



# WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

P.O. Box 5722 • Austin, Texas 78763-5722 • May - June, 2010

Organized 1973

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

## Board of Directors

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Assistant Secretary

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Joseph Bennett  
Erik Cary  
George Edwards  
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Susan Pascoe

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Hon. Lloyd Doggett  
Hon. Lee Leffingwell

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

**The next WANG Board meeting will occur on  
Wednesday, July 7, 2010 (7:00 pm) at Howson Branch Library!**

## June President's Message

By August W. "Happy" Harris III

Have you checked your membership renewal date? If your membership has or is about to lapse, please renew today. Know that nearly every penny that WANG takes in is used to keep you updated with important news about the neighborhood that you call home and how that news will impact you. You can renew by mail or by visiting us at [www.WestAustinNG.com](http://www.WestAustinNG.com). And, if that is not exciting enough....believe it or not, you can actually request that we send you your monthly newsletter via email rather than snail mail!

By the time you read this, Father's Day will have come and gone. I hope you took the opportunity to thank or recognize poor old Pops. I ran across a picture the other day with my Dad holding me in his arm. It reminded me of the old Harry Chapin song, "Cat's in the Cradle," about the role reversals we encounter as life moves on. It has always been a very poignant song to me for some reason but now more so than ever. There was a time when Dad helped me eat meals and now the time has come that I help him with his, when he took care of things and now I do. Our community is and has been filled with so many great fathers, both those that are here and those that have left us. Dads, for all the things you do, have done and will continue to do, Happy Father's Day and cheers!

It has been a challenging month for WANG. We testified at the UT Board of Regents Subcommittee hearing on the

Brackenridge Tract, have been working feverishly on Neighborhood Planning as it comes to its conclusion, have been continuing to work with O.Henry, AISD and its neighbors and have been looking at City budget issues and policies that might affect our West Austin community in addition to handling day to day issues of the neighborhood.

As you know, in the neighborhood planning process, City staff had refused us the opportunity to undertake any meaningful planning of the Brackenridge Tract. I detailed that in our last and prior newsletters. Fortunately, we believe that, as a result of WANG's redoubled efforts, the Planning Commission was far more responsive to our concerns. That is not to say that they will necessarily agree with whatever we suggest going forward to City Council. However, they realize that the Neighborhood Plan is an incomplete and ineffective document without addressing the development and density created by any potential redevelopment of the Brackenridge and State School Tracts. The Neighborhood Plan was presented to the Planning Commission at its last meeting and was referred back to its Neighborhood Planning Subcommittee in order to delve deeper into several issues such as this. At its June 16 meeting, the Neighborhood Planning Subcommittee concurred with nearly all of our positions.

We have undertaken several mapping exercises to look at future land use

**Be sure to visit our website at <http://www.WestAustinNG.com>**

## May President's Message, *continued from page 1*

categories based on the undesirable and unfeasible Cooper Robertson plans as well as the Brackenridge Tract Development Agreement (BTDA). It is interesting to note that the City refused to allow us to address any planning on the Tract BUT the BTDA does outline what the University could, by existing agreement with the City, actually undertake now. It should be noted that the UT Systems' Brackenridge Task Force recommended that the BTDA not continue at its expiration. However, it is still a living document. At a minimum, we believe that the future land use map (FLUM) should reflect its terms. It is very reasonable to consider a FLUM using the BTDA as a baseline document. The BTDA establishes what land uses can be on the Tract, what their height, their floor to area ratio (FAR) and things like their impervious cover can be. Mapping requires that we take some liberties because the document does not outline specific site locations from a zoning perspective. It also does not limit any University uses, so that would lead to some speculation as well.

While it appears that Austin's economy is improving, there will be ongoing budget pressures for the next fiscal year. The City's most recent budget projections show there could be a deficit of anywhere from \$11 million to \$28 million in the

coming year. WANG, Bryker Woods, Pemberton and our park supporters joined together in petitioning the City to refrain from further cuts to the Parks and Recreation Department. PARD has been desperately underfunded for years. Consistently, we and the rest of the Austin community have stressed the value of our public spaces yet it has been an apparently easy target for cuts. We hope that this effort will allow PARD to operate at no less than current budget levels. City funding aside, we know that the City parks budget leaves our parks far below the level of maintenance we as Austinites expect. Please continue your monetary and volunteer support for the neighborhood parks. Please help WANG offer input to the City via [http://www.cityofaustin.org/citymgr/budget\\_input.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/citymgr/budget_input.htm) both for potential reductions and for areas where the City may need to enhance service.

