

**Old West Austin Neighborhood Association Regular Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2004
Clarksville Community Center
Minutes**

Next Meeting April 5, CCDC, 6:30 p.m.

Corrections to January SC Minutes:

Katy O'Neill will continue to serve as the ANC representative. In response to a question from Linda MacNeilage, Margaret Bruch and Katy reported during the January SC meeting that no contract had been signed concerning the National Register.

1) Welcome and Introductions

* SC ATTENDING (10; quorum = 7): Jake Billingsley, Robin Carter, Steve Colburn, Jim Kaighin, Linda MacNeilage (presiding), Chris Schoerre, Karen Schwitters, Kammi Siemens, Sarah Uribe, Gene Waugh

* SC NOT ATTENDING (3): Paula Gruber, Greg Leitich, Saralyn Stewart

* OTHERS (6): Margaret Bruch, Barbara Stroud, Nancy Toelle, Katie O'Neill, Laura Morrison, Red Wassenich (Parliamentarian).

Linda MacNeilage called the meeting to order at 6:40 and introduced OWANA's new Parliamentarian, Red Wassenich.

2) Steering Committee Minutes and Meeting Format

MOTION: (passed unanimously) The SC moved to ratify the January minutes and addendum.

ACTION ITEMS: Members will submit corrections to the December, 2003 minutes to Barbara Stroud (stroudoboyle@sbcglobal.net), and October 2003 minutes to Margaret Bruch (bpope@austin.rr.com). Corrections to 2004 minutes will be submitted to Kammi Siemens (synesthesia8@yahoo.com or owana78703sc@yahoogroups.com). Kammi will send a copy of the approved January minutes to Janet Sullivan.

DISCUSSION: As the Moderator of OWANA Yahoo groups, Laura Morrison explained that the owana78703@yahoo.com is a general membership e-group and it includes all SC members who have access to e-mail. The owana78703sc@yahoo.com is an e-group including only SC members. A good rule of thumb when posting to either group – and especially to the general membership group - is that the posting contain language worthy of being published in a newspaper. ACTION ITEM: Laura will 1) add wording to the e-groups home and message footer, that the postings do not necessarily reflect the official position of OWANA, and 2) send out a call for volunteers willing to serve as the OWANA website manager.

DISCUSSION: Where should SC meetings be held? Some members supported continuation at the current CCDC site and some supported holding meetings in private homes. Jake Billingsley suggested that using CCDC as a location could be viewed positively in renewing 501 (c) (3) status. MOTION: (passed, 5-4) April and May SC meetings will be held at the CCDC. During the May SC meeting the location issue will be re-addressed. General membership meetings will continue quarterly at Mathews Elementary School.

3) Treasurer's Report (Sarah Uribe)

ACTION ITEM: Sarah will send out a treasurer's report to SC members electronically at a later date.

DISCUSSION: Sarah and Nancy Toelle will look at the calendar fundraising accounts from

September '02 – Feb '04 to clarify funds available, particularly regarding calendar and national historic district application fundraising.

4) Calendar and Historic Registry Committee

Margaret Bruch invited everyone to a wine and cheese reception and silent auction hosted by OWANA on Thursday, February 19th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Josephine House (corner of Waterson and West Lynn). The silent auction will feature original works done by Ed Jordan for the 2003 and 2004 OWANA calendars. All proceeds will go toward the OWANA National Register Historic District application. ACTION ITEMS: Katy O'Neill let the group know that Terri Myers of Preservation Central would be at the silent auction and asked for Terri to be included on the March GM agenda in order to provide an update on the application progress. Barbara Stroud's husband, Bob O'Boyle, has offered to review the Historic Registry contract.

5) Zoning and Platting Committee (Steve Colburn reporting)

Steve reported that an application for a waiver from height compatibility standards has been requested for the property at Encinal unit #301 at 1106 West 6th street. The City Planning Commission will hold a hearing to review the request. The Zoning and Platting Committee plans to follow up on the hearing and check with neighbors in the Shelley vicinity for neighbor support. At 1016 Shelly, a house and two large trees were removed from the site and the lot is now stripped for development. Questions have been raised about whether notification was given to OWANA before removing the property. Katy O'Neill will follow up with ANC as a broader issue for the Austin area. MOTION: (passed unanimously) "OWANA moves to support changing the policies and procedures which the City must follow to include giving notification to neighborhood associations for moving or demolishing old homes."

The City Planning Commission voted to approve a site plan conditional use permit SPC-03-0018C of which neither OWANA nor WEAA were informed. MOTION: (passed unanimously) "OWANA Steering Committee moves to request the City Planning Commission rescind the conditional use permit SPC-03-0018C granted to Shurgard Storage site plan and rehear this item after proper notification of the permit request has been received by appropriate parties, including OWANA, and the permit item has had another public hearing."

Steve reported that measuring techniques employed by the city allow for height measurements to be taken from a built up portion of the lot, resulting in artificially allowable height measurements. This technique is commonly referred to as "flower boxing." MOTION: (passed unanimously) "OWANA Steering Committee moves to request that the City modify the portion of the Land Development Code which allows height measurements to be taken from a built up portion of a lot."

City Council voted on first reading 5-0 to approve the zoning request at the Nokonah first floor from retail to office and pedestrian uses. OWANA was the only opposition present at the first hearing.

6) Membership Committee

Sarah Uribe estimated that OWANA has approximately 4 new household members, which would bring totals to around 170. Steve Colburn, Paula Gruber, Chris Schorre, and Saralyn Stewart met earlier to strategize about creating various levels of OWANA business membership with different incentives for each. Incentives may include names, business ads or logos printed in the OWANA newsletter, or OWANA calendars. Creative discussion ensued about an OWANA discount card offering discounts only to OWANA members with a card. ACTION ITEM: Chris will draft a business membership letter that will be reviewed by Membership Committee and then will be e-mailed to SC members for brief comment.

7) OWANA EIN and Non-Profit Status

DISCUSSION: Linda MacNeilage reported that she now has a copy of the original OWANA articles of incorporation, which was active until 1993. In order to reactivate the corporation, OWANA would have to fill out a request to reactivate and pay a re-instatement fee. The corporation can be reactivated at any time. A component to reinstating the corporation will be locating the OWANA EIN #, which Linda is working to locate. MOTION: (passed unanimously) "OWANA Steering Committee moves to renew the articles of incorporation if the renewal fee and penalty are less than \$100.00."

DISCUSSION: Charter members of OWANA report that the organization filed both to incorporate and to establish 501 (c) (3) status at the same time in 1983. Because 501 (c) (3) status allows donors to write off their contribution when they file their tax return, it has been proposed that OWANA reinstate the lapsed tax-exempt status. Questions were raised about any recurring expenses if the tax-exempt status is renewed. It was recommended that an attorney, perhaps David Smith or Jim Cousar, review the application before it is filed. MOTION: (passed unanimously) "Sarah Uribe will complete the 501 (c) (3) application, in the event that the EIN number is not found or if 501 (c) (3) status cannot be confirmed, in order to present the application for tax-exempt status to OWANA General Membership for approval."

8) Miscellaneous

Linda suggested the benefits of creating an OWANA logo or icon, particularly for the newsletter. Sarah Uribe reported that Brewster McCracken had been invited to attend the first 5 minutes of the March OWANA General Membership meeting. For future discussion: Traffic calming is needed on both 12th and on Blanco streets. Residential development is possible along the south OWANA border. OWANA and DANA should discuss how to best strategize for the development.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Kammi Siemens, Secretary.