

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, July 6, 2004 6:30 p.m.  
Clarksville Community Development Center  
Minutes

\*Next Meeting Monday, August 2, CCDC, 6:45 p.m.\*

1) Welcome and Introductions

\* SC Members (10; quorum = 7): Jake Billingsley, Steve Colburn, Paula Gruber, Jim Kaighin, Greg Leitich, Linda MacNeilage (presiding), Chris Schorre, Karen Schwitters, Saralyn Stewart, Gene Waugh

\* Richard McCown (Parliamentarian)

\* SC Members absent: Robin Carter, Rosemary Merriam, Sarah Uribe

\* Guests: Robert O'Boyle, Katy O'Neill, Laura Morrison, Ricardo Soliz

Call to order by Linda MacNeilage and taping of meeting at 6:30.

2) Approval of Minutes

April 5, 2004 and May 3, 2004 SC minutes approved unanimously.

3) Karen Schwitters has agreed to be OWANA Secretary.

4) Jake Billingsley reported that on June 19 a Neighborhood Plan Contact Team meeting had been held at which a City representative (Laura Patlove) had been present, and at which the group had gone forward and had formalized an executive committee, passed bylaws, and scheduled a follow-on meeting for Sept. 18. Linda pointed out that there is some confusion about the announcement distribution and the next scheduled NPT meeting. Some concerned neighbors had visited with Ricardo Soliz, Tom Bolt, and Laura Patlove (CoA staff) before the June 19 meeting to express concerns about lack of appropriate notification for the June 19 meeting, and the City staff at that point planned instead a July 8 meeting with notification, which has been delayed. Ricardo Soliz noted that the CoA did not mail June 19 meeting announcements, but will host the next NPT meeting to be held on Thursday, August 5. He added that it is the intent of the CoA to mail a wide distribution of the August 5 meeting announcement and that the NPT bylaws are in "preliminary" form and a copy should be mailed with the August 5 NPT meeting announcement.

Saralyn reported from notes of the June 23 meeting with Ricardo Soliz, Tom Bolt, Laura Patlove, Jake Billingsley, Laura Morrison, and Saralyn Stewart. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss concerns that all stakeholders in OWA, and neighboring businesses, should get introductory information of the OWA NP Planning/NP Contact Team amendment process and have input in its

formalization, and to work through details on plans for amendments and for the initial list of members of the team. It was agreed that stakeholders need to include business owners, renters, residents, property owners, and various community organizations and institutions. A point of concern was that the May and June 2004 announcements of the NPT meetings to begin formalization of this team did not adequately cover most neighborhood businesses in particular, property owners, institutions and, including those that had been involved in the original NP development. The CoA has scheduled a meeting to affect a broad-based team in August.

Jake left the SC meeting at that point, but a quorum was still present.

5) Bob O'Boyle reported on 501.c.3 application status. It is the perception that OWANA was a 501.c.3 organization. There was discussion about what would go into the application. Bob said that he would get with Sarah Uribe (Treasurer) and Linda MacNeilage (Chair) to go over the general funds. There is a \$500 filing fee. Items needed for the application are annual gross receipts for four years, a list of Steering Committee members, and contributions made by the organization. Paula Gruber asked what are the downsides of the application. Bob said there are none, other than annually filing Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax.

6) Steve Colburn reported from the Zoning Committee.

- a. Goodwill Site: Michelle Allen notified Laura Morrison that they are submitting a demolition site plan to kick in the historic review process.
- b. 1016 Shelley: Brian Pape and Laura Morrison have been doing some investigating and measuring and have concerns that there is also a set back problem on 9<sup>th</sup> Street as well as the number of stories (currently four) and height issues.
- c. 1106 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street (Encinal Condos) Unit #301: At the recent Council hearing (June 24) the Mayor announced that there was a request for a postponement until the end of August, but with a bemused look, that the request was opposed. Brad Greenblum said that Melton West had health problems and the parents and brother are taking over and need time to come up to speed. The Council granted a postponement until the end of July.
- d. Shurgard Storage, 1305 West 5<sup>th</sup>: A conditional Use Permit for this storage center was denied by City Council (7-0) after being denied by the Planning Commission (7-0). The Neighborhood Plan was instrumental in this vote.

7) Paula Gruber reported that a grant application was submitted July 16, 2004 for redesign of the off-leash dog park area in West Austin Park. There is a soil erosion problem and hopefully with planting vegetation and designing a path would redirect water flow in this area.

Motion: (Colburn/Waugh) A letter of support from the SC written to the Austin Parks Foundation in support of a West Austin Park Canine Social Club grant application for soil erosion plan elements related to the West Austin Park dog park. Paula Gruber will draft the letter and email it to Linda MacNeilage.

8) Saralyn Stewart reported on behalf of Red Wassenich that the Bylaws Committee would finish their report in time for the December General Membership Meeting. Red was on travel until September and the Steering Committee would like to encourage Red to complete the task as chair.

9) Historic Preservation Committee: no report was given. There was some discussion regarding Phase II and III of National Register Nomination application. Phase III is ready to begin. The SC agreed that this project should be well defined and that all data and research is recorded. Terri Myers will be checking the work on the survey report at the end of August 2004.

Motion: (Gruber/Schorre) Authorize payment for Phase II and begin Phase III. The motion passed unanimously.

10) Saralyn Stewart reported that on July 2 the Membership/Fundraising Committee had a meeting and talked 'officially' about fundraising and two proposals for a 2005 calendar project. I haven't met with Richard and Amy Griffith to discuss their proposal, nor have I met with Karen Dickey, and therefore I did not have a clear picture of either proposal to produce a 2005 calendar. I believe having two proposals is a good problem, one that OWANA had never encountered. The household and business membership campaign will continue into the fall, through December 31.

11) Motion: (Waugh/Gruber) To appoint Wayne Orchid as the OWANA Audit Committee chair. The motion passed unanimously. It was suggested that OWANA appoint a committee of three and change the Bylaws to include an Audit Committee as a standing committee of three members.

12) Treasurer's Report: no report was given.

13) Austin Neighborhood Council: no report was given since Katy O'Neill did not attend the last two meetings.

14) WEAA: no report was given since there was no meeting in June.

15) Web/EGroup: Laura Morrison reported that Shad is making progress on an updated design for the OWANA website. Laura requested that the committee chairs write a brief description of their committee's mission and function.

16) Paula Gruber reported that four OWANA members had an informal meeting of a possible mediation effort. Corder-Thompson Mediation Group charges \$80 an hour for this job. A proposed two and a half hour group mediation meeting was proposed.

17) Steve Colburn reported there is an increase of 'tagging' in the neighborhood on buildings, a car in the alley near his house, and on the car cover. The best solution to this problem is to clean off the 'tagging' as soon as possible. Chris Schorre will phone Officer John Evers regarding the 'tagging'. Chris suggested creating a form letter to OWANA area businesses that they have an obligation to clean up 'tagging' on buildings.

18) Chris Schorre reported on naming our historic district. Even though Treaty Oak is distinctive to our neighborhood, using that name is not possible because it is not part of the National Register application. Linda MacNeilage agreed to meet with Terri Meyers.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Saralyn Stewart  
Steering Committee Member