

**OWANA Steering Committee
Special Meeting
April 15, 2002**

Members in Attendance: Nancy Toelle, Mike Whisenhunt, Charles Price, Katy O'Neill, Saralyn Stewart, Daniel Traverso, Paul Dunham, Stella Powell Laura Morrison, Sarah Uribe

Guests: Steve Barney, Marjorie Moore

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

1. Update on Implementation of the Zoning Changes in the Neighborhood Plan (NP)

Steve provided an update on the discussions among some business owners in Old West Austin concerning the zoning changes in the NP. He is meeting with them on April 16, 2002, to discuss their concerns and provide additional information on the changes. There will be an open house on April 25, 2002, for residents as well as business and commercial interests to go over the Zoning Changes.

Steve will provide insights to Nancy this week on the concerns or possible alternate plans that are raised in the April 16 meeting.

Concerns were raised over the potential for a closed group in the area to develop an alternative plan. The SC asked that Steve provide notice of the open house to all residents in the neighborhood.

2. Newsletter Preparation

Saralyn will prepare the labels for the June OWANA Newsletter. Once printed, Daniel will process them for mailing.

Committee reports for the newsletter will be provided to Sarah by April 26 as follows:

Zoning – Nancy
Historic Preservation – Katy
Parks – Marjorie
Transportation – Stella
Neighborhood Plan Implementation – Laura

In addition, we will ask Margaret Bruch to provide a report from the Chair.

3. Neighborhood Plan Implementation

Steve provided guidelines on usage of the \$20,000 that has been allocated to the OWA NP. (See attached.) The attendees at the meeting then met as the NP Implementation Team (NPIT), with OWANA Committees (Land Use/Zoning, Parks, Transportation, and Historic Preservation) reviewing and prioritizing the action items within the relevant section of the plan.

The committees made the following recommendations for use of the \$20,000:

Action Item #83 – Restore water piping in West Austin Park to supply the hose bibs in existing valve wells, to water grass and trees (Estimated Cost - \$4,000).

Action Item #19 – Build new sidewalks ... with an initial request of a sidewalk on the south side of 9th St. from Blanco to Winflo.

Charlie moved that the Steering Committee accept these recommendations and that we go forward to the city to request that these action items be implemented. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura will work with Steve to determine the next steps that should be taken. If need be, Charlie and Marjorie will write up rationales for our requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Frequently Asked Questions about Allocating \$20,000 to Neighborhood Plan Action Items

What is the purpose of the \$20,000 Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department allocation for each neighborhood plan?

The purpose of this funding is to get one of the neighborhood plan's priority action items implemented quickly.

What makes a great neighborhood plan improvement project?

A great project is one that benefits the neighborhood as a whole and is accessible to the public.

Must the \$20,000 be allocated to an item that is in the neighborhood plan?

Yes. The purpose of the funding is to implement items that are in the neighborhood plan.

Can the funding be allocated to more than one action item in the plan?

Yes. The money can be spent on more than one project so long as the impact is not so diluted to be ineffectual.

Should the funding be spent on a capital improvement?

It is preferable, but not required, to spend the money on a capital improvement. A capital improvement is preferred because it is a tangible and lasting tribute to the planning work done by the neighborhood.

Must the funds be spent by the City rather than by a private party?

Yes. The funds must be spent by a City Department.

Other points to consider:

- The allocation should not be used to fund duplicate services that the City already provides to the neighborhood. The money may be spent to enhance services above those provided by the City.
- The money could be used as seed money for a larger project. Such a project should have realistic goals and a clear timetable for completion.
- If the project generates a long term cost to the city such as maintenance or upkeep, the neighborhood should be willing to sign an agreement and develop a mechanism (i.e. a fundraiser for an endowment, develop a cooperative agreement with an established and responsible entity) to assist with this.