is stepping down

after two terms on the Board. He is asking if one of you would step up and run for the Westside seat. Filing begins February 22nd.

Mayfield Park: Let us all mark Saturday 8 April on our calendars for the annual Trowel and Error at Mayfield Park. This is the Park's sole fund-raising event, and of course the Park is one of our neighborhood's jewels. More about this in future newsletters.

Dog and Cat Owners: As neighbor Jane Greig has pointed out in her column, pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after cats as well as dogs. We are also responsible for controlling our pets. I have heard complaints from cat owners about loose dogs killing cats and neighbors complaining about loose cats killing songbirds.

ExComm Changes: Walt McCool has resigned and is moving to Dallas. He will be greatly missed not only for his minute taking but also for his calm and sage advice. Walt has served on the ExComm since the Fall of 1994. Pending election, Becky Combs has consented to fill the rest of Walt's term.

Agenda: We will consider, and possibly vote, on the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) petition from the neighbors just south of O'Henry Middle School. Marlene Fowler has asked us to request a City traffic study on Windsor Road west of Mo-Pac. We will hold a special election to fill Walt McCool's unexpired term on the ExComm. We will receive an update on the Tarrytown Center and other business. Finally, we will evaluate the retreat.

As always, please feel free to contact me on items of Neighborhood concern.

Blake Tollett
3701 Bonnie Road
477-4028

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
JANUARY 3, 2000

Committee members present: James Allman, Joyce Basciano, Michael Cannatti, Don Cook, Linda Dickens, Chris Garrigues, Balie Griffith, Dudley Houghton, Ian Inglis, Hal Katz, Sara Madera, Walt McCool, and Blake Tollett.

President Blake Tollett called the meeting to order.

Proposed Communications Tower

Billy Suchors, PrimeCo, discussed the proposed construction of a replacement communications tower on the state school property near Exposition and Westover. AT&T will own the tower, and PrimeCo will share it rather than attempting to construct a separate new tower. The new tower will be 120 feet tall, replacing the existing tower, which is 95 feet. Blake Tollett will write a letter acknowledging that PrimeCo met with WANG's Executive Committee regarding the proposal and expressing WANG's appreciation for PrimeCo's efforts to collocate towers.

Parks Clean-up

Selina Serna asked what efforts can be made to address the pet waste problem in neighborhood parks. Pet owners often do not clean up after their pets. Joyce Basciano reported that the city Parks and Recreation Department installed a sign warning pet owners of their duty to clean up in Bryker Woods Park. Blake Tollett agreed to include an item about this problem in the newsletter, and to contact PARD.

Westenfield Park Pool Schedule

The city Parks and Recreation Department acknowledged WANG's request to extend the operating schedule for the pool at Westenfield Park. The final schedule is to be set during January.

Traffic Study Proposed

The Executive Committee discussed traffic problems on Exposition and Pecos. On a motion by Linda Dickens, seconded by Hal Katz, the committee voted 13-0 to request that the city conduct a traffic study on Exposition from West 35th Street to Lake Austin Boulevard, and on Pecos from West 35th Street to Enfield.

Executive Committee Retreat

Linda Dickens discussed the proposed agenda for the Executive Committee's retreat, which is scheduled for Saturday, January 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Hal Katz's office. The goal of the retreat is to discuss ways to empower the neighborhood.

Board of Adjustment Case

Blake Tollett reported on three pending board of adjustment requests for which WANG received notices from the city.

At 3208 Cherry, the applicant seeks a variance to reduce the minimum rear setback from ten feet to six feet to permit a second-story addition to an existing accessory building.

At 1908 Robin Hood, the applicant seeks a variance to decrease the side yard setback from 15 feet to 12 feet for the construction of a new accessory building.

At 2300 Aztec, the applicant seeks a variance to increase permitted impervious coverage from 45 percent to 60 percent to remodel an existing duplex.

After discussing the proposals, the committee voted 13-0 to oppose the requested variances, pending additional information from the applicants or neighbors. Blake Tollett volunteered to make an effort to contact the interested parties.

