

OWANA Steering Committee
August 5, 2002

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

Guests: Dave Sullivan, Paula Gruber, Dale Detweiler

The meeting was held at the home of Katy O'Neill's. Margaret called the meeting to order at 6:45pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Margaret asked that a correction be made to the drafted minutes of July 1, 2002, to clarify her statement on the influence of OWANA on the variance request at 6th and Lamar, that she had stated that it was clear that OWANA held a position of power and influence with the Board of Adjustments and had 2 options – to oppose, and to not oppose, both of which were appropriate and we, as the SC needed to decide how to proceed.

The July 1, 2002 minutes were approved, with the modification, with a vote of 5 in favor and 1 abstaining.

The July 21, 2002 minutes were approved with a vote of 4 in favor and 2 abstaining.

2. Newsletter

Articles will be provided to Sarah by Sunday, August 11, as follows:

Charlie - Transportation, 12th St. striping removal
Margaret - Letter from the chair
Nancy - zoning, 6th and Lamar
Laura - Neighborhood Nlan, \$20k
Laura - Flyer to solicit donations for calendar
Saralyn - Membership solicitation (already sent to Sarah)
Katy – History - calendar, upcoming meeting
Katy - Neighborhood Plan zoning
Margaret - Agenda
Margaret - Leash free park issue
Margaret - Steering committee members solicitation

3. Steering Committee Members

Concern was raised about steering committee members who have not attended a series of meetings. The discussion addressed the provision in the OWANA bylaws that allows for

removal of such members after missing 3 consecutive meetings, and whether the 3 meetings include special meetings and general meetings.

Sarah made a motion that the interpretation be made that the 3 meetings include special meetings.

Discussion centered on the problem that the SC requires contributions and help from all members. A copy of the bylaws was not available.

The motion failed with a vote of 1 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstention.

4. Zoning

Katy reported that notices have been sent to all residents describing the rezoning that implements the recommendations from the OWA Neighborhood Plan. The rezoning provides for 4 general changes: (1) allowing Mixed Use along 5th, 6th and Lamar; (2) changing some permitted uses to limited use, and conditional uses to prohibited use (although all current uses are grandfathered); (3) limiting height along the west side of Lamar to 40 feet; and (4) adding Smart Growth Infill Options of Small Lot Amnesty and Granny Flats to the whole neighborhood.

The rezoning case is scheduled before the Planning Commission on August 14, and before City Council on August 29.

Katy made a motion that the OWANA SC support this rezoning as codification of the neighborhood plan recommendations.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Status on Implementation Team for Leash-free Trial Period at West Austin Park

Margaret reported that the Implementation Team had disbanded after voting to approve a plan for implementation of the leash-free trial period as listed in the OWA Neighborhood Plan, Action Item 77.

A motion was made that the SC accept the plan to go forward with it for a vote of all residents in the neighborhood.

The design of the fence was explained, and the process for developing the plan was discussed. A correction in the plan was noted, that the “Summer Hours” should be listed for May 1 through September 30, and the “Winter Hours” for October 1 through April 30.

The motion passed, with 5 in favor and 1 abstention.

It was noted that we need to work with the City to ensure that all households receive a ballot.

6. Smart Growth Incentives

Nancy made a motion that the SC take a position in a letter to the City Council as follows: “The OWANA SC votes to support local businesses, Book People and Waterloo Music, by strongly opposing waivers, incentives, or subsidies to the Schlosser Development at 6th and Lamar. We oppose development that displaces long-term local businesses with chain stores. We feel this uses our tax dollars to degrade the unique quality of life downtown Austin and its contiguous neighborhoods seek to preserve and funnels local dollars out of state. We ask the mayor, council members, and city manager to support local downtown businesses by denying waivers, incentives, or subsidies to Schlosser Development to give national chains an unfair advantage.”

The motion passed unanimously.