

September 2000 OWANA Newsletter

General Membership Meeting Tuesday, September 12 7:00 pm, Mathews School

<p>Avoid the chilly weather by coming to the Fall general membership meeting of OWANA on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7:00 pm at the cafeteria at Mathews School on West Lynn.</p> <p>Neighborhood residents approved both the Neighborhood Plan and the Traffic Calming Plan this summer. These will be discussed at the meeting along with guest speakers on various issues relevant to neighborhoods that will be on the November ballot.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations and discussion on November election issues.• Presentation on Neighborhood Plan.• Presentation on Traffic Calming Plan.• Election of two Steering Committee members. (See article in this issue.)• Solicitation of volunteer to manage OWANA website. (See article in this issue.)
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Correction / Addition on Old West Austin Historical Markers

In the last issue of this newsletter, we listed the six historical markers we knew of in Old West Austin. We asked if we had missed any. We had.

Miss Jane Smoot reminded us of the oldest and certainly one of the best: Flower Hill, her beautiful house at 6th and Pressler, built in 1877. The state marker was granted in 1965 and the house was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Incidentally this was the original site of the Austin Presbyterian Seminary and was where O. Henry was married. Thanks to Miss Smoot for the correction.

Recent Old West Austin Neighborhood Plan News

In June the Austin Planning Commissions and the Austin City Council both unanimously approved the Old West Austin Neighborhood Plan. Both bodies lauded folks who had put the plan together – while we neighborhood folks laud the city staff who assisted us: Steve Barney, Cecilia Williams. Now that the plan has been approved, it has been added to the City's Comprehensive Plan. By law, zoning changes must comply with a city's

comprehensive plan, but compliance is often in the eye of the beholder, which is why we still have to pay attention to any zoning change or site plan variance requests.

Following adoption of the plan, the OWANA Steering Committee accepted the resignation of Mark Stine as the chair of the Neighborhood Planning Team, and appointed former City Planning Commissioner Dave Sullivan to chair a new Neighborhood Planning and Implementation Committee (NPIC). An additional committee is being set up by Rob Dickson to develop neighborhood design standards to serve as suggestion for any new developments or redevelopments in the neighborhood.

While any neighborhood resident or property owner is welcome to join the NPIC, a couple of initial kick-off meetings have been held with the neighborhood folks who led the creation of the plan to discuss several issues. First, we wish to wrap up the plan before sending it to the printers by adding photos and maps. Second, we plan to start a “living” appendix to the plan in which to keep track of how the plan is put to use over time and to compile suggestions for future plan amendments. Third, we met to hear a proposal for office use on a major property now used for industrial purposes south of W. 5th St. and to discuss how it meets with the goals of the plan. In our judgment, reusing industrial property as office space while preserving important architectural and historic features is right in line with the plan, but we suggested the applicants take the issue up at the next general meeting of OWANA.

For more information on the NPIC or the plan itself, call Dave Sullivan at 476-7872 evenings.