



WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

P.O. Box 5722 • Austin, Texas 78763-5722 • August, 2013

Organized 1973

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

Our next meeting will be Monday September 9th, 2013, 7:00PM at the Howson Library. We look forward to seeing you! Please join us.
And speaking of joining us....

President's Message

By Cathy Kyle

Board of Directors

Cathy Kyle
President

Michael Cannatti
Secretary

Blake Tollett
Assistant Secretary

August "Happy" Harris III
Past-President

George Edwards
Treasurer

Committee Members

Mary Arnold
Joyce Basciano
Joseph Bennett
Erik Cary
George Edwards
Haidar Khazen

Honorary Committee Members

Hon. Lloyd Doggett
Hon. Lee Leffingwell

It's the dog days of summer. Neighbors are either launching into the new school year, or are leaving town for the last chance to escape the unrelenting heat. As usual, the summer seems too short, and this summer seems to have sped by more quickly than ever. We're all looking forward to cooler temps coming soon, and plans are well underway for our Annual Picnic, scheduled for October 19, 2013. More details to come, but I'm pretty sure a hamburger truck will be part of the festivities. It's a great opportunity to re-connect with old friends and to welcome new folks to the neighborhood.

Things have been hopping in the 'hood this summer. The Fourth of July parade was a resounding success, raising several thousand dollars benefitting local parks. Of course, the huge turnout -- your participation -- made this event successful and will insure that it will continue to grow and prosper. The Austin Girls School construction project is well underway, and the girls will be in their new digs by February 2014. We have continued to monitor the project to be sure that the project's intrusion into neighborhood life is kept to a minimum. The MoPac improvements are also continuing on schedule. Sound wall construction



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will begin at the north end of the project and will move gradually southward toward our neighborhood.

We've also been keeping track of changes at Tarrytown Shopping Center. She Who Will Remain Nameless continues her efforts to impose an agenda on our neighborhood from afar. After lengthy negotiations, Austin Java opened there last fall, and it's been nice to have a real restaurant in the neighborhood (RIP Holiday House). We've noted that they've reduced their hours lately, so it's uncertain how long the local business will be able to retain a foothold here.

You've probably also seen the significant expansion of Austin Pets Alive's space, taking over all of Broaddus Chevron's former space. The outdoor area has been enclosed with welded wire fencing and a hardscape installed. This expansion and construction has raised lots of questions from neighbors. We're told that the expanded facility will house only cats and not dogs, and none of the animals will be kept outside -- there will be no outdoor kennels. If all of the services remain inside the building, then the business should be classified as "pet services" and no zoning variance is required. We'll continue to keep track of these changes to be sure that the use of the property conforms to zoning requirements.

Our upcoming September meeting will be held on the second Monday September 9 due to the Labor Day holiday on September 2. We'll be meeting at our regular time and place (7:00 – 9:00PM at the Austin Public Library Howson Branch).

**West Austin Neighborhood Group
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2013, 7:00 PM, Howson Library
Minutes
August 5, 2013**

Present: Arnold, Basciano, Bennett, Cannatti,
Cary, Edwards, Harris, Kyle
Absent: Khazen, Tollett, Trent

- I. Kyle called the meeting to order at 7:05PM
- II. Minutes - A motion was made by Harris, seconded by Arnold and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2013 meeting.
- III. Neighbor Communications
 1. Mount Bonnell Historic Marker – Kyle noted that WANG had received another email from Stan Bacon & the West Point Society of Central Texas regarding their efforts to pursue enhancements on site and replace the existing marker. WANG has already voiced its position on the matter. There was no further discussion.
 2. Proposed Neighborhood Plan Amendment for 2208 Lake Austin Blvd – Cannatti addressed an out of cycle request for this plan amendment brought to Central West Austin Planning Area Contact Team. A plan amendment may only be brought forward in February of every year and must go through the Contact Team first. The property owner seeks a change in both the future land use map (FLUM) and in zoning from LO (limited office) to LO-MU (limited office mixed-use). There were concerns voiced by the Contact Team and neighbors. He reported that the Contact Team did not support the out of cycle application and that there were further questions of the property owners.
 3. Parking Meters in Neighborhood Parks –

