

**Old West Austin Neighborhood Association Regular General Membership Meeting  
March 2, 2004  
Mathews Elementary School  
Minutes**

Linda MacNeilage called the meeting to order at 7:05.

**1) Treasurer's Report (Sarah Uribe reporting)**

Sarah gave a verbal report of the bank balance, funds raised through calendar sales, and general funds.

**2) Zoning and Land Use Committee Report (Steve Colburn reporting)**

Steve reported that Shurgard Storage on 5<sup>th</sup> street has proposed building a new storage facility west of the existing Public Storage building. OWANA joined with members of WEAA, the West End Austin Alliance, to request a re-hearing of the ruling needed to grant a waiver to Shurgard to build the new facility. Because the waiver was originally granted without proper notification to OWANA and others affected by the building, the request to re-hear the waiver with community input was granted.

Steve also reported that in part due to the hard work of OWANA members and other neighborhood supporters, the Landmark Commission voted 5-2 in a special hearing to support the recommendation for Historic zoning of the three properties at 802, 804, and 806 West Lynn.

MOTION by Paula Gruber: (approved unanimously) "The OWANA General Membership resolves to support the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission vote regarding historic zoning for properties at 802, 804, and 806 West Lynn."

Discussion ensued regarding placement of an item on the OWANA GM agenda which was of particular import to several GM constituents. The item was in regard to a letter received from SWCA, one of the two final bidders for the upcoming OWANA National Historic Register District nomination and related survey. Questions were raised about when to review this item, and concern that it was not identified on the agenda. There was lack of consensus about how to best address the issue within the confines of Robert's Rules of Order. MOTION by Michael Mullen (failed 18-9 opposed, 9 abstaining) to talk about this item now rather than later on during New Business.

**3) National Register Historic District Committee (Katy O'Neill reporting)**

Katy reported that the draft contract between OWANA and Preservation Central had been reviewed by Bob O'Boyle and was now ready for review by the OWANA Steering Committee, and that a comprehensive cultural resources survey had been completed. Sarah Uribe asked about the billable hours used to complete the survey before the contract with Preservation Central is been fully executed. Linda MacNeilage responded that any contractual issues regarding billable hours will be addressed by the Steering Committee during their final review of the contract language. Discussion ensued regarding the funding available from the City of Austin, regardless of the contract status, for OWANA's nomination as a National Register Historic District and the time limits placed on that funding stream. MOTION by (Who so moved?) (passed with 7 abstaining) to require the first \$10,000 of billable hours from Preservation Central be invoiced to and debited from the dedicated City of Austin Neighborhood Implementation funds.

**4) Calendar Committee (Nancy Toelle reporting)**

Nancy reported that in part due to the very successful calendar fundraising event at the Josephine House on February 19<sup>th</sup>, more than \$13,000 in calendar sale proceeds were earmarked to fund OWANA's National Register Historic District application. Local resident and artist Ed Jordan kindly donated his

original calendar drawings for auction at the event. Acknowledgement and appreciations were expressed to all who made the fund-raiser and calendar sales such a success.

#### **5) Membership Committee (Saralyn Stewart reporting)**

Saralyn estimated that OWANA had approximately 173 voting members, up 23 from the Spring of 2003. Working together, the committee had produced several innovative ideas to recruit OWANA business memberships, and encouraged the General Membership to come up with additional ideas. One plan included tiered business membership levels with different incentives for each. Incentives may include names, business ads or logos printed in the OWANA newsletter, or OWANA calendars. A business membership invitation letter and new membership application will be mailed to an estimated 250 businesses in the OWANA area later in March. ACTION: Volunteers are needed to follow up with a phone call to the targeted businesses. April 15<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for a household membership drive. Look for a new and updated OWANA website, currently under creative development by Shad Reynolds.

