

OWANA STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, February 1, 2010
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association

Steering Committee Meeting
Clarksville Neighborhood Center
1807 W. 11TH Street

I.Call to order (7:00) – Paul Seals

Steering committee members present: Paul Seals, Hector Uribe, Veryan Thompson, Anne Bertholf, Sara Kennedy, Richard McCown, Christopher Rankin, John Teinert, Larry Halford, Mike Sullivan, Laura Porcaro, Christine Buendel
Others present: Donna Carter, Alice Glasco, David Vitanza

II.Approve Minutes

A. January Steering Committee meeting. Minutes amended on p. 2 under 'Parks' to read: Marion Cimbala and Laura Porcaro will co-chair the Parks Committee. Amended and approved.

III.Discussion of Austin Comprehensive Plan. Donna Carter, Project Team

Donna Carter outlined the 2 year process that is underway due to be completed around August 2011. Input from many sources such as planning projects, transportation, mobility, health and human services, solid waste management, and neighborhood meetings is being sought. She encouraged neighbors to meet and complete the "Meeting in a Box" questionnaire designed to ask what people would like Austin to look like in the future.

IV.Discussion of Proposed Schlosser Development, 6th and Bowie. Alice Glasco, representative of Schlosser Development, and David Vitanza

Plans for the proposed 350' development were shown. The Planning Commission will hear a request for a height variance on Feb.23rd.

A discussion was held after Ms. Glasco and Mr. Vitanza had left and a decision reached to neither oppose nor support the plan, but to voice concern over the increased traffic at 5th, 6th, and Lamar and suggest improving traffic flow on Rio Grande and West Avenue with traffic lights, and speeding up the proposed southward extensions of West and Nueces to Cesar Chavez Street.

V

.Treasurer's Report

Total in account: \$70,118,84. Annual expenses are about \$3,000

VI.Newsletter/Website – Chris Rankin

A. February 15th is the deadline for the next newsletter. A motion was made and carried to spend \$150 from the General Fund to convert a paper list of addresses that are within the OWANA boundaries to Excel, useable for mailing purposes.

VII.ANC Meeting Report – Laura Porcaro attended the last ANC meeting. Topics addressed were property taxes, appraisals, and the possibility of cost-sharing in neighborhood improvements, such as in sweat equity or financial contributions.

VIII.Committee Reports

A. Zoning and Land Use – Larry Halford

507 Pressler ~ Taco and Tequila Bar Planning Commission postponed hearing for request for a late night beverage permit in order to serve alcohol from 12-2AM Thurs-Fri-Sat. The current permit allows sales until midnight. Nearby applicant, neighbors and zoning committee will meet again 2/2 to discuss. Additional information has been request from the City regarding; subsequent enforcement, and more detail on what triggered the special conditions requiring PC approval. Initial response from the City indicated proximity of parking to residential was the reason however they were not clear if residential meant adjacent SF or the apartments above the proposed restaurant. Informal polling in Dec GM meeting indicated most did not support increasing number of business with extended hours beverage sales in the neighborhood.

610 Harthan The HLC granted the certificate of appropriateness on 4 out of 9 improvements to the property. Applicant needs to show photo of house in original state to prove stairs were present in order for them to build stairs off the front porch. The applicant has 4 months to relocate the back shed or the city will release the demolition permit if unsuccessful.

1315 W. 6th Street Applicant filed an application for a zoning change from office use (LO) to commercial/restaurant use (GR) to open a bistro. GM voted to support the upzone if the application includes a condition that would limit the square footage to the existing structure, no late night beverage permit, and no amplification permit. The Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for February 9th.

1212 W. 9th Street HLC approved request for Demolition permit 4 to 0. OWANA did not oppose the demo nor did any of the adjacent residents. Owner requested to be allowed to demolish due to economic hardship and has indicated their desire to sale the property as opposed to redeveloping it themselves. HLC indicated any new or remodel permit would trigger another hearing of the HLC since it is in a Nation Historic District.

1412 W. 9th Street Request for historic zoning was approved by the HLC. City Council will hear the case in February for final ruling.

CASES WITHOUT FORMAL APPLICATIONS:

Schlosser Development – Office tower east of Whole Foods Alice Glasco will present development plans at the 2/1/10 the Steering Committee meeting.

802 WInflo -Zoning Committee members met with Nick Mehl, architect; to review plans for a new residence on a vacant lot. Committee suggested some minor changes to exterior materials be considered but otherwise the design appears to meet codes and no variances are anticipated at this time.

B. Parks – Plans for the pool at West Austin Park and the splash pad at Mary Baylor Park were approved by the City Council and they should be open this summer.

March 6th is It's My Park Day, projects are being planned

Marion Cimbala and Laura Porcaro will co-chair the Parks Committee with Marion handling communication with PARD and Laura communicating with the steering committee.

C. Affordable Housing - Christine Buendel

Kelly Weiss will assist Christine.

D. Historic Preservation – no report

E. Traffic and Safety

Richard McCown reported that the website krimelabb.com gives a list of crimes and locations that anyone can access.

F. Membership- Sara Kennedy

The committee had met and recommended that all locally-owned businesses be allowed to advertise in the OWL and to reduce the number of business levels from seven to two. Discussion followed and agreement was reached that there needs to be more outreach to local businesses before offering to take advertisements from businesses outside the OWANA boundaries.

G. Community Events

March 6th, - It's My Park Day

IX. Other Business and Announcements

Paul reminded members to notify him if they are unable to attend a committee meeting. A motion was made and carried to excuse those who were unable to attend the meetings last month and this month.

X. Adjourned at 9:30pm.