

OWANA General Membership meeting

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 - 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM Mathews School Cafeteria
(906 West Lynn at West 9th)

I. Registration and Social Gathering (6:30 – 7:00)

Refreshments provided by Galaxy Café

II. Paul Seals called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Steering Committee members present: Paul Seals, Christine Buendel, Larry Halford, George Warmingham, John Teinert, Marion Cimbala, Veryan Thompson, Chris Rankin, Mike Sullivan, Brooke Bailey, Kurt Sauer

III. The minutes from the 12/7/10 General Membership meeting were approved.

IV. Mary Baugham gave a presentation about the **Mathews Elementary Fund for Excellence** which honors alumni who have attended higher education beyond high school. Pennants can be purchased for \$20.00 with the names of alumni and the colleges they attended and will be placed on the walls. A portion of the money will be used to fund scholarships, excellence grants and annual gathering activities. The money is managed by the Austin Community Foundation and as of December 2009 over \$26,000 has been donated to the MFE.

V. **Will Harvey, Austin Police Department, Central West District Representative** gave a description of his job. He answered questions about the recent upsurge of break-ins that have occurred in central and west Austin and gave advice on how to lessen your chances of being a burglary victim. His main points were to leave lights on in the evening and at night, and not to leave anything visible in one's car. He said extra patrols are on duty in the evenings to deal with the increase in DWI which is a result of the proliferation of bars between downtown and and Mopac. Will Harvey can be reached at 974-8123.

VI. Discussion of Grande Communication Project to Upgrade Network in the Neighborhood – Libby Malone, Grande Communications

Grande Communications is upgrading their network in our area by removing old copper wiring and replacing it with high fiber optic cables so that service can be converted to digital. All work is above ground and should be done around mid-April. They also have an outreach program to support schools, parks and neighborhoods and will sponsor a family-friendly movie in Pease Park on March 26th.

VII. **Update on 1603 Enfield (Former Pleiades Project)** – Rance Clouse gave an overview of progress on this site. Drainage problems have been fixed, and construction is will be 'green', energy efficient and will incorporate many recycled materials. He is planning a community Open House on Saturday, April 2nd.

VIII. **Discussion of 5th/6th St. Corridor Initiative** – Laura Porcaro

This committee meets once a month at 12:30 on a Thursday. They have developed a website: walkonthewestside.weebly.com and are preparing a survey to be sent out in April or May to obtain neighbors' input on what they want to see along this corridor.

IX. **Austin Neighborhood Council Update and Consideration of any ANC Resolutions**

Dave Sullivan reported that the Historic Zoning ordinance is being reviewed by the City. Seven working groups are forming to create a Comprehensive plan for Austin and need people with passion and expertise to join.

X. **Committee Presentations and Reports**

A. **Zoning Committee Report** - Larry Halford

1618 Confederate Avenue NRD-2010-0163 (Contributing, SF3)

Proposal: Demolish the back wall of the house and construct a two-story rear addition. The applicant is retaining the Craftsman/Classical Revival style of the front facade. HLC passed this case on consent. Applicant has applied for building permit, no variance was requested, and no further reviews anticipated.

1211 Lorrain St - NRD-2010-0162 (Contributing, MF3)

Proposal: Add a second story and completely reconfigure the existing house and construct a new guest house in the rear. HLC urged the applicants to keep the existing home in its original Cape Cod influence by limiting addition to the rear of the home. Landmark Commission did not take action and their comments were recommendations only. Applicant went before BOA Oct 11th for three variance requests; 1) decrease minimum front street setback from 20 to 15 feet in order to construct a covered porch, 2) decrease minimum side street setback from 15 to 10 feet in order to construct a second story addition to a single family residence, and 3) from 15 to 11'-9 in order to construct an accessory building (carport with guest house deck above). BOA granted variances.

1406 Hartford – The applicant requested a variance to decrease the minimum front street setback requirement of Section 25-2-492 (D) from 25 feet to 0 feet in order to erect a detached carport for a single- family residence in an “SF-3-NP”, Family Residence – Neighborhood Plan zoning district. Board of Adjustment public hearing was conducted in Dec. and variance was denied. Applicant appealed to Board of Adjustment for reconsideration in January and BOA again denied the variance.

1603 Enfield – formerly Pleiades Condo – Partially constructed condominium project is under new ownership. The new owner has indicated they would not be using the variance approved by Board of Adjustment for an additional stair in rear setback. Revised building plans are anticipated to be available in March. Project is still anticipated to be sold as condos. Selective demo has begun and new construction will begin once revised design permits are issued.

1315 W. 6th Street – Applicant encountered problems with their site development application to City of Austin, primarily with front setback of deck from property line. City recommended Applicant apply for another zoning change that would allow the reduced front setback and remain consistent with the Restrictive Covenant agreed upon with OWANA.

Third Base Sports Bar on 6th Street is applying for an outdoor music permit for their outdoor TVs; till now they have been using them out of compliance. A lengthy discussion followed as many neighbors are bothered by the noise from Third Base and the reluctance of the management to address complaints. A motion was made and passed that OWANA oppose the Outdoor Music Venue application by Third Base, Case no. SO-2011-0028M, unless the OWANA zoning committee, in consultation with nearby residents, reach an enforceable agreement acceptable to the zoning committee.

