

OWANA OWL NEWSLETTER

KEEPING NEIGHBORS CONNECTED AND INFORMED



MAY 2019

Hello Neighbors!

This has been a very active spring for your neighborhood association as we hosted a series of super-successful events: *our largest movie in the park yet*, *our annual egg hunt (it was HUGE!)*, and *our third annual summer kickoff party*. Plus we held our first ever event directly supporting our favorite public elementary school: Mathews.

I hope you've had the chance to take part in at least one of these events hosted by OWANA in the last two months, meet someone new and enjoy spending time with the best neighbors anywhere. If not, there are plenty of good events coming later this year.

I also hope you can join us for the **General Membership Committee Meeting at 7pm, Tuesday, June 4th** at Mathews Elementary.

At this meeting you'll hear reports from our committee chairs including these important items:

- **Volma Overton Shores: OWANA Steering Committee asks for General Membership support of renaming the parkland along Lady Bird Lake (See page 3 for details)**
- **The latest word on several residential and commercial construction projects of interest in the neighborhood. (See Zoning Report, Page 10)**
- **More events planned for 2019 and how you can join in the fun**

As with all OWANA committee meetings, all OWANA neighbors are welcome to attend this General Membership meeting, but only members have a vote on individual issues. **If you're interested in joining OWANA, our membership team will be on hand at the meeting. You can also sign up on our website: www.OWANA.org.**

OWANA is all about connecting with our neighborhood and our city. We want to be open and welcoming as a community. Can OWANA help you engage with our neighbors and our city? Email me at chair@owana.org or see me and talk.

Ted Barnhill

2019 Chair, OWANA Steering Committee

June 2019 General Membership Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Mathews School Cafeteria (906 West Lynn at West 9th)

- I. Call to Order (7:00)
- II. Approval of Minutes - VOTE
- III. Treasurer's Report - Renae
- IV. New Business
 - A. Volma Overton Shores - VOTE
 - B. Nominating Committee - A recommendation that Amy Bodle be approved to fill the Steering Committee vacancy. - Mike Sullivan - VOTE
- V. Committee Reports
 - A. Affordable Housing - Marissa
 - B. Events - Amy
 - C. Membership - Sinikka
 - D. Parks - Ellu
 - E. Technology - Derek
 - F. Transportation and Public Safety - Mike
 - G. Zoning (Neighborhood Planning) - Erin
- VI. Other Business and Announcements
- VII. Adjourn

NOTE: Votes may be taken on any scheduled agenda items.

Join OWANA!

Keep reminding your neighbors and the local businesses you frequent to join OWANA. Send them to www.owana.org/join where residents can join online and business can download an application form.

Thanks for your continued support and participation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OWANA Steering Committee Supports...

VOLMA OVERTON SR. SHORES

At the **March General Membership** meeting, we heard a presentation about **Volma Overton Sr.**, an Austin civil rights activist who was at the forefront of ending segregation in Austin Schools. Members at the meeting considered ideas for honoring Mr. Overton's legacy including: renaming West Austin Park, renaming Lamar Beach, or naming the West Austin Park Pool or Amphitheater after him. The result was a commitment among several members to find out more about the process involved with renaming city properties and bring the issue back to a vote at the next General Membership meeting in June. Last month, after discussing these options further and learning more about the renaming process, the OWANA Steering Committee voted to recommend to the general membership that Lamar Beach be renamed "**Volma Overton Sr. Shores.**" If the general membership votes to support this name change at the June meeting, then OWANA will write a letter to the City to that effect.



For more on Volma Overton Sr.'s legacy and accomplishments here's a link to [Volma Overton's Bio](#) and summary at the [Texas State Cemetery](#) website.

