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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Howson Branch Library**  
**December 4th, 2000, 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."*

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

Hal Katz  
President

Linda 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  
Eric Carey  
Chris Garrigues  
Balie Griffith  
Sara Madera  
Susan Pascoe  
Selina Serna  
Irwin Spear

**HONORARY  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**

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

# THE NEIGHBOR

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

November, 2000

**President's Message  
November 2000**

As the new president of WANG, my first order of business is to sincerely thank Blake Tollett for his past four years of service as President. Blake has gone above and beyond what any neighborhood group would expect of its leader. The time he has devoted, the leadership he has provided, and the perseverance he has maintained have been tremendous and have directly benefitted the community. It is a very high standard and one that I will strive to achieve.

Since many members of WANG may not know me, I thought I would tell you a little about myself. My family moved to Austin while I was in high school. I attended the University of Texas where I met my wife Kellie Bailey. Before going to law school I served as an aide to Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle. Currently, I practice corporate law with Hilgers & Watkins, P.C. Kellie and I have a six year old daughter and a nineteen month old son.

I look forward to working with the executive committee members, all of whom are dedicated to preserving the high quality of life in our neighborhood. It is my goal to continue WANG's involvement in neighborhood and city issues and to be accessible and responsive to our members. I welcome questions or comments either by phone or email.

**Hal Katz**  
703-5715  
[hkatz@hwlaw.com](mailto:hkatz@hwlaw.com)

**Outgoing Presidential Message  
November 2000**

Fellow Neighbors:

After serving four and a half years as President of the Executive Committee, it is time for me to step aside so I can concentrate more fully on zoning issues. Since Dudley Houghton, our past zoning Chair for at least seventeen years, decided to

retire, he has been mentoring me to take over this vacant Chair on the ExComm. With his continuing confidence and trust, I hope to begin filling his absence. For those who know and worked with Dudley, you know this is going to take some doing. I look forward to focusing on this challenge.

I would take this opportunity to thank you, the membership, for your strong, ongoing support of the ExComm. With a current membership of close to 400 households, we are one of the most active neighborhood associations in the City. I am proud of this strength, because I believe in WANG's mission "to preserve our neighborhood and protect it from deterioration". We must look to ourselves to maintain this perseverance. We are the ones that live here. It is most important to us. I know that over the years that not everyone has agreed with my decisions, but I have always tried to put the neighborhood as a whole first. Again, thank you.

As always, please feel free to contact me, or for that matter, any ExComm member, with matters of neighborhood concern.

**Blake Tollett**  
3701 Bonnie Road  
477-4028

**WANG November 6, 2000  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

In attendance at the WANG Executive Committee meeting were Blake Tollett, Sara Madera, Linda Dickens, Hal Katz, Balie Griffith, Ian Inglis, James Allman, Susan Pascoe, Selina Serna, Irwin Spear, Joyce Basciano, Michael Cannatti and new Executive Committee member, Erik Cary.

**Preliminary Business**

At 7:10 the meeting was called to order. Cindy Wade from Austin Recreation Center (located between the House Park Field and the ACC West Avenue campus) made a presentation to the Executive Committee describing the many programs and activities of the Austin Recreation Center, including

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

recreational classes, teen programs, a student pick-up service for taking elementary students to the ARC, and many others. Mrs. Wade requested that information be circulated to the neighborhood about the available programs at ARC, and agreed to submit an article for publication.

The minutes of the WANG Annual Retreat were approved after corrections were made in the spelling of the names of Ian Inglis and Susan Pascoe, and an additional change was made to specify that one of the goals for the Traffic and Transportation Committee would be to "press for bond money to be spent in West Austin for sidewalks."

The proposed roster of new officers for WANG was approved after a motion by James Allman and a second by Blake Tollett. The new officers will be President Hal Katz, Vice-President Linda Dickens, Treasurer Ian Inglis, Secretary Gwen Jewiss, and Assistant Secretary Michael Cannatti. In addition, a new member of the Executive Committee, Erik Cary (e-mail: [ecary@mjtpc.com](mailto:ecary@mjtpc.com), work phone: 478-1075) was introduced and approved for addition to the Executive Committee by unanimous vote. It was noted that the WANG webpage should be revised to add Erik Cary to the roster of Executive Committee members.

The Committee assignments proposed during the WANG Annual Retreat were revised to add Erik Cary as a member of the Zoning Committee, and then were approved on a motion and a second without objection.

