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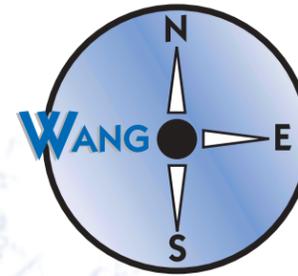


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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Howson Branch Library
June 3rd, 2002, 7:00 pm
Please Check Mailing Label for Renewal Date

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."*

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 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

THE NEIGHBOR

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

May, 2002

President's Message May 2002

Flooding in Our Neighborhoods

Street, yard, and house flooding poses a problem in our neighborhoods, particularly during heavy rains. Many neighbors believe this results from inadequate drainage and excess impervious cover. Staff members from the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Department attended our May meeting to answer questions about those issues. While the representatives provided their views about the situation and ideas about possible long-term solutions, unfortunately, their responses did not fully answer our concerns.

The purpose of this city department is to reduce the impact of flooding, erosion, and water pollution on our community in order to protect lives, property, and the environment. Department programs include:

- Flood control
- Water quality protection
- Erosion control
- Maintenance
- Regulation
- Development Review – zoning, site planning, etc.

Additional information is available on their web sites www.cityofaustin.org/watershed and www.cityofaustin.org/development.

Since the representatives that attended the meeting primarily were involved in Watershed Protection activities rather than Development Review, they discussed problems related to drainage and creek-side flooding. Although there is awareness of flooding issues, money for drainage improvements is scarce. The meeting minutes provide details of the discussion and their recommendations. As you will note, questions about run-off

related flooding were deferred to Development Review.

So, we have some decisions to make about WANG's direction and involvement with flooding issues. My question to you – Is flooding significant enough throughout the neighborhoods, that WANG should make this a priority project?

WANG is supporting the efforts of the residents on Stamford Lane in urging the city to determine a solution to the dangerous flooding on that street. Is the problem widespread enough that your association should embark on a broader scope strategy? If you think so, we need your help.

We need to know the problem areas, so I urge you to file a COA Flood Information Survey if you have experienced flooding. Please contact me for a full size copy. We will need volunteers to work on the issue – to determine the approach with the city and to implement it. If you are willing to be involved, please send me your name and contact information.

I will provide updates as they occur through the newsletter. As always, your comments are welcome. Thank you for your membership and participation.

Susan Pascoe
494-1386
spascoe@ascensionhealth.org

WANG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes April 1, 2002

Attending Board Members: Susan Pascoe, Erik Cary, Selina Serna, Joyce Basciano, Linda Neavel Dickens, Gwen Jewiss, Blake Tollett,

continued next page

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

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Hal Katz, Emily Covich, Michael Cannatti, James Allman, Ian Inglis

Guests:

Ariel Dance Theatre The director and one of the dancers of this non-profit performing arts group made a presentation with the goal of increasing their involvement in communities in Austin by expanding arts and educational programs in the neighborhoods. They share space with Austin Lyric Opera and, in addition to their performances in various venues around town, they teach many classes such as adult dance, yoga and art. Their major fundraising event, Cabaret d'Ariel, will be held on May 19, 2002. Tickets are \$25. Some ideas of possible community involvement were suggested such as involving middle school children in body movement and image classes and performing at WANG's annual neighborhood social. The guests emphasized that they encourage anyone with additional suggestions for community involvement to contact Andrea Ariel at 458-4258.

City of Austin Watershed Protection Department

George Oswald and Lynne Lightsey with the city's Watershed Protection Department discussed drainage problems in the neighborhood. There are three areas of focus for this department: flood hazard mitigation, creek-side flooding, and water quality management. Development Review and Watershed Protection Departments recently merged under the direction of Michael J. Heitz. A survey and assessment of problem areas around the city was completed in 2000, a copy of which can be found at coa.org/watershed/master_plan. The drainage problem on Stamford Lane is among the worst problems facing the city, however it is also one of the more expensive projects and there is the possibility that houses might need to be removed to install adequate drainage. There is very little money in the budget for capital improvements. The utility drainage fee funds this department. Currently the monthly \$5.21 each residence pays serves mostly to fund their operating budget. The City is considering doubling this fee to raise capital expenditure dollars. However, any significant improvement such as the one at Stamford Lane would probably require bond money. The earliest we could expect a bond election would be 2004.

Ideas WANG should consider following up on to mitigate the flooding:

- Water redirection on individual lots by privacy fences that extend all the way to the ground. These serve to carry all the water to one place downstream.

- Discuss impervious cover violations and the city's monitoring of these problems with Shaw Hamilton in the Development Review Department (974-2751). (WANG will contact this department and request their attendance at a future Neighborhood Association meeting.)

Other known areas with flooding problems are at the corners of Meredith and Rockmoor and Stevenson and Pecos. WANG will publish a form that neighbors can complete to notify the Department of other trouble spots. The completed form should be sent to Lynne Lightsey, Public Information Manager of the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department.