Lamar Beach is 65 acres of land stretching from Lamar Boulevard to Mopac between the railroad tracks and Lady Bird Lake with thousands of people passing through this strip of parkland every day either by foot on the Lady Bird Lake trail or by vehicle driving on Caesar Chavez. (see image below)

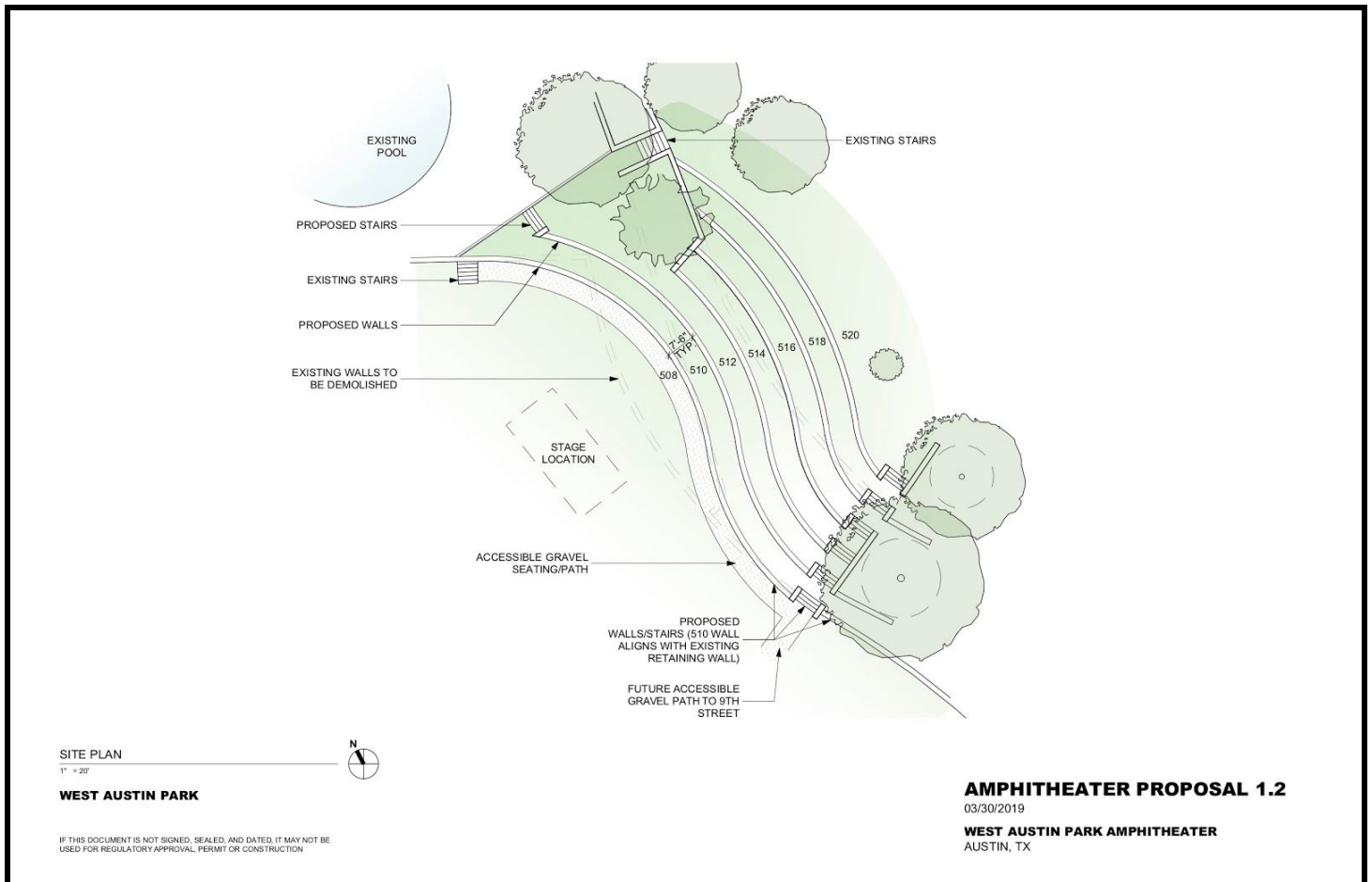


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parks Committee Submits Amphitheater Concept to PARD

In April, the OWANA parks committee approved and submitted a concept for creating a proper amphitheater at West Austin Park with tiered seating (see images below). The concept now goes through the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) system for approvals.

