

**Old West Austin Neighborhood Association Special Steering Committee Meeting
Monday, March 22, 2004
Clarksville Community Neighborhood Center
Minutes**

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

* SC ATTENDING (10 attending; quorum = 7): Jake Billingsley, Robin Carter, Steve Colburn, Paula Gruber, Jim Kaighin, Linda MacNeilage (presiding), Kammi Siemens, Saralyn Stewart, Sarah Uribe, Gene Waugh

* SC NOT ATTENDING (2): Greg Leitich, Chris Schorre

* OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (8): Margaret Bruch, Joan Huntley, Nancy Toelle, Katy O'Neill, Laura Morrison, Tere O'Connell, Dick Ryan, Red Wassenich (Parliamentarian)

1) Welcome and Introductions

Linda MacNeilage called the meeting to order at 6:40. She talked briefly about standards for decorum in a deliberative assembly and read from a letter regarding peace and open communication.

2) Membership (Saralyn Stewart)

Six people are following up on business membership drive with calls and visits to local businesses in the OWANA area. Donations from new members are approximately \$110.00, and there are approximately 14 business members (some new, some old).

3) SC E-Mail Group (Laura Morrison)

Currently, all members of the OWANA78703SC group are also members of the OWANA78703 group. Membership to the OWANA78703SC group is regulated, whereas the regular OWANA group is not. Anyone can read, post or monitor this group, including developers. There are 83 members in the open group. Historically, past SC and Committee chairs have been allowed to retain their membership on the OWANA78703SC group depending on their level of ongoing involvement with OWANA activities. ACTION ITEM: Laura Morrison will send out an invitation via e-mail to past SC and Committee Chairs to subscribe to this group, with the stipulation that they must be current on their dues.

4) Committee Reorganization and Appointments (Steve Colburn)

Steve proposed to reorganize the current committees to emphasize the role of the Committee Chairs as communication liaisons and managers, rather than serving primarily in a task-driven capacity. There was discussion about the ability to manage the way in which volunteer committees operate, and about the bylaws distinction between standing committees and special committees. It was clarified that special committees have a specific agenda, so that when the work is finished, the committee is finished. Their membership and participation is open, and Chairs are appointed by the SC. Special committees can be formed by the SC or by motions from the floor at membership meetings. A By-Laws committee can be appointed when necessary as a special committee. The following nine special committees were proposed and/or currently exist: 1) Historic Preservation 2) Zoning and Land Use 3) Public Safety and Transportation 4) Neighborhood Plan 5) Fundraising and Membership 6) Parks and Greenspace 7) By-Laws 8) 501 (C) (3) and 9) Design Committee. The Nomination Committee is the only standing committee specified as such in the by-laws. DISCUSSION: The group did not come to consensus about the best way to appoint new Chairs to committees, and whether their roles should be changed. MOTION: (passed with one opposed) Sara Uribe moved to accept the special committees in name and mission only. The reorganization of each committee will be taken up at the next SC meeting, in April.

5) Interface with Clarksville

A Clarksville neighborhood issue brought to the attention of OWANA is that of an upcoming city of Austin animal control hearing regarding dangerous dogs chained in the yard at a house on 12th street. Several OWANA SC members noted that the City has previously investigated and found that the manner in which the dogs are chained falls within limits of current city ordinances regarding chaining and the safety of the neighborhood. Linda MacNeilage had asked Paula Gruber to look into the question of ordinances and policy. Paula prepared a draft letter which was not read because, after discussion, OWANA decided not to send the letter to City Animal Control. MOTION (passed with one abstaining and one opposed) by Sarah Uribe for OWANA to maintain a neutral position regarding the issue of chained dogs on 12th street.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by Kammi Siemens, Secretary.