Tarrytown Shopping Center

The committee discussed neighbors' ongoing concerns about the restrictions placed on existing tenants at the shopping center, and the apparent efforts to remove existing tenants. Hal Katz agreed to draft a proposed letter to the landlord for the committee's consideration. James Allman agreed to prepare a proposal for WANG's involvement in addressing issues affecting the center.

Other Business

The committee approved the minutes of the December 6, 1999 meeting. Ian Inglis reported that the treasury has \$2,887.91 in its checking account and \$1,029.57 in savings. Walt McCool announced his resignation from the Executive Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The minutes were prepared by Walt McCool.

ExComm Retreat

WANG Executive Committee members met in early January for a four hour retreat to consider our organization's goals and direction. We discussed our role and purpose in the neighborhood, our priorities, our structure. While our participation in the retreat opened up dialogue around many issues, we realized that it just began our reorganization and that we would need much more planning and many more conversations before we completed our task. We also realized that we can not effectively represent our neighborhood without hearing your concerns. While we have established five committees to represent our concerns (Communications, Membership, Traffic/Safety, Infrastructure, and Liaison; see complete topics below), we are seeking your input about how we might best be able to meet your needs. Please complete the brief survey below and return it to our president Blake Tollett (3701 Bonnie Rd, Austin, 78703), e-mail your answers to Linda Dickens (keldickens@aol.com) or attend our next meeting (February 7, 2000 at 7:00 PM, Howson Library) to discuss your ideas.

1. How do you define the role of WANG? _____

2. What are the top three community issues you believe WANG should address in the next several years? _____

3. What committee might you be interested in joining? _____

4. What skills, expertise, or resources can you contribute to WANG efforts? _____

WANG COMMITTEE LISTING AND GOALS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Prepare and publish WANG newsletter
Guest column by school
Identify WANG members in guest column
Publish crime reports
Newsletter kiosks
Update website with newsletter
E-mail or listservs – WANG committee and ex-comm
Newsletter distribution to entire neighborhood (not just to WANG members) twice a year
History of Tarrytown
Celebrate architecture

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Increase WANG membership
Host 2 socials per year
Fire station/EMS celebration
Park clean-up

TRAFFIC/SAFETY COMMITTEE

Traffic and Transportation Goals
Obtain traffic studies for identified streets, including study of EMS success
MOPAC: participate in MONAC

Monitor/advocate with Capital Metro
Light rail/commuter rail
Do we want light rail?
Mass transit
Sidewalk funds
Facilitate parking permit process
Eiler Park
O. Henry
Resolve Walsh boat landing congestion
Safety Goals
Improve relationships with APD/Fire/City
Safety Services liaison
Publish crime stats
EMS Station
Sidewalks
Traffic calming
Increase participation in neighborhood watch program
Sponsor activities for national "night out"

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Review and update neighborhood plan
SMART growth
Sidewalks
Commercial corridor zoning issues
Red Bud isle traffic
Camp Mabry/Brackenridge development-related zoning issues
"Highland Park Effect" (Zero lot line homes, tree lights, "walled" communities

and other "valuable property" issues)
Garage apartments
Neighborhood offices
Identify street for sidewalk and implement in year 2000
Enforcement of land development code
Pursue resolution of Tarrytown Shopping Center dispute
Beautification
Dog poop
Underground wires
Increase support of neighborhood parks
Increase number of sidewalks
Improve bus stops

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Increase our association with other neighborhood associations
Partner with neighborhood associations in East, Northwest and South Austin for social partnering and issue partnering (smart growth)
Participate in ANC
Recruit leadership from WANG
Monitor city plans affecting neighborhood
Increase relationships with schools
Develop elder outreach
Charitable contributions to be reconsidered "Parks"

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.



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

I have enclosed:

- \$20 household membership
- \$10 student/senior membership

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to WANG and mail to:
WANG P.O. Box 5722 Austin, TX 78763-5722