Laura Steinbach – The Interim Head of School of **The Girls School of Austin**, requested WANG's support for their use of the apartment complex at the corner Spring Lane & Indian Trail. This six-unit complex is currently for sale and is zoned MF-2, which would allow enlargement of the complex without a zoning change. This group would require a conditional use permit to temporarily house an all-girl's school in the building. Eventual plans for the school are to serve grades K through 12 with a maximum of about 72 children. Beginning in September 2002, they expect only 8 to 12 children in grades 3 through 6 for the first year, and plan to be in this facility for two to three years until a more permanent facility can be located. They are planning no construction or addition to the apartment complex, preferring to leave the building with a residential feel; would locate the entrance to the school on Spring Lane; would use part of parking lot as a play area and the grass area for picnics; have some flexibility regarding school hours and would try to avoid the other neighborhood school's rush hours; will encourage car pooling and at a later date want to buy a bus for children. The immediate neighbors voiced their concern with traffic issues, especially considering the existing post office traffic on Spring Lane. Several board members indicated that they would feel more comfortable supporting this variance if there was a binding agreement as to the planned use of the building, as indicated above. It was noted that any conditional use permit granted would follow the building, not solely this tenant. Being near the end of our meeting time, the board asked Ms. Steinbach to get back to us with more concrete plans for dealing with the traffic issues, and we would further discuss via e-mail.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee – The sidewalk and bus pad improvements being

planned by Capital Metro have been delayed due to having to plan around the work the City of Austin is scheduling for Enfield Road. Construction is now expected in late summer.

Membership Committee – A strategy for increasing membership in WANG was distributed and will be discussed at the June meeting.

Treasurer's Report – checking account \$1,118.60; savings account \$5,166.45; oak wilt account \$1,191.89. Paid Membership is 362.

New Business

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Friends of West Austin Park requested \$100 for tree planting expenses. A motion was seconded and approved.

The committee organizing the 4th of July parade requested \$100 miscellaneous expenses. A motion was seconded and approved.

Old Business

For procedural purposes we need to send another letter expressing the neighborhood's desire to opt in to the front-lawn parking ban currently being discussed by City Council. Susan will send in our second letter.

West Austin Neighborhood Group Executive Committee Meeting June 3, 2002

- I. Call to Order (7:00p)
- II. Citizen Communications/Presentations
- III. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Zoning
 - B. Communications
 - C. Transportation
 - D. Liaison
 - E. Neighborhood Plan
 - F. Membership
 - G. Nominating
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. Old Business
 - Report on Memorial for Irwin Spear - Mike
 - Camp Mabry Update - Hal
- VII. New Business
 - Proposal on Zoning Position - Blake
 - ANC representative
- VIII. Adjourn (8:45p)



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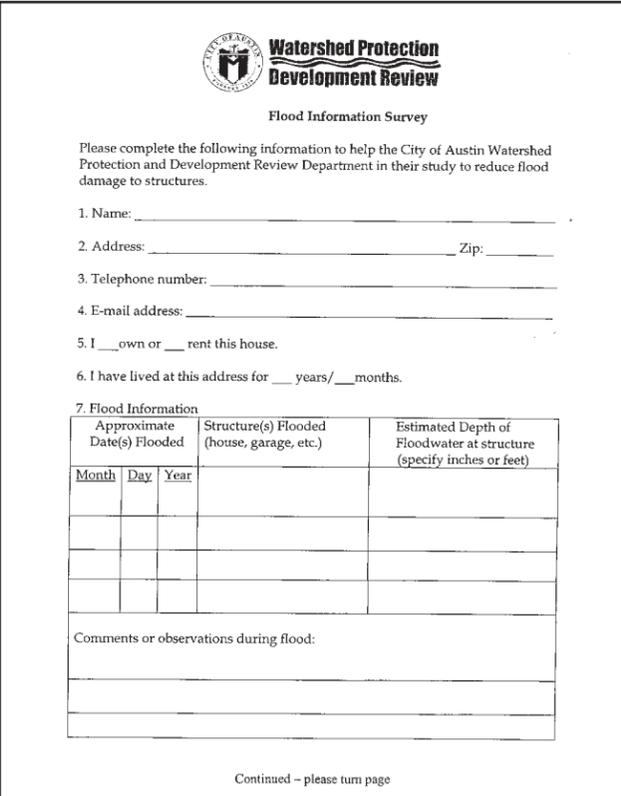


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Watershed Protection Development Review
Flood Information Survey

Please complete the following information to help the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Department in their study to reduce flood damage to structures.

1. Name: _____

2. Address: _____ Zip: _____

3. Telephone number: _____

4. E-mail address: _____

5. I own or rent this house.

6. I have lived at this address for ___ years/ ___ months.

7. Flood Information

Approximate Date(s) Flooded			Structure(s) Flooded (house, garage, etc.)	Estimated Depth of Floodwater at structure (specify inches or feet)
Month	Day	Year		

Comments or observations during flood: _____

Continued – please turn page

The Flood Information Survey mentioned in the President's Message. Copies of this form are available from Susan Pascoe or are available in PDF (Adobe Acrobat) form on the WANG website.



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P R I N T

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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
 \$10 student/senior membership

Date _____
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