Discussions are also underway to hold a meeting with all of the parks departments to try and coordinate a series of projects that OWANA is supporting at the park including an **improved 9 1/2 Street entry**, a **nature trail** at the east side of the park and this **amphitheater** to support future events and community gatherings.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Preserve a Treasured Piece of Austin History



Mathews Friends for Excellence wants your help exploring possibilities for a long range master preservation plan for the Mathews Elementary School building that would involve historical restoration of the interior and incorporate innovative ways to teach children how a building is constructed.

We are looking for interested committee persons, ideas, possible grants and other funding sources, and the creation of an engineering/architecture curriculum to complement this effort. If you are interested in serving or want to learn more, please contact Ruthann Rushing at 512-925-7254 or ruthannrushing@gmail.com. An initial meeting will be held in May. Thanks!

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association's

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MARCH 9TH

Spring Movie in the Park 6:30-9:00pm

This community gathering in the field of West Austin Park brings the neighborhood together to enjoy a family friendly flick and light refreshments.

APRIL 20TH

Spring Eggstravaganza 9:00-10:00am

Local neighborhood families will gather at West Austin Park for a spring celebration and egg hunt. Light breakfast refreshments are served.

MAY 24TH

Mathews End of School Year Celebration and Concert in the Park 3:00-5:00pm

To punctuate the end of the school year, all Mathews families and the broader community will gather in West Austin Park for live music and cool refreshments to usher in the summer!

JULY 4TH

4th of July Parade 9:00-10:00am

This OWANA organized street parade will take place on the morning of July 4th and end at West Austin Park where light refreshments will be served.

SEPT 27TH

Fall Concert in the Park 5:30-7:30pm

To welcome back in cooler weather, neighbors will gather at West Austin Park for a picnic and live music.

NOV 15TH

Fall Movie in the Park 6:00-8:30pm

To welcome in the chilly weather, this cozy night at West Austin Park features a holiday or winter-themed movie and warm beverages.

DEC 12TH

Hyper-local Business Holiday Shopping Night Out 6:00-8:00pm

All OWANA sponsored businesses will be featured, if desired, in an evening holiday shopping event intended to bring out the Old West Austin community to support their local businesses.



UPCOMING EVENTS

4th of July Celebration

2nd ANNUAL OWANA FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION!

PARADE 9AM FIRE STATION #4, 1000 Blanco

- Led by JuiceLand's Shook Family and the amazing Jollyville Brass Quintet.
- Participants arrive between 8-9am to get decorated.
- Bikes, strollers, and pets encouraged to participate!
- Ends at West Austin Park where the "Best Dressed Pet" will be judged & there will be more fun, games & celebrating!

BREAKFAST TACOS AND COFFEE COURTESY OF



RECENT EVENTS

A Special “Thank You” To Our Outgoing Events Chair!

For the past three years, **Orlando Castillo** has served on the Steering Committee as our events chair. Over that time, Orlando either dreamed up or at least fostered to reality all of our newest events. And the impact on our neighborhood is obvious in the pictures below. In April he and his young family moved to Northwest Hills, but even as his address changes, he leaves a lasting legacy of community building that makes him forever a part of Old West Austin. Thank you, Orlando!

Batman Lego Movie In the Park, March 9



RECENT EVENTS

Eggstavaganza, April 20



RECENT EVENTS

HOUSE PARTY SUPPORTING MATHEWS ELEM., MAY 4



RECENT EVENTS

SUMMER KICKOFF PARTY, MAY 24



ZONING

May 2019 ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

1406-1410 West 9th Street (LHD-2018-0031) and 905 Maufrais Street (NRD-2019-0004)

Applicant seeks to rehabilitate and renovate three contributing buildings and construct several new buildings. The final plans are available at the Historic Landmark Commission website. The Zoning Committee met with applicants on May 16, 2019 and voted to not oppose applicant's plans, with the exception that the applicant redesign back building to be two buildings instead of one.

1115 West 11th Street (LHD-2019-0016)

Applicant seeks to construct a 2-unit residential building. The Certificate of Appropriateness committee recommended that applicants move garage entrance to side or rear, at least 15' from the front wall, and use materials more compatible with contributing buildings. The Zoning Committee met with applicants on May 16, 2019 and voted to not oppose applicant's plans.

1804-1808 West 6th Street

Applicant seeks to rezone the properties from SF-3 (residential) to LO-MU-NP (commercial). The Planning Commission considered the application on May 14, 2019 and revised its recommendation to NO-MU-NP (mixed-use) after numerous neighbors expressed concern about the negative effects such rezoning would have on the residential neighborhood. A valid petition opposing the rezoning application has been submitted to City Council, which will hear the case on June 6, 2019.

MEMBERSHIP

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Residential memberships	239	247	256	256	256							
Business memberships	25	24	12	18	18							
Total memberships	264	271	268	274	274							

MEMBERSHIP

Thank You OWANA Business Members!

Castlevuew

1100 W. 41st Street
512-442-9944
castlevuewproductions.com

Cipollina West Austin Bistro

1213 West Lynn St
512-477-5211
www.cipollina-austin.com

Clement's Paint & Decorating

1211 West 6th St
512-480-8466
www.clementspaint.com

Cover 3

1717 West 6th St
512-982-1550
<http://cover-3.com/>

Cowan and Associates, PLLC

1403 West 6th St
512-476-8591
www.cowanlegal.com

Eckert Insurance Group

824 West 10th St.
512-472-6969
www.eckertgroup.com

Flower Hill Foundation

1316 West 6th St
512-305-3650
www.flowerhillfoundation.org

Galaxy Café

1000 West Lynn St
512.472.4599
www.galaxycafeaustin.com

Grande Communications

13505 Burnet Rd.
512.878.5400
www.mygrande.com

Griffith Properties

1206 West 6th St
512-474-7784

Leslie Fossler Interiors

404 Baylor St
512-474-0768
www.lfiaustin.com

Nick Deaver Architect

606 Highland Ave
512-494-9808
www.nickdeaver.com

Reset Work Space

1401 West 6th St
630-253-2235
www.hitreset.io

Roche Bobois

1127 West 6th St
713-732-0646
<http://europeandesigns.net/>

Spring Frost

5101 Burnet Rd
512 467 9100
www.springfrost.com

Sutliff & Stout Injury & Accident Law Firm

3600 Bee Caves Rd
281-853-8446
www.sutliffstout.com

West Lynn Veterinary Clinic

709 West Lynn St
512-482-8600
www.westlynnvet.com

Z' Tejas

1110 West 6th St
480-377-1170
www.ztejas.com

MINUTES

Minutes for...
May 2019 Steering Committee Meeting
May 7, 2019, 7:00pm-9:00pm
Haskell House

Call to Order (7:10pm)

In attendance

- Ted Barnhill: Chair
- Renae Alsobrook: Treasurer
- Sinikka Green: Membership Chair
- Marissa Latta: Affordable Housing Chair
- Sean Williams: Secretary
- Denise Younger
- Ellen Justice: Zoning Vice Chair
- Mike Sullivan
- Volma Overton Jr.
- Kim Overton
- Lindsey Heron
- Amy Bodle
- Brockett Davidson

I. Welcome and Introductions (7:10)

II. Approve February Meeting Minutes

Approved.

III. Treasurer's Report – Renae

We have spent about \$5000 more than we have made this year, which was in line with our plans.

IV. New Business

A. Park Renaming Recommendation for June General Membership Meeting

Ellu talked to the city, and the process for renaming a park is the same regardless of which park it is. Ellen mentioned some more details: you will need to get various letters from stakeholders and relevant neighborhood associations, then a city councilmember will have to sponsor it and the council will have to pass it. Volma is on the waiting list to talk with Kathy Tovo about sponsoring this.

The stakeholders for Lamar Beach include WAYA, the rowing center, Austin Pet's Alive, etc. There may be fewer stakeholders for West Austin Park.

Some people were hesitant to recommend changing the name of West Austin Park given the vocal resistance at the last membership meeting.

Motion to 1. recommend to the general membership meeting that Lamar Beach be renamed “Volma Overton Sr. Shores”, and 2. If the general membership meeting support this, OWANA will write a letter to the City to that effect. Passed.

V. Committee Reports

A. Affordable Housing - Marissa

No updates.

B. Events – Amy

Amy discussed the end of school year celebration: May 24th we will have a last day of school party at West Austin Park, with music, pizza, and Kona snow cones. Hopefully, the pool will be open as well.

Amy also talked about the second annual 4th of July event! There will be face painting, coffee, donuts, a band, a parade, and lots of fun! We will sell T-shirts as well.

Kim mentioned the Mid-Summer Party at Nightcap. Probably the third Thursday of July.

C. Membership – Sinikka

We are still working on making the membership system easier and faster. For example, using paypal has helped.

D. Parks

No report.

E. Technology – Derek

No report.

F. Transportation and Public Safety – Mike

No report.

G. Zoning (Neighborhood Planning) – Erin

Ellen mentioned 703 Oakland, where someone is seeking a zoning change. They postponed the demo hearing.

We discussed the properties at 6th and Theresa, and the proposed office building for that space. The owners have not come to discuss any of their plans with OWANA.

Motion: our position is to request that the city postpone any action until OWANA and the community can weigh in on any development.

V. Other Concerns/Announcements

None.

VI. Next Meeting Date/Time/Location

Tuesday, June 4 - General Membership Meeting at Mathews

Adjourn: 8:45pm

Minutes from...

April 2019 Steering Committee Meeting -

Tuesday, April 2, 7pm-8:30pm at Nightcap

Attendance:

Ted Barnhill, Orlando Castillo, Ellen Justice,, Brockett Davidson, Sinikka Green, Erin Thomson, Ellu Nasser, Marissa Latta, Denise Younger, Derek Victory

Other OWANA Members/Guests: Rosemary Warmingham, Kim Overton, Volma Overton, Mike Sullivan

- I. Welcome and Introductions - Ted called the meeting to order at 7:11pm
- II. February Meeting Minutes were approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report - Renae was absent so there was no treasurer's report.
- IV. Committee Reports

A. Affordable Housing - Marissa

No update. Still need applications. Marissa will send application to Steering Committee. Derek will post PDF to OWANA website.

B. Events - Orlando/Ellu

Ellu: Spring Eggstravaganza (egg hunt) is scheduled for Saturday, 4/20. Swedish Hill donating pastries.

May 24 - last day of school celebration at the park w/ live music. City has given the approval to open the Pool during the party!

July 4 - Still looking for a marching band. HONKTX already booked.

Ellu will send out new t-shirt design w/ new logo once Will Heron gets them.

Orlo: Sat. May 4 - Fundraising/Awareness event for Mathews Elementary - Trying to raise funds/awareness for Mathews. We have \$3500 set aside, and trying to raise about \$10K from the neighborhood for Mathews. Have 3-4 non-Mathews parents as "anchor families" who have shown an interest in helping.

-have secured a home and musician. Looking to get ~40 people to promote, preserving Mathews School. School lost \$40K in funding last year.

- The needs: 1 in 5 kids at Mathews are low-income

Orlo will have draft of these details to send out so neighbors can share with past Mathews families and non-Mathews families in neighborhood.

C. Membership - Sinikka

Lindsey Heron taking over business membership duties. Hope to focus Steering Committee members on doubling down on increasing residential memberships. Maybe door-to-door drive, etc. We have had some new members join recently. Rosemary will work on getting nonprofit stamp.

D. Parks - Ellu

Brockett put together architectural concept for amphitheater; Ellu will send to full SC. We submitted application to PARD that we want to do this project. Good to have proposal vetted in the community. PARD reviews the apps starting 4/1.

E. Technology - Derek

Someone requested for minutes to be posted on website. So please send things to Derek to post. Rosemary wants agenda and time/date to be on the website.

F. Transportation and Public Safety - Mike

No updates

G. Zoning (Neighborhood Planning) - Erin

Proposal that Zoning contribute to lobbyist who is monitoring bill related to historic landmark. Property can't be designated landmark (not districts) in Texas over objection of owner. Concern that other things will be added to the bill. Vote was unanimous at Zoning Committee was unanimous to contribute \$2000. Erin can get the name of the lobbyist. Zoning Committee has about \$5000 in budget. Money will go to Preservation Austin to support lobbyist. Motion passes unanimously.

Cumby offered to have a meeting re: 9th Street Development. Friday meeting 4/5, location TBD.

Member of Zoning Committee drafted letter to give to new owners of properties in LHD's. This prompted discussion of welcoming people to OWANA. Membership welcome packet including info, coupons, OWANA stickers, etc.

Hearing on Thursday on Short-term rental bill. Urban Affairs at 8am. HR 3776

New Business

OWANA's position on proposals to rename our parks

1. Old West Austin Park Renaming Proposal

2. Lamar Beach Renaming Proposal

Ellen emailed suggestion that we switch parks we are focused on and rename Lamar Beach Park after Volma Overton.

Ellen: it would be a waste to attach his name to a small neighborhood park; better to do it for a larger park that's more used, visible, etc.

It may be that Lamar Beach is a regional/metro park, not just neighborhood park. A Metro Park can't have a 501c "friends of"

Kim: could name a portion of the park (pool, amphitheater, etc.) of West Austin Park.

Rosemary opposed to renaming West Austin Park.

Volma (Grandson of Volma Overton): neutral on proposals; Overton Shores is one idea. Volma opposed to diluting the name by only naming a portion of the park.

Unofficial Poll of those in attendance: attendees favored renaming A park (not specific which one) in theory.

Ellu: main prerequisite to renaming, and must demonstrate community support for renaming, tell a story, and must have council approval. Must provide description of cultural, geographic, etc. significance. No requirement of direct connection.

Plan before next Steering Committee Meeting: 1. Educate neighborhood re: Volma Overton, 2. do research on renaming process (what happened w/ Roy Guerrero Park), and reach out to city re: what will this entail to rename a park like Lamar Beach vs. West Austin Park, 3. then Steering Committee can make recommendation on various proposals before us to general membership of a plan. Kim will reach out to her contacts at City and Ellu will also talk to folks at the PARD to learn more. Volma Overton story will be included in the next OWL prior to the Gen. Membership Meeting.

A. Endorsement of WAP Community Garden - Letter to PARD

PARD needs OWANA endorsement of community garden. Ted wrote a letter. Unanimous support for Ted writing letter in support of the Community Garden.

V. Other Concerns/Announcements

This is Orlando Castillo's last meeting as a member of the steering committee since he's moving to Northwest Hills. We don't think he's going away for good, but we appreciate all his dedication and the impact he's had on our community while he's been here.

VI. Next Meeting Date/Time/Location

Tuesday, May 7 - Steering Committee Meeting (Location TBD)

Minutes for...

March General Membership Meeting

March 5 2019, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Mathews School Cafeteria (906 West Lynn at West 9th)

Call to Order (7:10pm)

Minutes:

Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Renae gave a brief update on accounts.

Misc

Mark Bozyk, a member of the Austin Police Department came to introduce himself. He works nights in our neighborhood. He noted that the major issues in our neighborhood seem to be low level mischief like vandalism or rummaging through cars with open doors. He fielded questions. Thanks for coming, Mark!!

Mathews Friends for Excellence

Ted introduced this group, who are trying to raise money for the Mathews community. They are currently looking into restoring the building while simultaneously adding some curriculum about architecture and restoration for the students. Contact Ruth ann Rushing for details (see OWL for her contact info).

Yedi Mindfulness

Kellie Dowell, a former Mathews teacher, came to talk about her program for kids on mindfulness. Thanks to a grant from the PTA, she teaches mindfulness lessons on peace to each class. She also runs an after school program. She is looking for a new home for the program, so if you have ideas, let her know. (kellie.dowell@att.net) Thanks Kellie!!

Renaming West Austin Park

Scott Marks and Kim Overton came to talk about renaming West Austin Park. The idea is to bring more history to the Park. The Park appears on maps in about 1935, and was originally named the West 10th st Park. Scott found a number of pictures of the Park and the pool from the late 1930s. From the early 1960s, some pictures illustrated a good deal of racial integration among the kids in the Park. Scott proposed renaming the park after Volma Overton, Kim's grandfather. Kim went to school at Mathews and now lives in the neighborhood with her children attending Mathews.

Kim presented her grandfather's story. He was in the Marines in WWII. Upon his return he was surprised to be confronted with segregation. He went to Huston-Tillotson but could not find a job in his field. But he got a job in the post office and was a postmaster in Bastrop. He was president of the NAACP for 21 years--from 1962-1983. Several people reported that Overton built bridges between east and west Austin. He conducted a peaceful "read in" in 1964 to protest the city councils inaction.. He created groups to test whether businesses were complying with anti-segregation ordinances, and worked against those who did not. He integrated Bastrop State Park, and was involved with early integration of area golf courses. In 1969 he was involved in suing AISD to stop segregation. He is the second black person to be buried in the state cemetery.

Volma never lived in the neighborhood.

The proposed name of the Park is "Overton Park" or "Volma Overton West Austin Park."

Other comments:

Some worried that new information would come out that might make us hesitate to name the Park after anyone. Several people wanted to keep the "West Austin Park" portion.

Mike made a motion to “percolate,” including considering the possibility of instead naming other portions of the neighborhood after Overton like Lamar Beach. Others wanted more information in the OWL about Overton, and more information about Overton’s connection to the neighborhood.

Motion to add this info to the OWL and let things percolate. Passed.

FOOD BREAK--THANKS ZOCALO for the wonderful food!!!!

Preservation Austin

Motion to support preservation Austin with a \$200 donation. They often support the neighborhood’s preservation efforts.

Affordable Housing

They are working with families who have housing insecurity. They have made two grants, and have been soliciting more applications. They have up to \$50,000 available.

Events

Movie night:

Orlo discussed Lego Batman movie night this Saturday!

THANKS GRANDE for sponsoring this movie AND the next movie!!

Will Heron, from the neighborhood, will be hosting a lego building event before the movie, with 12,000 bricks!

Mathews Fundraiser:

We are still putting this event together, but it probably will be a house party in the neighborhood.

Fourth of July Parade:

This will happen again this year!

Other:

CCDC’s Fun fest is coming up!

Membership

Sinikka took over from George after 6 years. She is working on streamlining the checking in process and the email systems.

Parks

The shade structures are up in West Austin Park!

Transportation

Mike mentioned that the city has approved money to improve the RR crossing on Pressler st.

We need to take a new look at the neighborhood plan, and Mike is looking for volunteers to begin thinking about this issue.

Zoning

Erin gave a summary of what’s been going on at the Historic Landmark commission

1. Since the last General Membership meeting, the Historic Landmark Commission has:
 - A. Approved a demolition permit for 1808 West 6th Street

B. Approved renovation/building plans for the following properties:

- i. 1204 and 1206 West 10th Street (rehab and addition)
- ii. 703 Highland Avenue (3-story new build)
- iii. 1106 West 9th Street (new garage/ADU)
- iv. 707 Blanco Street (addition and ADU)
- v. 1108 West 11th Street (rehab and addition)

The house located at 1013 Blanco was unexpectedly demolished—the staff of the Historic Preservation Office is working with the homeowner to make sure the salvageable parts will be refurbished and replaced.

1. Relevant plans, permits, and HLC meeting minutes can be found on the HLC website. Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the Zoning Committee if you have questions/comments.
2. The next Zoning Committee meeting will be on March 21 at noon.
3. The Town Lake Y is converting a softball field to a bigger parking lot.

There was a lot of discussion about 1013 Blanco. To express displeasure about what happened here, email Kathy Tovo and/or HLC.

8:40 Adjourn