Harris led the discussion of this item. The City of Austin is considering the placement of parking meters at Deep Eddy/Eilers Park and Walsh Landing as well as other parks throughout the City. A discussion of the benefits and liabilities of metered parking for these places and park budget shortfalls ensued. There was some consensus that if funds were used for the benefit of the parks in question, there would be more buy-in but that if revenues were transferred to the City's general fund, it was more problematic. Harris will research the matter further and report at the September meeting.

4. Laguna Gloria Street Closures – Kyle reported that Laguna Gloria has requested permission to close several roads for an event this fall. More details will be forthcoming at our September meeting.

A. Land Matters

1. Board of Adjustment

a) C12-2013-0080 2313 West 8th. Applicant: David Cancialosi Owner: Jeff O'Jibway. The applicant has requested a variance from Section 25-2-1604 (C) (2) of the LDC in order to erect a parking structure for a single-family residence in an SF-3-NP zoning district. The LDC states that a parking structure with an entrance that faces the front yard and is less than 20 feet behind the building façade must not exceed 50 percent of the width of the principal structure as measured parallel to the front lot line. Cancialosi presented on behalf of the applicants. There were some concerns as to whether a hardship existed, especially since this was a vacant lot. As Tollett was unavailable, several items had to be confirmed before the Board could vote. A motion

was made by Harris, seconded by Basciano and passed unanimously to table the item until clarification is received.

b) C15-2013-0084 1312 Meriden Lane. Applicant/Owner: Jeff Layne The applicant has requested a variance from the garage placement requirement of Section 25-2-1604 (C) (1) of the LDC in order to erect a front facing carport for a single-family residence in an SF-3-NP zoning district. The LDC states that a parking structure with an entrance that faces the front yard may not be closer to the front lot line than the building façade. Architects Robert Steinbomer and Jennifer Vrazel presented on behalf of the applicant who was unable to attend. There were some concerns as to whether a hardship existed. Concern also arose over whether the proposed construction would violate existing deed restriction. The architects were asked to go back to the applicant and confirm that the proposed carport would not violate deed restrictions. As Tollett was unavailable, several additional items had to be confirmed before the Board could vote. A motion was made by Harris, seconded by Basciano and passed unanimously to table the item until clarification is received.

IV. Membership – Bennett reported on membership status. In addition to renewals and new members, 4 folks have joined over the last month at the Friends level. Bennett is working on strategies to improve the visibility of membership forms and promote membership levels.

V. Newsletter – Kyle reported that the deadline for newsletter content is August 15.

VI. ANC Liason Report - Basciano reported that ANC is engaged in the revisions of the City’s Land Development Code. She added that they are seeking nominations for ANC’s executive committee.

VII. Treasurer’s Report – Edwards reported that the fund balance is \$8,441.41 and the oak wilt account maintains a balance of \$1,205.98

VIII. New Business

A. Annual Meeting – Kyle addressed the Annual Meeting. October 19 was identified as the likely day for the event. As we did two years ago, the Board agreed to a social theme with food provided by one of the mobile food vendors. Kyle made various assignments and asked every member to solicit advertising for the annual newsletter.

B. MoPac Improvement Project – Harris provided updates from CTRMA. The MoPac Improvement Project Ground Breaking Ceremony is set for October 18 at 10:30 a.m. The site is yet to be confirmed but we will receive an invitation in September. CTRMA is beginning the public input process for a number of the proposed design changes. The legal notice regarding the proposed changes has been published and an open house has been set for September 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm at O. Henry Middle School. There are proposed changes to the Cesar Chavez/5th Street ramps that will eliminate the flyover in the approved designs. CTRMA has opened its construction office near the intersection of Braker Lane and Metric and expect to activate its 24/7 project hotline next week. Construction work will begin between 2222 and Braker Lane starting in December. The first sound wall construction will also begin in December on Sound Wall #1 on the west side of MoPac near Steck Avenue. A more detailed schedule for construction will follow soon.

