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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Howson Branch Library
August 6th, 2001, 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."*

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Hal Katz
President

Linda Neavel Dickens
Vice-President

Gwen Jewiss
Secretary

Ian Inglis
Treasurer

**STANDING
COMMITTEES**

James Allman
Membership Chair

Blake Tollett
Zoning Chair

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

Joyce Basciano
Michael Cannatti
Erik Cary
Chris Garrigues
Balie Griffith
Sara Madera
Susan Pascoe
Selina Serna
Irwin Spear

**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

July, 2001

**President's Message
July 2001**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

On October 20, 2001, 9:00 a.m., WANG will hold its annual meeting and social as required under the bylaws at Reed Park. The annual meeting will consist of reporting on the affairs of the association, electing new members to the executive committee, adopting new bylaws and other resolutions necessary for recognition as a Texas Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association, and taking other actions that may arise in the course of deliberating on these issues. If anyone is interested in serving on the executive committee, please contact Karen Cannatti at neenok@aol.com or 453-7074 or Blake Tollett at 477-4028. This year the social will be full of family fun, with Fire Engine 10, Austin Police Officer District Representative Tim Atkinson, Joe McDermott, breakfast tacos, and Jim Jims Water Ice.

Hal Katz
703-5715
hkatz@hwlaw.com

**Excavation Well Under Way for
Underground Parking Garage**

The excavation process for the new City Hall's underground garage is more than 50 percent completed. This 200-day project is with Martin K. Eby Construction Co. and includes shoring and excavation of the hole for the parking garage, which upon completion will hold 750 cars. The excavation process is Phase I of the construction process for the new City Hall, which is slated to open in the spring of 2004. For a great view of the project, visit the City Hall Web site at www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityhall/ch_images.htm.

Barton Springs Road Construction

Reconstruction of Barton Springs Road began this month, with the placement of barricades and traffic controls on the north side of the street from Jessie to Robert E. Lee. All traffic will be routed to the south side of the roadway. There will be three traffic lanes on the south side of the road, one lane in each direction plus a turning lane. Existing pavement will be removed and the roadway will be completely reconstructed. New sidewalks, curbs, gutter and a bike lane will be installed during this phase. Motorists can expect traffic delays along Barton Springs Road within the construction zone during peak traffic hours. Automobile access to the trailer parks and businesses will be maintained at all times. When the north side is completed, traffic will shift to the newly constructed lanes. Again, three lanes will be open, one in each direction plus a turn lane. New sidewalks and a bike lane also will be installed on the south side of Barton Springs

Road. The final phase of the project is construction of the raised median down the center of Barton Springs Road between Robert E. Lee and Jessie streets. Landscaping of the median and street lighting are included in this phase. When this large project is completed in late 2002, Barton Springs Road will provide motorists with a significantly improved riding surface, a lighted and landscaped median and long needed drainage improvements.

Oak Wilt Update

The live oak trees on the south side of the pool were diagnosed with oak wilt in June, 2000. They were promptly injected with chemicals to arrest the disease. Jay Culver, City of Austin Oak Wilt Suppression Specialist (and long-time neighbor of Reed Park) has been checking the trees almost weekly since then and reports that the trees are doing about as well as they hoped.

**Live Oaks on the Creek to be Pruned—
Really!**

The centerpiece live oaks at the bend of the creek will be trimmed this year, if you help. After years of being put off in our attempts to get the city to prune and remove ball moss from these beloved trees, we finally developed a plan the forestry department approved: we hire a contractor they approve, and we pay. Not a bargain, but the trees will get the long over-due care they need.

We have applied for a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation to help with this work. In addition to pruning the live oaks, we also want to mulch vertically and horizontally around the base of the oak (to relieve soil compaction), mulch several trees near the play area, and plant two new trees by the play area. The West Austin Neighborhood Group has pledged to buy the new trees. Neighbors will be needed to help mulch, prepare the soil for planting and water the new trees. Anyone know a Boy Scout in want of an Eagle project?

We need your help to make this happen. Even if we get a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation, we are committed to providing a 100% match in funds, in-kind donations and volunteer labor. If you love these trees, please send a check today!

All donations to Friends of Reed Park are tax-deductible. If you want to contribute to either the pool or tree-trimming efforts, please write separate checks. Pool fund checks will be returned if the city pays to keep the pool open. Any level of contribution is welcome. Please send your check to:

Friends of Reed Park
2100 Stamford Lane
Austin, TX 78703

If you have questions, please call Ann Phipps at 472-3199. Thank you for your generous support!

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

**Minutes of ExComm Meeting
July 2, 2001**

Members Present: James Allman, Joyce Basciano, Mike Cannatti, Erik Carey, Linda Dickens, Chris Garrigues, Balie Griffith, Ian Ingles, Gwen Jewiss, Hal Katz, Sara Madera, Irwin Spear, Blake Tollett, Susan Pascoe, Selina Serna.

Guests Present: Betty Stakly, Mike Sherrill

Zoning Committee

Tarrytown United Methodist Church is filing for a Site Development Permit. The Church plans to demolish the two houses along Exposition and, as previously presented to the ExComm, will go forward with constructed the new building. The Church has decided to go with more than 50% religious use, thereby negating the need for a change in zoning.