#### **6) West End Austin Alliance (Laura Morrison reporting) and Austin Neighborhood Alliance (Katy O'Neill reporting)**

Laura attended the WEAA January meeting where the eminent burden of both Lamar and Enfield reconstruction was discussed. Laura also reported that Whole Foods expected to move into their new offices in November 2004, and to open for business in January 2005. Possibilities for the current Whole Foods site include a theater and assorted retail. The OWANA Zoning Committee is working with Whole Foods to discuss parking accommodations and negotiation. One idea involves shared parking with GSDM after their regular office hours.

Katy attended the February ANC meeting where the proposed hospital district and development of the old airport were part of the discussion. The proposed hospital district would merge the currently existing funds dedicated to healthcare within the City of Austin and Travis County, helping support public health within a specific geographic region. The district would operate in lieu of cities and counties taxing for healthcare purposes. The plans for redevelopment of the 709-acre Robert Mueller airport site call for the creation of a transit-oriented community including a town square, a mixed-use district, an employment center, a variety of residential uses and possibly a new children's hospital.

#### **7) Unfinished Business and General Orders**

DISCUSSION: OWANA finances are currently maintained on Sarah Uribe's computer using QuickBooks. An upgrade to this software would more easily generate reports and maintain accurate accounting detail. The expected price range was discussed. MOTION: (passed with 1 abstaining) "OWANA SC is empowered to purchase a copy of QuickBooksPro as an exception to the \$100 budget limit for OWANA purchases."

DISCUSSION: Hector Uribe reported on the research regarding OWANA filing for 501c3 status. There was discussion about whether OWANA had ever had 501c3 status or not. Of primary concern are the changes to the structure of the organization that would result from incorporating, which could have implications for governance structure. A conglomerate of neighborhood associations to the north of Enfield previously joined together for the purpose of pursuing National Register Historic District nomination, and as part of that process filed for 501c3 status as a separate umbrella organization. It was recommended that a subcommittee be identified to re-examine the previous tax-exempt status with charter OWANA members and, ideally, an attorney and an accountant who can outline the implications of incorporating. MOTION by Margaret Bruch (passed with one abstaining) that "the OWANA Steering Committee accept a request to create a special committee to explore the feasibility and appropriateness of applying for 501 (c) (3) status which would present its findings and recommendations to the OWANA General Membership."

Jake Billingsley reminded the General Membership about the importance of aligning around the OWANA Neighborhood Plan, especially with regard to new development in the neighborhood. One example he cited as being out of compliance with the neighborhood plan was the building at 1710 6<sup>th</sup> street which has insufficient curbs and a dangerous sidewalk.

### **8) New Business**

Marjorie Moore presented a mock-up of the covered pavilion scheduled for Mary Baylor Park, along with pictures of the successful tree planting that occurred recently in the neighborhood as a result of collaboration between the Canine Social Club, volunteers in Mary Baylor Park and TreeFolks. Marjorie also reported on future improvement projects at the neighborhood dog park, which may include adding a retaining wall and landscaping. An architect has provided models for the improvements at no cost. Cost estimates for their implementation are being reviewed by members of the Canine Social Club.

Linda MacNeilage asked the General Membership to submit ideas for an OWANA logo to any member of the Steering Committee.

Steve Colburn began a discussion of a letter received from SWCA, one of the two final bidders for the upcoming OWANA National Register Historic District nomination and related survey. Some GM constituents expressed concern that the letter was not shared during the December GM meeting and that subsequent investigative action by Steve and Red was not adequate. Concern on the part of some GM constituents was also expressed that the position taken by the SC regarding the letter did not adequately address their questions about the letter. Steve outlined the Robert's Rules of Order processes for handling conflict within a decision-making body regarding concerns about impropriety. Steve reported that after a meeting between he and Red Wassenich, OWANA Parliamentarian, they agreed that the process for addressing the conflict should be handled informally rather than formally. There was considerable lack of consent among the GM members about when and how the issue should be handled. Jake Billingsley moved to call a special OWANA General Membership meeting with appropriate due notice given to all members to discuss the issue at hand. The open motion was left on the table when the meeting was adjourned because the building was about to be closed.

Linda MacNeilage adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Kammi Siemens, Secretary.