

**OWANA Steering Committee**  
**May 6, 2002**

Members in Attendance: Charles Price, Sarah Uribe, Katy O'Neill, Katherine Crago, Daniel Traverso, Paul Dunham, Nancy Toelle, Margaret Bruch, Laura Morrison

Guests: Gordon Derr (City of Austin), Marjorie Moore, Mark Stine

Daniel made a motion to approve the minutes from the SC meetings on April 1 and April 15, 2002. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Neighborhood Plan Zoning Case

A proposal to modify the NP zoning recommendations was presented by some business owners at a city-sponsored workshop on April 25, 2002. A response to the proposal has been drafted. Comments to the draft should be provided to Mark Stine and Nancy Toelle by the end of the week.

Later, Laura made a motion that due to time constraints, this be a special circumstance where we agree to discuss and vote on the draft on line. The motion passed unanimously.

2. DAMP/No Left Turn off Lamar

Gordon Derr from the CoA Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department visited to discuss the city-sponsored DAMP proposal to have a trial period prohibiting left turns off Lamar at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Sts during peak hours. Instead, drivers would take a 'cloverleaf' as follows. Northbound Lamar traffic would go west on 6<sup>th</sup> St. by going east on 5<sup>th</sup>, north on Bowie, and then west on 6<sup>th</sup>. Southbound Lamar would go east on 5<sup>th</sup> by going west on 6<sup>th</sup>, south on Baylor, and east then on 5<sup>th</sup>.

The SC expressed several concerns about this idea, including that this configuration would cause significant increase in cut through traffic in the neighborhood and that there are no baseline figures to compare measurements of cut through traffic during the trial period.

Laura made a motion that Charlie draft a letter objecting to the no-left-turn on Lamar trial, and expressing the concerns raised by the SC.

Katherine made a friendly amendment that the letter also express the SC support of a Lamar Area Mobility Plan (LAMP) study to look at the area's mobility and access issues from a comprehensive perspective.

The motion passed unanimously.

Gordon is the city's transportation engineer in charge of our area.

### 3. Settlement Issue

A settlement agreement has been drafted to address the Nokonah developers' violation of an agreement entered with Baylor residents in 1996. The original agreement was to protect Capitol views. The settlement provides a lump sum of money for the violation that occurred based on what is reported to be a surveyor's error. One of the original signatories to the agreement was "Karen Akin – OWANA" (although the SC did not oppose the related variance). Thus, the developers are asking that OWANA be party to the settlement, and that OWANA therefore release the developers from any further claims based on the agreement.

Jim Cousar has provided his opinion to Margaret. Margaret will provide these opinions and the original agreement to the other SC members so they can consider the issue.

A special meeting will be called address this.

### 4. Setback Variance Request on 1001 Lorrain

A variance request to decrease setbacks on the front, side, and rear of this property will be heard at the BoA on May 13. The owners are planning to replace the existing house with a new one. 3 or 4 neighbors apparently oppose this variance although Nancy has not seen this in writing. The NP does not support this variance since the Plan supports preserving the existing housing stock. Therefore, by the standards the SC uses to determine support or opposition to a variance, the SC would oppose this variance request.

Daniel made a motion that the SC oppose this variance because the neighbors oppose it, because it goes against goals of the NP, and because it is a hardship of their own making which falls outside the State requirements for a variance.

The motion failed 0 to 6.

2 SC members had left by this point, leaving 7 SC members.

Charles made a motion that the SC oppose this variance because the neighbors oppose it, and because the goes against goals of the NP. The motion passed 6 to 0.

### 5. Safety

Austin Police Dept. has identified a new district representative for our area. He is Steven Fleming, and can be contacted at 974-5341.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

Katherine will get signature authority on the OWANA checking account this week. All officers will also be signed on the account.

#### 7. Parks Committee Report

Marjorie provided an update on the Implementation Committee for the leash-free area in West Austin Park. She is trying to track down the \$4k estimate noted on the NP Tracking Chart to repair the irrigation system in West Austin Park. She is reviewing the Austin Parks Foundation grant guidelines. Landscaping in the middle of Palm Plaza may be an appropriate use of such a grant.

#### 8. Agenda for June General Membership Meeting

The SC voted to oppose the No-Parking-On-Front-Lawns Ordinance at the April 1, 2002 meeting. At the meeting, the SC erroneously interpreted the vote on the motion as failed; however is actually passed. Therefore, this topic will not be placed on the agenda for the General OWANA Membership Meeting in June.

## ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT: NANCY TOELLE

### VARIANCES:

1001 LORRAIN - decrease of setbacks on front, side street(for new home), and rear (for relocation of accessory building). Would like input from neighbors. Does anyone know neighbors or have any input? Need vote before May 13. Can send in form if in favor, need to attend meeting if against.

\_Action: \_

### CHURCH:

St Francis has not applied for 2 permits as promised, and last Saturday removed a garage from the backyard of the parish hall next door to the church. Demolitions require permit. There was no permit posted, but asst. pastor assured me that they had receive a permit. When I called the city, no permits are on file for those properties. The city said they would send an investigator.

What action needed?

### BUSINESS OWNER'S MEETING:

Business owners hired Melissa Wheatley, who has a business on Oakland to write a proposal and present it to us at their open house. We were interested in seeing if the presentation constituted what we could consider minor revisions or if they were major changes to the plan. The proposal includes provisions for changing a number of conditional uses to permitted and adding some prohibited uses on 5th, 6th streets, west side of Lamar and West Lynn. They made several recommendations: promoting higher height limit on the corners of 5th and 6th and Lamar, fee reductions for downzoning, a point system for deciding on conditional use permits.

During the meeting Mark did a good job of representing how the NP was developed, with input from all segments of the community. Unfortunately, those business interests who did participated did not speak up at this meeting. Katy asked an excellent question: Did this proposal and those present represent ALL business owners, or a subgroup. That is a key question.

At the meeting I was given a copy of the Austin West End Study, which is a very slick production stating WEAA's goals for the the commercial corridors. They site the OWA NP in many instances as complementing particular parts of their plan. They also did surveys of stakeholders for what they wanted those corridors to look like in the future. It's interesting that what their study proposes seems to run counter to at least part of the proposal they are making to us.

Mark, Katy and I decided we needed to meet after we'd had a chance to review the written proposal and seek responses from Jim Cousar and Dave Sullivan. We met, with Laura, last week and have a response to the proposal in draft form prepared by Mark. Our response gives the reasoning behind the points in our NP they are proposing to change and also asks them to frame their proposal in a manner that parallels the plan, so we can understand the driving tenets behind their proposals. When the draft is finalized, we will send it under Margaret's signature to Melissa Wheatley, the business owners, Steve, and possibly the city council.

For discussion: do we need to involve city council or at least meet with someone on the council to make sure we have the ear of a councilmember who will listen to the OWANA position?

**NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPORT:**  
**Laura C. Morrison**

Steve Barney is currently getting an estimate from the city engineers on the cost of the sidewalk. We expect that estimate very soon, hopefully by the SC meeting Monday. He is working with the city staff in charge of sidewalks, Linda DuPriest, through this.

As for the second recommendation, to use some of the money on the irrigation system, Marjorie is following up on Steve's recommendation that we first try to see if PARD would cover the cost.

Detailed status on implementation of the action items in the plan is listed in the attached spreadsheet. What's new in each of the sections:

Land Use/Zoning -  
See Nancy's report on the zoning case.

Transportation -  
Daniel is going to be contacting the city on various items under this section, including  
-- Additional speed bumps needed around the neighborhood  
-- No Parking signs needed at Blanco and 7th (cars park right up to the corner making visibility impossible).  
-- Hazards adding to the recent accident at 10th and the Mopac frontage road.

Parks -  
Marjorie is looking into Austin Parks Foundation Grants as a funding source for some of the action items, and the formation of a "Friends of the Parks" group as a source of participants in these actions.

Historic Preservation/Urban Design -  
Teresa is developing a plan to hold a Clarksville Festival at Mary Baylor Park to kick off several of the Clarksville-related action items at once. This would also be an opportunity to recruit OWANA members (there don't seem to be many in Clarksville per se) and participants in implementing the Plan, and could be an effective way to help new Clarksville residents learn to appreciate the significance of the neighborhood. In addition Teresa will be contacting some current and previous Clarksville residents to ask them to work on a walking tour of the area.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**Katy O'Neill & Laura Morrison**

National Register Application Process:

The OWA calendar fundraiser project, to support the National Historic District application, is progressing. On May 4, Nancy, Katy and Laura met with Ed Jordan, a neighbor/artist, who will be creating the artwork for the calendar. Ed has begun the serialgraphs of neighborhood scenes that will be used in the calendar. They are quite extraordinary. The next major effort we now need to get underway is to identify underwriting for the production of the program, and to develop a marketing plan.

Research needed to support the Historic District application is underway. The research group and all others interested in joining in will meet on May 20, at Katy's.