#### Committee Reports

For the Communications Committee, Blake Tollett reported on the results of the Annual Social to say that there were no complaints and that it appeared to be a complete success. With expenses totalling \$3,791.84 against advertisement income of \$1,750, the net cost for the annual social was \$2,041, which was well within the prior estimate. Ian Inglis reported that approximately \$800 were collected from new members at the social, putting the total membership for WANG at 418 active members.

Linda Dickens led a discussion comparing this year's Neighborhood Social to the previous year's Neighborhood Social. It was noted that the signs announcing the Neighborhood Social should have larger lettering and should be placed more strategically at stop signs and other places

around the neighborhood. It was also agreed that the folded and stapled signs are preferable. Given the expected \$900 cost of buying a banner, WANG did not purchase a banner for the event, but is interested in identifying potential corporate sponsors or other ways to advertise the Neighborhood Social (such as using the Casis school marquee, the West Austin News coverage, the Assistance League calendar, Austin360.com's website and city announcements).

For the Communications Committee, Linda Dickens also reported on the status of the newsletter to request assistance with the labeling and stamping of newsletters. Linda agreed to look into the requirements for having a third party label and address the newsletters for bulk mailing, and at the suggestion of Sara Madera, will also look into the possibility of using the PALs project at the local school to obtain help in this area. The Executive Committee appeared to agree that it would be desirable to use bulk mail to deliver the newsletters, although there are concerns about the dependability and timeliness of bulk mailing. Linda proceeded to work out the details for coordinating the distribution, labeling, and mailing of the November newsletter.

For the Membership Committee, James Allman proposed for consideration some strategies for increasing WANG membership, including obtaining a commitment from each Executive Committee member to spend one and one-half hours walking their streets to knock on doors and obtain new members. The Membership Committee agreed to formalize their proposals and present them at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The Transportation Committee had no report. The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of participating with the Northwood traffic issue that has been raised by the Casis PTA. Separately, there was a discussion concerning possible closure of Westover that has been raised before the Brykerwoods Neighborhood Association in connection with proposed expansion of MOPAC. It was agreed that the WANG Transportation Committee would coordinate with the Brykerwoods Transportation Committee (Edward Tasch) in an attempt to keep up to date and present a unified position from the WANG and Brykerwoods areas. In addition, there will be a notice of the next Brykerwood meeting posted in the WANG newsletter. Ian

Inglis agreed to provide an overview and chronology of the various transportation issues relating to the proposed expansion of MOPAC.

For the Zoning Committee, there was a report by James Allman concerning the proposed historic designation of the Caretaker's Cottage at Deep Eddy. Because of concerns about the structural integrity of the Caretaker's Cottage and also because such a historic designation could interfere with the proposed EMS station at Deep Eddy, there is opposition to the granting of a historic designation. Blake Tollett reported that he had previously written a letter opposing the historic designation for this site. Upon motion and second, a resolution by WANG was approved opposing the granting of historic designation for Caretaker's Cottage at Deep Eddy.

For the Liaison Committee, Balie Griffith reported on the goals that were agreed to by Liaison Committee. In particular, the Committee identified the following goals: (1) increasing WANG's association with and improving relationships with APD/Fire/EMS/City Safety Services/Austin Parks Department, the City Council, other neighborhood associations and schools within our neighborhood; (2) providing a representative to the Police Chief Forum (Blake Tollett) and the Austin Neighborhood Council (Gwen Jewiss and Joyce Basciano).

For the Recruiting Committee, Hal Katz reported that he was soliciting suggestions for new committee members. Ian Inglis agreed to provide the new member sign-up lists from the Annual Meeting as a possible source of new committee members.

#### In Closing...

A treasurer's report was provided by Ian Inglis, reporting that the checking account contained \$2,634.97, the savings account contained \$3,540.08 and the oak wilt account included \$1,178.10.

The Executive Committee then discussed new business items. Hal Katz reported that the Pemberton and Old Enfield Neighborhood Associations were applying for status under the National Registered District Program. It was also agreed that Will Wynn and the person succeeding representative Greenberg should be asked to join as honorary members of the WANG Board.

The meeting was adjourned in a timely, efficient and expeditious manner.



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**Annual Social 2000 Expense and Income**

<i>Expenses:</i>	
Print newsletter and yard signs	\$2,398.36
Rental equipment	273.05
Send newsletter to membership	250.09
Distribute newsletter	594.00
Refreshments	158.72
Gift to McCarthy	117.62
	<b>\$3,791.84</b>
<i>Income:</i>	
Adv. Income rec.	\$1,550.00
Adv. Income due	200.00
	<b>\$1,750.00</b>

 **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.