

OWANA

NEWSLETTER ❖ DECEMBER 2000

www.main.org/owana

OWANA comprises the area from Town Lake to Enfield Road and from Lamar Blvd. to MoPac.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 6:30 pm, MATHEWS SCHOOL

The December Old West Austin Neighborhood Association meeting is our largest of the year. While all of OWANA's meetings are open to everyone, this newsletter announcing it goes to everyone in our area, not just to members.

Because of a full agenda that has several issues of broad concern, the meeting will start at 6:30, a half hour earlier than usual.

As you can see from the agenda, several important issues will be discussed and voted on. With the recent murder on West Lynn, concerns about crime have risen. The Austin Police Department's District Representative is scheduled to attend.

Large-scale developments continue in our area. An update on these, particularly the Sand Beach Reserve (east of Lamar, south of 5th Street) is the latest. A position paper stating OWANA's stance on future developments is printed inside and will be discussed and voted on.

AGENDA

- President's Report
- Increase OWANA Dues (*see article inside*)
- Development Issues:
 - Sand Beach Reserve
 - MoPac and East/West Corridors
 - National Register Historic District Application
 - Position Paper on Lamar Development (*see article inside*)
- Election of OWANA Steering Committee for 2001 (*see list of nominees inside*)
- Report on West End Alliance
- OWANA Web Site Improvements (*see article inside*)
- Austin Police District Representative Tim Atkinson

PROPOSED POSITION ON THE FUTURE OF LAMAR BLVD.

**To be voted upon at
December Meeting**

**By Dave Sullivan
OWANA Steering Committee**

I have long bragged about the tolerance and diversity of the Old West Austin Neighborhood compared with that of other Austin neighborhoods. We have businesses, churches, and schools on narrow residential neighborhood streets. We have public housing near \$200 per square-foot homes. We have historic homes next to 21st century houses. We support commercial development around our fringes. These are all features or mixes of uses that I listened to other neighborhoods from North, East, South, and West Austin complain about while I sat on the Austin Planning Commission from 1994 to 1999. Six projects come to my mind that would have been extremely controversial were they in any other neighborhood, two of which we were also aghast at. The two projects we opposed were a pool hall on Lamar at the old Whole Foods/current Cheapo CDs site, and the Public Storage monster on W. 5th -- which the developer had wanted to place on W. 6th, until the city negotiated a deal to place the big box back on the W. 5th side. Any neighborhood would have reacted to these projects as we did. But we did not oppose the Austin Market Place at W. 6th & Lamar, the Nokonah Condominiums at W. 9th & Lamar, the JPI apartment proposal for the Tips Foundry (since dropped), or the new Sand Beach Reserve project at W. 3rd and Lamar. Except for the Tips case, each of these is on the east side of Lamar adjacent to our neighborhood, but each is of a scale and positioning so as to have direct effects on the eastern edge of our area in terms

of traffic, noise, lighting, and loss of downtown views.

Most of us took the broad view that allowing a few large residential or mixed-use projects between us and the Central Business District would do several positive things that outweighed the negatives. In particular, we hoped that large multi-family residential projects would help restock some of the affordable housing we have lost as real estate prices have sky-rocketed. Further, we hoped that new residents in these developments would become our allies to promote amenities, public transit, and public safety in the area. Perhaps most importantly we have hoped that modest development along Lamar would help block extremely large scale development that would follow an extension of the Central Business District as far west as Lamar, and would help reduce the risks that Lamar would become a highway.

Many will suggest that OWANA should have actively opposed these large residential and commercial projects I have mentioned, but for the most part the cement will soon be dry for these projects. The case is, however, that many of us who supported or simply did not oppose these projects should now think seriously about whether Lamar Blvd. has met the "budget" for large-scale development and that we should plan to actively oppose any new projects on Lamar that would exceed in scale any of the current two to-three-story uses between W. 6th and Enfield. Such a proposal was discussed at the most recent meeting of the OWANA Steering Committee, and we decided to offer this question to the General Membership. The proposal is stated in resolution form as follows:

"Whereas the Old West Austin Neighborhood Association has been glad to welcome new businesses and residential projects in the Lamar Blvd.

area up to this point, and whereas the growth that has occurred plus new projects with approvals appear to have reached the appropriate level for large-scale development in this area, and whereas the area now is at or exceeding the maximum carrying capacity of parking, traffic, and storm water run-off, we resolve to oppose any further development or redevelopment on the east side of Lamar that would fail to conform to building standards allowed under the Traditional Neighborhood Design site development standards."

This will be discussed and voted upon at the Dec. 12 general meeting.

**ELECTION OF NEW OWANA
STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMBERS AT DEC. 12
MEETING**

The steering committee of OWANA for 2001 will be elected at the Dec. 12 meeting. The nominating committee has put forth the following candidates for the 13 positions:

Pauline Brown *
Marjorie Hook *
Myrna Lantzsch *
Laura Morrison *
Katy O'Neill *
Thom Person *
Paul Seals *
David Smith *
Mark Stine
Dave Sullivan *
Red Wassenich *
Mike Whisenhunt
Denise Younger *

(Some changes are possible between the time this was printed and Dec. 12.) Those with asterisks are incumbents. Anyone can make nominations from the floor at the Dec. 12 meeting.

**PROPOSED OWANA DUES
INCREASE TO BE VOTED ON
DEC. 12**

The OWANA Steering Committee decided at its November meeting to propose raising membership dues from \$10 to \$15 per year. The dues are for a household or business.

The dues have never been raised before, but our expenses have increased. We had \$1292 in November (prior to the considerable expenses of this newsletter, which goes to all residents and is mailed rather than hand-delivered).

The recent Neighborhood Plan and Traffic Calming initiatives and increases in printing costs meant we ended the year with less than we started, despite increases in members. The cost for renting Mathews School for our meetings also rose.

This will be discussed and voted on at our December meeting.

**OWANA Web Site
Redesigned and
Expanded**

www.main.org/owana

The OWANA web site has just been improved and we hope it can become an increasing source of information and a forum for discussion.

We are exploring offering **online delivery of the newsletter** to save money, paper, and time. There is a survey about this on the site.

A new calendar, a directory of useful phone numbers and web sites, and an email link to contact OWANA have also been added.

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association Membership

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Mail to: OWANA

P.O. Box 2724

Austin, TX 78768-2724

Want to join OWANA?

Memberships for households or businesses are only \$10 per year.

You can also join at the General Membership meetings.

SPECIAL OFFER!!! At the December meeting we will vote whether to raise the dues to \$15. Join now before the possible dues hike.

OWANA

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2724

Austin, Texas 78768-2724

Don't Forget!

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 pm

Mathews Elementary School
Cafeteria on West Lynn