

OWANA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING March 6, 2001 Mathews School

Approximately 60 people attended.

I. NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

Austin Police Officer Tim Atkinson, the District Representative for our area, spoke. The murder last fall at the KwikWash has led to monitoring those who use it as a drinking hangout. Because it is within 1000 feet of the school, drinking there is a violation. The situation seems to have improved, Atkinson said, and the laudromat owner is cooperating.

The installation of the new traffic-calming measures is accompanied by increased police monitoring of traffic violations, particularly of people turning off MoPac illegally. The general city contact for the traffic calming is Peter Marsh (peter.marsh@ci.austin.tx.us).

In response to a stated problem with people parking on sidewalks, Atkinson said we could provide a form letter from him that citizens could reproduce and put on cars.

Atkinson urged all to contact him for neighborhood police issues. Email is probably the most effective method: timothy.atkinson@ci.austin.tx.us Phone: 974-5341

II. OPPOSITION TO PARKING GARAGE

Dave Sullivan spoke on behalf of Ben Shotz from the neighborhood association to our northeast. They are opposing a proposed parking garage at San Antonio and Martin Luther King Blvd. because it will decrease the residential quality of life. A motion to add OWANA's opposition was passed unanimously by those voting.

III. POSITION ON FUTURE LAMAR DEVELOPMENT

Dave Sullivan led the discussion on OWANA sending the Board of Adjustment a position paper opposing any further large scale "central city-sized" developments on the east side of North Lamar. The text of the position is in the March newsletter. This passed unanimously by those voting.

The general discussion brought up the issue of the future of the "ruins" on Baylor St. While the position paper does not relate to this, it was agreed that the OWANA steering committee should explore options for this site, including such possibilities as a park, allowing small commercial neighborhood-friendly development, etc.

IV. POSITION ON VARIANCES

Dave Sullivan led a discussion of how OWANA, in particular the steering committee, should respond to variance requests. A position paper, printed in the March newsletter, proposed using our neighborhood plan as the guidance and stated situations where we would or would not oppose variance requests. This passed unanimously by those voting.

During this discussion, the specific issue of proposed development on Pressler St., where two or possibly three small houses may be torn down and replaced with much larger houses, was debated. The proposed development requires variances. The steering committee had already sent a letter of opposition to granting this.

V. NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT PROJECT

Laura Morrison described the current process being pursued to get the Old West Austin area status as a National Historic District. Several other neighborhoods north are also pursuing this. A letter of eligibility for the area north of 12th Street has been obtained. Efforts to extend this south to Town Lake are being pursued. The status would prevent federal money going to projects, such as widening MoPac, that would harm the district. A motion to support proceeding with this effort passed unanimously by those voting.

VI. MOPAC EXPANSION POSSIBILITIES

David Smith outlined various ideas the Texas Dept. of Transportation is considering for expanding MoPac. These ideas have to be approved by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), who will be holding a public meeting on MoPac and 183 on April 9 at the Joe C. Thompson Center at UT. OWANA is part of a coalition of neighborhood associations monitoring plans.

VII. WEST END ALLIANCE

Mark Stine reported on discussion by the West End Alliance, which is made up of the business people from the 6th St.-Lamar area. They are monitoring proposed east-west corridors and encouraging pedestrian-friendly and appropriate scale design. They are also working with downtown planners to encourage developments that do not result in high-traffic use.

The audience asked that the steering committee provide more information on this via the newsletter and website.

VIII. OWANA DUES INCREASE

The proposal to increase annual OWANA dues from \$10 to \$15 was passed with one dissenting vote. It is hoped this increase will fund mailing, rather than hand-delivering, the newsletters.

IX. OWANA STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION

The proposed slate of candidates listed in the March newsletter were elected unanimously by those voting.