At the moment, our neighborhood plan is scheduled for hearings in July with the potential for adoption. We believe that we are getting close to a decent result. Stay tuned for any updates. Until then, continue to enjoy a super summer. And don't forget – wear plenty of sunscreen and stay hydrated!

## MINUTES FOR JUNE 7, 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

By Michael Cannatti, Secretary

These are the minutes of the **West Austin Neighborhood Group Board of Directors Meeting** on Monday, June 7, 2010 at the Howson Branch Library.

I. Call to Order (7:09 pm): The meeting was called to order with the following Board members in attendance: Blake Tollett, Joyce Basciano, Susan Pascoe, Mary Arnold, August Harris, Cathy Kyle, Gwen Jewiss, George Edwards, and Michael Cannatti.

II. Approval of Minutes (7:10 pm): The May, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Neighbor Communications (7:11 pm):

A. Capital Metro Budget Development Presentation (7:11 pm): Alissa Schram presented an information video on Cap Metro's current financial situation and budget development process, which can be viewed online at <http://capmetroblog.com/2010/06/04/budget-video-and-survey/>. In addition, Cap Metro is seeking public input and feedback on transit priorities. An online survey is available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KZSS85D>. Additional information at <http://www.capmetro.org/news/2011budget.asp>. A lively discussion ensued about increasing fees.

B. Hillview Bicycle Lane Proposal (7:32 pm): August reported that Laura Grim's efforts to survey neighbors on the proposed Casis bike line on Hillview have resulted in positive feedback, with the exception of a single neighbor. Mike expressed concern that a single objection could derail the entire process. Further work is underway, although the project appears stalled for the moment.

C. 1105 Norwalk (7:33 pm): Laurie Worsham presented information to the Board about a possible variance request to construct a carport that intrudes 5 feet into the front yard setback. She has already contacted neighbors for support, and has visited informally with the city reviewers, but has not filed a request yet. The Board explained that the review process might uncover other permit issues, but noted that she was approaching the issue correctly by contacting the neighbors in advance.

IV. Committee Reports:

A. Zoning (7:45 pm)

(1) SPC-00-2217CS(R1) - West Austin Youth Association (WAYA) (Applicant: Shaw Hamilton 791-0778): The applicant is requesting approval of a conditional use to add Day Care Services (Commercial) use as a revision to an existing site plan so that WAYA can continue running a day care at the facility. There will be no expansion of the building. This matter goes before the PC this Tuesday the 8th of June.

• **Action: In the absence of any neighbor complaints, no action taken.**

(2) C8-2009-0062.0A - 2101 Quarry Road (Owner: Newton Hightower, Applicant: Holford Group, Kerby Smith 346-8181): The applicant is requesting approval re-subdivide and existing subdivision of 1 lot into 3 lots. This matter goes before the PC on June 22, 2010, and is likely to be approved. The Board discussed the tree protection issues presented by the proposed development, and also the applicability of the Drinking Water Protection Zone rules for this sub-division.

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- **Action: No action taken, but Blake was asked to ask City Staff about the DWPZ application and to seek tree review input from the city arborist, Michael Embesi.**

**B. Communications (7:54 pm)**

(1) Newsletter – Happy reported on Selina’s concerns that the newsletter budget expenses were high for the last issue, but explained that the added expense resulted from the fact that the April and May issues were combined into a single issue.

(2) Newsletter Editor – Happy and Gwen reported that the newsletter copy and meeting minutes are generally completed within the first week following the board meeting, allowing mid-month delivery of the newsletter.