2207 Lake Austin Blvd – There is a request to grandfather a significant increase in impervious cover recently undertaken without a permit. The Board of Adjustment is also being asked to grandfather a violation of the setback requirements. The property has changed hands since a negotiated-use agreement was reached with WANG. Unfortunately, the agreement had not been recorded with the deed. The knowledge of the agreement by the various parties involved with the transaction is unclear at this time. Upon a motion by James, the ExComm agreed to oppose the unpermitted paving and increase in impervious cover, but not to oppose the setback variance.

Communications Committee

Linda Dickens and McCarthy Printing have received a national award for "Most Improved Newsletter" from the Association for Women in Communications. The awards ceremony is to be held in Baltimore, on August 3rd.

The ExComm confirmed that Neighborhood Social will take place on October 20th, at Reed Park, from 10 AM until noon. The ExComm approved \$157 for set up and printing of 250 yard signs. Blake and James offered to assemble the signs. Assignments were made for other ExComm members to contact other parties for food, beverages, etc. Upon a unanimous vote, \$2500 was approved for funding the Neighborhood Social. The theme for this year's Social will be Our Families, Our Neighbors.

There has been a lot of interest in advertising for the expanded annual newsletter. A new price structure was established for that issue. It was noted that the distribution is expected to be a twelve-page newsletter

hand delivered to approximately five thousand households. Blake and Linda hope to close the advertising by August 4th.

Liaison Committee

James noted that protective devices are in place and that the EMS demo work will begin soon. The construction contract bids were all over the budget. Everyone is guardedly optimistic that the funds earmarked for HazMat disposal will not be exhausted and that some may be used to cover the budget overage. A recommendation for Council action is being prepared, and an agreement with the certified low bidder should be made and negotiated by August.

Regarding ongoing discussions on the proposed MOPAC extension, it was reported that those neighborhoods in the south are in favor of the extension. Their perception is that extending MOPAC would reduce cut through traffic in their neighborhoods. Neighborhoods in the north are reported to be against the proposed extension.

Transportation Committee

CAMPO voted to create a new committee to study alternatives for the proposed work on MOPAC. Some of the positions on the new committee are still being filled. Ian is to serve, and Joyce is being considered for one of the still open positions. The CAMPO plan calls for recommendations to be made in three months, but that time frame is likely to be extended. Ian distributed copies of the MONAC "Recommendations for Action" and noted that several neighborhood groups along MOPAC have endorsed these recommendations. The ExComm voted unanimously to endorse the recommendations.

It was noted that SOS had put out "A Road Less Traveled" on links between transit and the environment.

Irwin and Susan reported that they are still trying to establish communication between WANG and Gary Smith regarding the historical district. Concern was expressed regarding designations being achieved east of MOPAC, and that if none were achieved to the west, it would push MOPAC expansion to the west.

Membership Committee

James and Irwin are planning to have a table at the 4th of July parade end in Reed Park.

Neighborhood Plan Committee

The ad hoc neighborhood plan committee met and will be meeting every couple of months. Topics include: process for proceeding with an interim process, trying to get the City to speed up the start date for the

'City sanctioned process,' as well as possible changes to WANG's boundaries to coincide with the City's stated boundaries for sanctioned neighborhood plans. At this time, it does not seem to be a requirement that the Neighborhood Plan boundaries match any particular neighborhood group boundaries. It was noted that the City's considerations for possible historic districts are to be done regionally, rather than as isolated neighborhoods.

Treasurer's Report

Ian reported that there is \$1497.22 in checking, \$4570.61 in savings, \$ 1189.51 in Oak Wilt funds. The current membership stands at 360 paid members. There was a request, which was unanimously approved, for \$50 for a listserve on yahoo.com for mass emailing of MONAC issues.

Minutes

The previous minutes were corrected to clarify that the contracts for the West Austin EMS Station were awarded and certified in June.

Other Business

Chris Garrigues will step down at the end of this term on the ExComm. He will continue to host the WANG website. Names proposed for the Nominating Committee include Karen Cannatti and Blake Tollett. Another non-ExComm member is needed per the bylaws. Mike and Blake will confer with Karen to find the third person.

Grande Communications is installing cable TV boxes in easements as approved by City. Concern has been expressed regarding the impact on property values for the residences in whose yards they are being located. Hal has invited them to speak at the next ExComm meeting.

Hal and Officer Tim Atkinson have been asked by Council member Griffith's office to facilitate security light discussions among neighbors in the 3600 block of River Road.

WANG members have continued to report an increase in perceived air traffic over our neighborhood. The problem seems to occur in the vicinity of 35th Street.

Hal noted that WANG is not a legally recognized entity, yet is a non-profit association. He is looking into our joining the Texas Uniform Unincorporated Non-Profit Association. Joining may result in the need to amend the bylaws somewhat. More information should be available at the next ExComm meeting. It was agreed that this should be brought before the membership at the annual meeting.

Minutes prepared by Gwen Jewiss



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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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