IX. Adjournment – Kyle adjourned the meeting at 9:01PM

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

All West Austin Neighborhood Group Memberships are running concurrently from November 1st to October 31st of each year. Join or Re-new now (June/July) and your Membership is good through October 31, 2014. Those who renewed prior to June will need to renew on or before November 1 to be active for 2014. If you have questions about your membership, please contact membership@westaustinng.com. We are constantly working on outreach and membership development. Talk to your neighbors and ask them if they are members!

Membership is open to all West Austin residents and businesses. All members are invited to participate in public forums, engage in social activities and serve on committees. The Stronger the Membership, the Greater the effort for the Neighborhood.

We would like give a big THANK YOU ! to all our Members for their support of the Neighborhood and especially our Patron and Friend Level Members:

Patron Level - Julie & Ben Crenshaw, Colleen & Brad Theriot, Carter Shanklin, Marcia & George Edwards, Alex & Julie Gregg, Libby & Bruce Malone, Judith Kenney, and Joseph & Amber Bennett

Friend Level - Glenn & Cyndi Corser, Andrew & Connie Mawer, Mary Ellen Oliver, Jay & Mary Alice Lucas, Linda & Kelly Dickens, Neil & Susan Pasco, John & Caroline Trube, Noelle Paulette, Vicky Y Spradling, Jim & Lee Ann Anderson, Catherine Kyle, Jerry & Mary Bell, Lidia Agraz & Allen Peck, Jim & Joanna Essler, Flo Ann Randle, Judy Coker, The Girl’s School of Austin, Ann Moody, Dealey & David Herndon, Amy & Brent Corbett, and George Henderson

- Benefactor Level** \$ 250
- Patron Level** \$ 100
- Friend Level** \$ 50
- Family Level** \$ 30
- Senior Level** \$ 15
- Student Level** \$ 15
- Sustaining Level** \$ 500

Spider Mites

Spider mites are common plant pests that are found on the underside of leaves. Their feeding can cause leaves to discolor, causing a speckled appearance. With severe infestations, the plant leaves discolor to a silver or bronze color which may result in the leaves dropping from the plant.

Spider mites are arachnids, closely related to spiders and ticks. Similar to spiders, spider mites can produce silk and often cover leaves with webbing, especially when there are large populations. The webbing helps to protect the mites and their eggs from natural enemies and harsh environmental conditions.

Spider mites lay their eggs along the leaf vein during the growing season. Eggs are round and large in size when compared to the adult mite. Some species of spider mites peak during warmer months of the year while others become more active in the cooler months of the year. The mites are able to develop more quickly when temperatures are warmer, so populations can grow very quickly. Spider mites thrive in dry conditions. Their natural enemies require more humid conditions, so dry conditions allow spider mite populations to grow with little predation or parasitism that would keep the population at an acceptable level.

There are many predatory arthropods that feed on spider mites. Some of these include predatory mites, spider mite destroyers (a type of ladybug), minute pirate bugs, big-eyed bugs and predatory thrips. Proper watering of plants may also help to reduce spider mite outbreaks as watering plants can help reduce stress brought on by drought. Using strong jets

of water to hose plants can also help to dislodge spider mites on infested plants. Miticides or acaricides can be used to manage spider mite outbreaks. Look for active ingredients such as horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps, abamectin, bifenthrin, dimethoate or acephate.



Figure 1. Spider mites on the underside of a leaf.



Figure 2. Webbing covering a plant infested with spider mites.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Also check out www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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West Austin Neighborhood Group

P.O. Box 5722

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