

OWANA General Membership Meeting
September 3, 2002
Minutes

Joe Meza of Fresh Plus graciously provided refreshments before the meeting.

Margaret Bruch, chair of OWANA, called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Guest: Council Member Betty Dunkerly

1. Announcements from the Chair

Margaret made announcements as follows:

Currently OWANA is correcting some errors in the OWANA membership list. If you did not receive an OWANA Newsletter recently, contact Saralyn Stewart, OWANA Membership Chair, to get this corrected.

The percentage of neighbors that are members of OWANA can be an important consideration in the OWANA interactions with the City. Contact Sarah Uribe, OWANA Treasurer, to join OWANA.

OWANA has a need to reactivate two committees: the Nominating Committee and the Bylaws Committee, and OWANA benefits from a broad range of participation. Contact Margaret or any OWANA Steering Committee member if you are interested in participating.

Thanks are due to Janet Sullivan who is managing the OWANA website. To provide inputs to the website or help in the effort, contact Janet or Margaret.

Council Member Betty Dunkerly addressed the meeting, thanking the group for being an active organization, and noting that her assistant, Stephanie Beckins, is an OWA neighbor.

2. Historic Preservation Committee Report

Katy O'Neill stated that research has continued over the summer to support OWANA's application as a Historic District on the National Register. The next meeting for this group will be Sept. 23, 2002. Contact Katy if you are interested in attending the meeting.

3. Neighborhood Planning Implementation Team Report

Laura Morrison stated that the group is working on re-allocating the \$20,000 OWA Neighborhood Plan seed money. The previous decision to allocate the funds to the cost of a partial Blanco sidewalk is preempted with the City's plan to install the sidewalk with bond funds. Contact Laura if you are interested in participating with this effort.

3. Calendar Update

Nancy Toelle noted that the OWA calendar is a fundraiser for the Historic Register Application. Artwork is provided by life-long OWA resident Ed Jordan. Funds are currently being raised to support the printing of the calendar. Contact Nancy for information about making a donation or pre-ordering calendars.

4. Treasurer's Report

Sarah Uribe has recently taken over the role of OWANA Treasurer and is in the process of working out the books. OWANA currently has approximately \$1,700.

5. Public Safety Committee Report

Daniel Traverso stated that the West Lynn construction project has led to increased traffic on other streets in our neighborhood. The number of accidents has increased, and extra caution is advised.

Additional traffic issues were raised: 3 speed bumps specified by the earlier Traffic Calming Study will be part of the West Lynn reconstruction, but one more, on Parkway, has not been installed, and triangles on the speed bumps need to be repainted. Pedestrian safety in general is a concern, especially for children walking to Mathews Elementary.

Contact Charles Price, Traffic Committee chair, to follow up on these and similar issue.

6. Parks Committee Report

A committee has developed a plan to implement the Neighborhood Plan action item to conduct a 6-month trial period of an off-leash area in West Austin park. The City requires that the plan be put to all residents of the OWA area by a ballot, one per household. However, the element of the plan that allows for mixed-use of the ball area for off-leash and general access depending on the hour of the day is not acceptable to the City.

Michael Mullen made a motion that OWANA support the original leash-free plan with the following changes:

- (1) Change the leash-free area to the hillside in the southwest corner of the park, starting to the west of the ADA path and extending to the western edge of the park. The area will only be a leash-free area and not allow mixed-use.
- (2) Eliminate the restriction on hours of use as a leash-free area.

The motion was seconded. A map of the park, showing the proposed leash-free area was passed around.

After discussion, Michael withdrew his motion.

Michael Mullen made a motion to change the leash-free area to the southwest corner of the park as noted above. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

Michael Mullen made a motion that hours for the leash-free area be the same as the posted hours for West Austin Park. The motion was seconded.

An amendment was made to charge the Steering Committee to determine hours for the leash-free area up to 12 hours in a day. The motion was seconded. The motion failed.

A vote was taken on the unamended motion. The motion carried.

7. Zoning Committee Report

Nancy Toelle reported that the zoning changes recommended in the OWA Neighborhood Plan passed the Planning Commission review. The City Council heard a discussion of the changes. One business owner voiced objections and the Council asked to delay until their next meeting.

The next issue that OWANA will address from the Land Use section of the Neighborhood Plan is the zoning rollback. A workshop will provide information to the neighborhood on the opportunity to rollback zoning on MF (multi-family) zoned properties to SF (single family) at little or no cost.

A chronology of the OWANA Steering Committee's actions on the 6th and Lamar/Schlosser Development request for a height variance was provided. The developer has presented to the Zoning Committee a new proposal to address the items which the Steering Committee had presented to the developer as 6 conditions of their vote to "not oppose" the variance request.

Steven Moore made a motion that OWANA take a position to not oppose the variance request at 6th and Lamar conditioned on

(1) the developer's agreement to meet conditions as stated in this most recent proposal, and

(2) representatives of OWANA being able to continue to negotiate details of the site plan with the developers after granting of a variance.

The motion was seconded. Discussion on the motion followed. David Vitanza, a representative of the developer, discussed the project and noted that they would like the support of the neighborhood (vs. non-opposition) and that after the meeting the offer would be off the table.

While OWANA members' hands were raised wishing to speak, a motion was made to end discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded and passed.

Some members of OWANA expressed concern that the vote should be taken in a manner to ensure that only members were casting votes.

The motion passed with a vote of 27 to 15.

8. OWANA Endorsement of the OWA Neighborhood Plan

Mark Stine made a motion as follows:

Whereas,

(1) the Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (OWANA) entered into a memorandum of agreement with the City of Austin in May, 1999 to act as an agent on behalf of all residents of the Old West Austin Neighborhood, regardless of their membership in OWANA, for the development, approval and implementation of the Old West Austin Neighborhood Plan as adopted into ordinance by the Council of the City of Austin in June, 2000, and

(2) the first basic tenet of the plan is preservation and protection of residential properties from actions on or near such properties that are deleterious to the use, enjoyment and feel of the properties as residences, including but not limited to inappropriate rezoning or variances at or near the properties, and

(3) the second basic tenet of the plan is the fostering of good urban development in the designated corridors in the plan, promoting the best urban design principles including but not limited to less reliance on single-occupancy-vehicles, regional parking management, development of mass transit options, development and enhancement of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and inclusion of affordable components in mixed-use development, and

(4) the neighborhood plan can be amended by the neighborhood and City Council to address changes in the neighborhood, new opportunities to further the two basic tenets of the neighborhood plan, and unintended deleterious effects of items in the neighborhood plan, and

(5) neither City Council nor the Old West Austin Neighborhood are legally bound to the action items of this plan,

be it resolved that the OWANA General Membership endorses the Old West Austin Neighborhood Plan as adopted by City Council on June 29, 2000 as an appropriate and valuable tool to provide guidance on issues in and near the neighborhood that affect the continuing enjoyment of the neighborhood by present and future residents.

Discussion followed. Barbara Day noted that the Steering Committee is bound by the OWANA By-Laws to limit their decisions to those of necessity between General

Membership meetings, and that this motion should not be construed as replacing that limitation.

The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

9. New Steering Committee Members

Dale Detwiler and Steve Colburn were elected to the Steering Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Note: Steering Committee Members in attendance were Margaret Bruch, Paul Dunham, Laura Morrison, Charles Price, Katy O'Neill, Saralyn Stewart, Nancy Toelle, Daniel Traverso, Teresa Perez-Wisely, and Sarah Uribe