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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*Howson Branch Library*  
*February 2nd, 2004, 7:00 pm*

**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."*

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

# THE NEIGHBOR

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

January, 2004

**President's Message  
January, 2004**

I humbly submit to you my new year hodge-podge message:

HNY: First things first. Happy New Year from WANG!!! We hope everyone had a restful and fun holiday break so that, refreshed and reinvigorated, we can tackle the new year with all appropriate vim and vigor. So what all can be done with this new and unbounded energy?

**WANG Committee Members Needed:** Well, you could jump right in with some community activism. As indicated in our last newsletter, your neighborhood organizations would certainly welcome new members and fresh blood. For example, WANG is actively recruiting new committee members to help with our work, and I am specifically looking for some help with our membership committee. While "membership" may not sound all that glamorous, it really is important to our neighborhood for WANG to have a vibrant and large membership, if only so that our neighborhood can continue to have the political power and presence that we have traditionally wielded on city and neighborhood issues. I've got some ideas on how to go about expanding our membership with some fun events for the neighborhood, but I'm trying to bring some new people and ideas to our membership committee. Please give me a call if you can help.

**Neighborhood Crime Report:** I don't know if anyone else has noticed, but the City's Crime Report Database web page has been out of commission for quite a while, so we haven't been able to see current crime report information after May, 2003. When I asked our APD Representative (John Evers) for an update, he provided a database listing of the crime reports for our neighborhood that were submitted from June-September, 2003. If you are interested, I've posted the crime reports on our web page ([www.deepeddy.com/wang/Crime\\_Data\\_2003.htm](http://www.deepeddy.com/wang/Crime_Data_2003.htm)). (If you try to access the web page, please be patient because it does take some time to load the page, and you may need to hit the "refresh" button to have the map graphic appear on screen.) On the web page, a map is provided showing the Police Reporting Areas (PRAs) for our neighborhood. Below the map is a listing of crime reports that are organized by

PRA, so that you can see what types of crimes were reported for each PRA.

Upon reviewing the crime report data, I was quite surprised to see how many crime reports were filed for our neighborhood during this reporting period. Based on my crude (and obviously non-professional analysis), the southern most parts of our neighborhood along Lake Austin Blvd and Enfield appear to have the most crime reports for our neighborhood. For example, the area between Mopac, Lake Austin, Exposition and Enfield (PRAs 370 and 368) had 116 crime reports, and the area on the east side of Mopac between Enfield and Windsor (PRA 357) had 81 crime reports. In contrast, the Brykerwoods portion of our neighborhood (PRAs 342 and 343) appears to be relatively crime-free, having only 18 crime reports. As for the remaining neighborhood areas north of Enfield, each PRA had between 30-40 crime reports for this period.

As for specific types of crimes, vehicle-related burglary and theft seems to be the single biggest type of criminal activity, with 19 such reports in the area between Mopac, Lake Austin, Exposition and Enfield (PRAs 370 and 368), and 34 such reports in the neighborhood area just north of Enfield (PRAs 352, 353 and 357).

I don't have any sense of whether this data represents an increase or decrease in the amount of crime reports for our neighborhood. It does suggest that additional neighborhood vigilance should be of some help. At our next meeting, we hope to have our APD District Representative give us some insight and analysis of this data, and some recommendations about what the neighborhood should be doing to protect ourselves. I guess we are getting our money's worth from APD!

**Isn't Our Neighborhood Quaint and Charming?** In recent newsletters, we have provided some information relating to how safe we are in our little enclave called "West Austin." Many of you responded to this information positively, and it seems that there is a distinct memory about how safe we felt here when we were kids. Along those lines, there was a wonderful article in the West Austin News recently, recounting the life and childhood times of one of our long-time neighbors, August "Happy" Harris. I recommend the article to you for its description of what it was like to grow up in Austin (even if

*continued, next page*

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

continued from previous

it is a little galling to think that Happy and I are already old enough to be "reminiscing" about growing up here.)

**Neighborhood Development and Remodeling:** As you may have noticed, there is a ton of building activity in West Austin, with new construction and significant remodeling projects underway on almost every street in the neighborhood. We certainly hope that folks are complying with the building and zoning code requirements for our neighborhood, since these laws are in place to protect us all. In addition, it would be a shame for our neighborhood to be turned into a bunch of zero-lot-line properties (a la Highland Park in Dallas), with the attendant property tax hikes and resulting loss of affordable housing for young families and retirees.

If you have any questions about what the building and zoning requirements are for our neighborhood, we have provided a summary in our previous newsletter (which is posted on our web site at [www.deepeddy.com/wang/newsletter/Mar\\_2003\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://www.deepeddy.com/wang/newsletter/Mar_2003_Newsletter.pdf)). In addition, I hope in the near future to be posting additional zoning information on our website at [www.deepeddy.com/wang/zoning.html](http://www.deepeddy.com/wang/zoning.html).

If you think a building project near you may not be in compliance, please do not hesitate to ask the property owner for information, or you can contact WANG with any questions you have. Finally, don't be shy about making sure the zoning laws are being met. While you may not realize it, these requirements exist to protect YOUR property rights. If you will pardon the pun, being a good neighbor is a two-way street, and everybody needs to play by the same rules.

That's all for now. As always, please feel free to contact me regarding any matters of neighborhood concern.

**Michael Rocco Cannatti**  
338-9100 or [mike@hamiltonterre.com](mailto:mike@hamiltonterre.com)

**WANG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes January 5, 2004**

**Attending Board Members:** Joyce Basciano, Erik Cary, Linda Dickens, Selena Serna, Mike Falk, Jim Girardeau, Blake Tollett, Susan Pascoe, and Gwen Jewiss.

**Guests:** Richard Viktorin, Sara Madera, Sonia Taborsky, Charles Lohrman, George and Ann Edwards.

**Member Communications**

Richard Viktorin addressed the board to thank WANG for supporting his work on the Windmill project. WANG was a sponsor of this project and helped to get grant money.

Mr. Viktorin also questioned the sidewalk expansion planned for the East side of Exposition between Enfield and Windsor. He was concerned about the expansion of the street and corresponding increase in pedestrian traffic near houses on the East side of the street. Selena Serna provided a history of the decision to add the sidewalk. Pedestrian traffic going from East to West must either cross the street (one of the busiest in the neighborhood) or proceed through yards to either Windsor or Enfield. The new sidewalk will provide access to these cross streets. A final issue raised by Mr. Viktorin was the scope of WANG's interest in zoning and neighborhood issues. Blake Tollet (WANG's Zoning Chair) explained that WANG seeks to enforce existing building codes and does not comment on cosmetic aspects of homes.

George Edwards from WENG reported that a legally binding mutually acceptable agreement has been executed between the Good Shepherd Church, the Episcopal Diocese, WENG, and WANG. This document has been recorded with the property deed of the Church.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the WANG meeting in December were approved. Linda Dickens made a motion to approve the minutes. Erik Cary seconded the motion and it passed 9-0.

**Committee Reports**

**Zoning**

**C15-03-101**

**1307 Elton Lane;** John and Keri Chambless, owners; Nikelle Meade/brown McCarroll, LLP, agent.

The applicant requested a variance to decrease the minimum side yard setback requirement from 5 feet to 1 foot in order to erect a garage for a single-family residence.

**RESOLUTION:** At the November 2003 meeting, the WANG board voted 6-3-3 to oppose this variance. Because there has been no substantial change in the merits of the case, the Executive Committee voted to reaffirm its opposition to the variance request. Blake Tollett made the motion, which was seconded by Mike Falk. The motion passed 9-0.

**C15-04-007**

**2203 Scenic Drive;** Al Koehler, owner; Sarah Crocker, agent.

The applicant requested a variance to decrease the minimum front street setback requirement from 25 feet to 10 feet in order to maintain an existing single-family residence in an SF-3 zoning district. The applicant requested a variance to increase the maximum impervious coverage requirement

from 45% to 48% in order to maintain an existing single-family residence in an SF-3 zoning district.

**RESOLUTION:** An area of particular concern to the WANG committee is that the variances are not for the "grandfathering" of an existing structure. The existing structure will be removed and a new structure built. As this is essentially new construction, Linda Dickens made a motion to deny both variances. This was seconded by Mike Falk and the motion passed 9-0.

**3208 Enfield:** WANG is seeking to have a balcony removed that failed a variance request.

**Communications**

The WANG board authorized a holiday gift for McCarthy Printing as appreciation for the work performed in setting and printing the monthly newsletter.

**Membership**

No News.

**Liaison**

Susan Pascoe informed the board of a MONAC (MoPac Neighborhood Associations Coalition) meeting on Jan 20th. Beverly Silas will present information on "Envision Central Texas" and how it affects area transportation.

**Transportation**

No News.

**Historical Designation**

No News.

**Infrastructure**

No News.

**Nominating**

No News.

**Bylaws**

No News.

**Old Business**

No News.

**New Business**

Linda Dickens recommended that the WANG board actively recruit a new vegetarian restaurant to replace Holiday House when it moves. This might involve writing letters of introductions between prospective restaurant owners and the land management firm, or providing advertising discounts in the monthly newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.  
Minutes recorded by Jim Girardeau.

**FRIENDS OF DEEP EDDY THANKS AUSTIN ENERGY FOR NINE NEW TREES PLANTED AT DEEP EDDY POOL AND CONTINUES FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO RESTORE HISTORIC BATHHOUSE**

**Feb. 7, 2004; 11am at Deep Eddy Pool**

Friends of Deep Eddy will host a ceremony on Feb. 7th at 11am to mark the opening of the pool for 2004 and to thank Austin Energy for its generous contribution of nine trees to the Deep Eddy Pool grounds. The trees are part of the Austin urban forestation plans and were a condition to the removal of the decayed and deceased cottonwood trees that were taken down at the pool for safety reasons last fall. The nine trees are 10 to 12 years old and average 25 to 30 feet in height. The trees include three Live Oaks, three Burr Oaks and three Cedar Elms. The trees were selected from a number of sources throughout Texas by Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) foresters. Without

Austin Energy's assistance with this project, the planting of such large and beautiful trees to replace the cottonwoods may not have been possible.

Friends of Deep Eddy (FODE) is in the middle of a year-long effort to raise funds to help renovate and rehabilitate the historic bathhouse at the pool. Friends of Deep Eddy is actively seeking funds from foundations, organizations and individuals wanting to help Austin keep Deep Eddy and the bathhouse a local treasure. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted under the law and can be sent to 1409 W. 6th St., Austin, Texas 78703. Deep Eddy Pool is located at 401 Deep Eddy Drive. For more information on Deep Eddy Pool—Texas' oldest swimming pool—or Eilers Park, please visit [www.deepeddy.org](http://www.deepeddy.org).

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