B. **Parks and Greenspaces** – Marion Cimbala

The neighborhood parks are being well used with soccer games in Mary Baylor park, new garden plots behind the Haskell House, and the demolition of the tennis court in West Austin park. ‘My Parks Day’ is March 5th with painting, mulching, tree trimming and other volunteer projects. A movie night is scheduled for some time in April. Two requests from a member concerned the need for more lights as well stair rails on the south side steps in Mary Baylor Park.

C. **Historic Preservation**

no report

D. **Public Safety and Transportation** – Mike Sullivan

Bike racks stolen from in front of Mathews School have been replaced on the corner of West Lynn and 9 1/2th Street where there is heavy pedestrian traffic. Mike will see if they can be moved to a less busy area.

There is still no decision about access to the proposed HOV lanes on Mopac. OWANA is in favor of access from Cesar Chavez as opposed to 5th and 6th Streets.

E. **Affordable Housing** – Christine Buendel

Christine and Scott Marks have met with Rose Gabriel, the project manager for CDC (Clarksville Development Corporation) to discuss the best use of the \$300,000 available for low income housing. The money would be administered by People Trust People Fund and would probably be in the form of low interest loans for repairs and to build alley flats.

F. **Membership** (including recommended membership dues & business rates) – George Warmingham

Current members: residential 185, business 28, expired 130.
Members since 12/1/10: residential 83, business 18

2011 Membership Committee Goals

- Go paperless
 - Get as many member's email addresses as possible
 - Do not mail *OWANA Owl* any more than necessary
- Increase membership by 50%
 - Mass mail to about 3000 addresses
 - Ask all members to recruit at least two residential and one business member
 - Recruitment table at OWANA events
- Make general business meetings more sociable
 - Social time before General Meeting
 - Drinks and light snacks provided

Benefits of OWANA membership

- Stay informed of neighborhood issues and activities
- Be invited to neighborhood events
- Enter a raffle to win tickets to ACL Fest
- Network with their neighbors
- Receive *The OWANA Owl* newsletter four times a year
- Support the character of our neighborhood
- Be part of the solution
- Receive updates on neighborhood security and safety issues
- Vote at General Membership Meetings if they reside within the boundaries of OWANA

Membership rate changes

Residential

- Current
 - \$20 for one year
 - \$50 for three years (Six months free)
- **Add** (in addition to above)
 - \$80 for five years (One year free)

Business

- Current categories
 - \$50 Level 1
 - \$125 Level 2
 - \$250 Level 3
 - \$500 Level 4
- **New**
 - Above rates apply to businesses **within** OWANA boundaries only
 - Rates for businesses **outside** OWANA boundaries

- \$100 Level 1
- \$250 Level 2
- \$500 Level 3
- \$1000 Level 4

A motion was made and carried to adopt the new rate structure as laid out in the Membership Report for both residential and businesses.

G. Community Events – Christine Buendel

Neighborhood Events 2011

Goal for 2011: Three Membership Drives at three OWANA Events. One fund raiser.

- March 5—It’s My Park—Park Clean up and Improvements—
 - Locations: West Austin Park, Mary Baylor, Haskell House, Palma Plaza
- April 17 - Clarksville Fun Fest—Clarksville Fund raiser
- 4th of July—see below
- Ice Cream Social—Clarksville fund raiser
- National Night Out—get to know the neighbors to create a safe, crime-free neighborhood. Highly localized: Immediate 2-3 block radius.
- Octoberama—Mathew Elementary PTA fund raiser

Others Events Affecting OWANA:

- February 27—Green Garden Festival
- March 5—Austin History Center, “5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music”
- March 27—Capitol 10k
- ACL – September 16 – 18
- January 2012—Dream Pie Social at Sweet Home Baptist Church

Fourth of July—pool, balloons, soccer, 2 bounce houses, sidewalk chalk, watermelons, bring your own picnic. Drawing for two ACL passes; must be a member to win.

Estimated Cost: \$75 for balloons; \$50 for flyers.

Publicity: flyers distributed within OWANA.

Will need help with the following:

- Distributing flyers
- Picking up and cutting watermelons

Special Attention: keeping pool open after hours and, possibly, permit.

September 9, 10, or 11 (date TBD) - Fund raiser at Z Tejas (Happy Hour)

Goal: Generate funds, then let general membership determine how to spend funds

Venue: Z Tejas or TBD

Silent Auction – Items from neighborhood businesses and two ACL passes

Budget: TBD. Appetizers.

Will need help with Publicity and Silent auction—gathering items, set up, etc.

The Sweet Home Baptist Church “Peace Through Pies” Social held in January was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Another pie social has already been scheduled for January 12th 2012.

A new member suggested that a good idea for raising funds would be for multiple garage sales to be held on the same day within the neighborhood, with a portion of the proceeds going to OAWANA.

H. **Bylaws** – Kurt Sauer
no report

XI. **Administrative and Organization Issues**

A. **Treasurer’s report** – Brooke Bailey

Checking account balance	\$	7,341.21
Money Market balance	\$	52,769.31
PayPal account		-
Total funds	\$	60,110.52

Funds available for specific uses:

General funds	\$	12,034.93
Branding fund	\$	5,059.19
Parks fund	\$	3,671.74
Zoning	\$	39,344.66
Total sub accts.	\$	60,110.52

B. **OWANA Website Update** – Christopher Rankin C. Other Administrative and Organizational Business
John Michael Seeber is helping Chris with the website, and a new member has kindly offered his assistance.

XII. **Other Business and Announcements**

Paul Seals’ announcement that the great refreshments had been provided by Galaxy Café was greeted with a loud round of applause. Many thanks to them.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm