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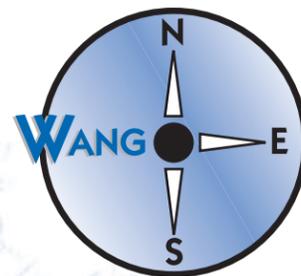
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ALL ARE WELCOME

We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7PM at the Howson Branch Library.

West Austin Neighborhood Group
P.O. Box 5722
Austin, Texas 78763-5722



West Austin Neighborhood Group

Organized 1973

"To preserve our neighborhood and protect it from deterioration."

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P.O. Box 5722 • Austin, Texas 78763-5722

December, 2006

President's Message

By Gwen Jewiss

Ahhhh, that time again. New Year's Resolutions. Diets, exercise, estate planning; all worthy endeavors, but I have one that would benefit not only you and your family, but also your neighbors. Renew your WANG membership and become an active member of the organization. Our monthly meetings at Howson Library are a good place to learn more about what is going on, in not only our area but also in the adjacent neighborhoods.

Learn the acronyms – TOD, VMU, LHD, FLUM. Think that you don't need to know them? Think again! Look at how much has changed in Austin in 2006 alone. How many folks knew what "FAR", or "angled setback planes" meant in January 2006? Through all of the so-called McMansion Ordinance process, we all became more acquainted with not only the technical terms used, but also with what is important to us and to our neighbors.

The importance of our central city neighborhoods took center stage. The feel of those areas is a big part of what makes them so attractive. In 2006, cities across the country grappled with variations on this same subject; how to preserve what makes central city neighborhoods special while accommodating the inevitable growth.

In parallel to the McMansion Ordinance, the City also enacted a Local Historic District Ordinance. Hopefully this will be a tool for not only retaining the architectural heritage of the new districts, but also to help us all learn more about the history of those areas, the people who first lived there, how they influenced the Austin of the

time and how it became the Austin of today.

Speaking of 'Austin today', how many of you recall the "Austin Tomorrow Plan"? It is not dead, but it may be on life support. Every Neighborhood Plan that is finalized at City Council becomes an amendment to the Austin Tomorrow Plan. We look forward to revisiting and updating our area in the coming year. In doing so we will likely join the chorus calling for the City's unveiling of a comprehensive update to the Austin Tomorrow Plan. Just as many of the transportation planning efforts now underway look at the five-county area for their projections, so must Austin look holistically at the impact of one area's development upon the adjacent and not so adjacent neighbors. Surely our planners are contemplating all of this as they move from one planning area to the next. We just all need to get caught up.

So for one of your 2007 resolutions, make it a goal to learn something new about the future of your neighborhood. Visit our website at www.deepeddy.com/WANG and look at the postings and links to additional information, ask the Board about the various Committees. Pick one or two to become active in. We'll all thank you.

December Meeting Minutes

By Chris Alguire
Secretary

The Executive Committee (ExComm) of the West Austin Neighborhood Group (WANG) held its December monthly meeting on Monday, December 4, 2006 at Howson Library. President Jewiss called us to order at 7:10 p.m.

ExComm members present: Alguire,

Background Photo of Lime Kiln #PICA24140, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Be sure to visit our website at <http://www.deepeddy.com/wang/>!

Arnold, Basciano, Cannatti, Edwards, Harris, Jewiss, Pfluger and Tollett

Recorded Guests: Jim Bennett, Paula Boyd, FloAnn Randle, Dudley Houghton, Susan Post, Dana Markus-Wolf, Michael Curry, David Kahn, Ann Swingler, Sara Madera

Michael Rocco Cannatti Receives Roberta Crenshaw Award

Mary Arnold spoke about Roberta Crenshaw and how much she meant to both our West Austin neighborhood and the entire City of Austin. She came to Austin in 1932 to attend The University of Texas and stayed. She was interested in civic leadership and was appointed to the Parks Board in the 1950s. After serving more than a decade she continued in an emeritus status. Besides donating the land for our own Reed Park, she also made a gift of what is now a portion of Guerrero Park on the Colorado River. Her many accomplishments include contributing to efforts to create and/or preserve Laguna Gloria, the Heritage Society, the Symphony League, the Paramount and the Umlauf Sculpture garden. The pedestrian bridge under Mopac, which she worked hard to create, bears her name. She was a strong, resourceful leader who helped make Austin the environmentally friendly city it is today.

Dudley Houghton, zoning chair emeritus, spoke about Michael Cannatti, his ties to Austin and his efforts on behalf of the neighborhood. After growing up in Austin, Cannatti graduated President of his Austin High School class of 1981. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at Notre Dame and returned to Austin to attend law school. After graduating from the University of Texas School of Law, Cannatti was admitted to the Texas bar in 1989. Cannatti is now a partner in the intellectual property law firm of Hamilton & Terrile, L.L.P. He and

Ann Phipps reside in Tarrytown and have three children. Michael Cannatti served as President of WANG from 2002-2004 and continues to serve the neighborhood on the WANG Executive Committee and by maintaining WANG's website. He brings organization, focus, a strong work ethic and some welcome humor to the effort to preserve the neighborhood. He put in long hours as our representative on the "McMansion" Task Force, helped spearhead our survey on building regulations and contributed greatly to the permanent "McMansion" building regulations. Michael Cannatti is given the Roberta Crenshaw Award for his many efforts on our behalf. Congratulations were offered by both former and current ExComm members, neighbors, family and friends.

On a motion by Harris with second by Basciano the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Neighborhood Communications:

Jewiss presented a "Resolution for Exterior Lighting Standards" to be presented to the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC). The resolution, drafted by Tollett with additional WANG input, urges the ANC to petition the City of Austin to enact a residential lighting ordinance balancing security concerns with the desire of property owners to remain free of intrusive light trespass. Basciano will take the resolution to the December ANC board meeting in anticipation that it may be presented at ANC's open January meeting. Jewiss reads the resolution aloud and proposes endorsing the resolution and carrying it forward to the ANC. On a motion by Pfluger with a second by Harris the motion is unanimously approved.

David Kahn, who resides at the Enfield and Lake Austin Blvd. intersection, spoke about the planned expansion of Lucy's Boatyard. He states that the numerous expansions have greatly increased traffic and

noise and contributed to parking problems. There was discussion about the heavy traffic and danger to pedestrians. Kahn reports that the City says it cannot do anything because it is State land and that the University says it doesn't see a problem unless the neighborhood complains. Arnold spoke about the Brackenridge Development Agreement, which governs the development of University land along Lake Austin Blvd., and potential "Non-University" development restrictions including height, impervious cover and parking. Cannatti suggests ensuring Lucy's owners are abiding by the terms of the Brackenridge Tract Agreement and organizing neighbors in opposition to the planned expansion. Pfluger suggests forming a group of affected neighbors. Edwards also notes that the most effective tool is a group statement or petition which WANG can support. Jewiss suggests contacting the architects or builders to make a presentation to WANG about the specifics of the planned expansion. Jewiss further states that we will review the Brackenridge Development Agreement and Kahn agrees to contact other neighbors.

Zoning:

- (1) 1702 Winsted Lane C15-06-151 Martin Dane Howell is requesting a variance to decrease the minimum side yard setback from 5 feet to 2 feet in order to complete an attached open carport along the south property line for a single-family residence in an SF-3 zoning district. Joe Bennett, representing the applicant, presented the proposed variance request. He provided copies of the March 2006 building permit, the original (permitted) plans and the revised plans. The original plan was for a carport that did not extend into the 5 foot setback and public utility easement. The revised plan, under construction, extends the carport to within 2 feet of the southern property line. No revised building permit was secured. The applicant is claiming the carport is

necessary for safety due to the heavy traffic along Winsted Lane. Mr. Bennett states he does not think the carport will be very noticeable and presented a petition signed by some of the northern neighbors in support of the variance request. None of the petitioners were in attendance. Dana Markus-Wolf and Susan Post, adjacent neighbors to the south, provided photographs of the construction and spoke in opposition. They stated the roof line of the proposed structure is directly outside their kitchen window and that they were not notified of the revised construction plans. They further stated an additional neighbor was in opposition though not in attendance. Mr. Bennett stated he thought the opposing neighbors were also in violation of the setback. Markus-Wolf reported they were unaware a portable shed had setback requirements but have since moved the structure out of the setback. Pfluger stated he thought the structure could be built without encroachment into the setback and Harris stated that any safety concerns are alleviated by the circular drive and don't relate to the carport. On a motion by Jewiss with a second by Harris the Executive Committee voted unanimously to oppose the variance request.

- (2) 3306 Enfield Road Variance Request C15-06-141 Aaron Googins, owner of both 3302 and adjoining 3306 Enfield Road, is requesting a variance to increase the maximum impervious coverage requirement from 45% to 55% in order to erect a circular driveway at 3306 Enfield Road. At our November meeting two neighbors spoke in opposition and WANG voted unanimously to oppose the variance request. This is a postponement from the last Board of Adjustment meeting where the owner was asked to reformulate his plans after opposition was voiced. WANG does not change its position and continues to oppose the variance request.

- (3) 1913 W. 34th Street C15-06-135 Adrian and Linda Godinez have

requested a variance to increase the maximum fence height from 6 feet to 8 feet in order to maintain a fence for a single-family residence in an SF-3 zoning district. No one spoke in opposition and WANG took no action regarding this Bryker Woods neighborhood item.

Infrastructure:

It was noted that the City of Austin is considering code amendments to establish additional requirements for the location of "Big Box" retail stores. There was discussion about the proposed large-scale, 24-hour Wal-Mart at Northcross Mall which is drawing substantial neighborhood opposition.

Jewiss also noted that a resolution scheduling the WANG area for Neighborhood Planning in early 2007 was on the City Council's agenda this week.

Communications:

No Report.

Liaison:

Basciano and Jewiss spoke with Carol Haywood, who replaced Adam Smith as head of the City's Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department. It was reported that the department has obtained more funding for NP staff and "facilitators" and that they anticipated giving more attention to trees. It was also reported that the City hopes to usher all remaining "core areas" through the NP process by 2010. There was some discussion about the City's commitment to the Neighborhood Plans and the importance of proper implementation and enforcement.

Michael Curry of Bryker Woods stated he was concerned about the wording of the proposed Council resolution jointly scheduling the Windsor Road and Tarrytown areas for Neighborhood

Planning. There was discussion concerning a possible attempt by the City to prematurely lock all affected neighborhoods (Bryker Woods, Old Enfield, Pemberton and Tarrytown) into one combined Neighborhood Plan. While that may eventually be the outcome preferred by the neighborhoods it was decided that we should contact the City for clarification and therefore keep separate planning options open. Cannatti agreed to draft a letter to Council asking them to state for the record that no decisions had yet been made as to the combination of the areas under one plan.

Membership:

No report.

Transportation:

No report.

Historic:

No report

Treasurer:

No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

❁

*Wishing you all
a safe and
Happy Holiday Season!*

❁

Sara Madera
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