**C. Membership (7:57 pm)** – August reported that the membership database has been transferred to Joe Bennett.

**D. Infrastructure (7:57 pm)**

(1) Neighborhood Planning -- On May 25, 2010, the Planning Commission conducted a hearing on the Central West Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan during which City Staff presented the draft plan along with Staff recommendations on various zoning and future land use map (FLUM) issues. Decision on the proposed plan has been postponed so that additional public input can be provided at the Planning Commission’s June 22, 2010 Neighborhood Plan Subcommittee meeting. August noted that there had been confusion at the May 25 PC hearing on whether a postponement was going to be requested, as well as confusion on what exactly was being presented by Paul DiGiusseppe. The Board discussed the format and procedure for presenting new information to the PC Subcommittee. The designated spokespersons on each topic will be present at the subcommittee meeting (except for Blake) prepared to answer questions and present any new information. In addition, the following information is being prepared for possible presentation:

- Austin State School Conceptual Development Plan from Dealey Herndon;
- A map showing the “land use” intensity allowed by the Brackenridge Development Agreement;
- A map showing the Cooper Robertson concept plan merged with the WANG FLUM;
- The Land Use chapter language proposed by WANG for the Brackenridge Tract;
- Comparative data being compiled by August to show the relative density of the Brackenridge Development compared to other city developments;
- A map to illustrate the affordable housing options available for duplexes and secondary apartments in the planning area;
- Valid petitions for the 7<sup>th</sup> Street zoning case;
- Additional information on the garage placement infill option differences as between WANG and Windsor NPAs; and
- Information on affordable housing issues, such as small lot amnesty.

(2) Preservation Ordinance Changes – August reviewed the current situation with the preservation ordinance and the “social equity” concerns about how it is being (mis)applied.

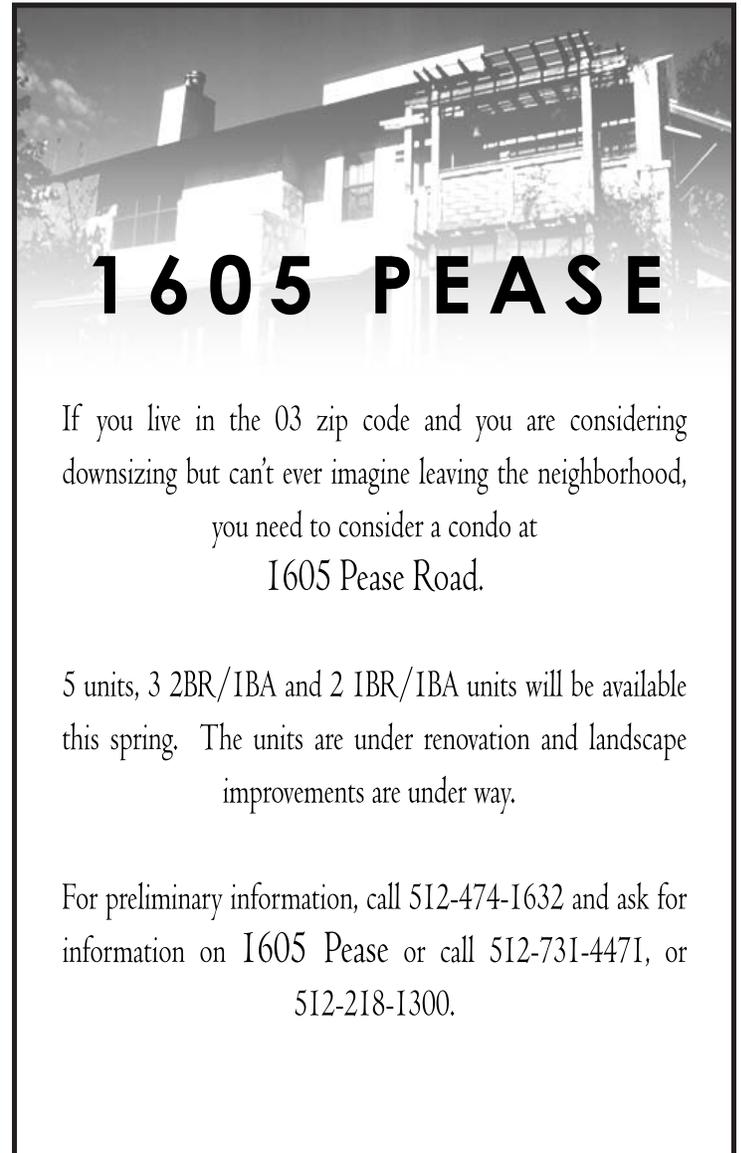
Susan noted that the situation should not be blamed on the property owners seeking to use the existing preservation incentives. It was also noted that the intended tax incentive caps were never enacted as intended. August will circulate some language for WANG to consider adopting to address the issue.

V. Treasurer’s Report – No report.

VI. Old Business -- No report.

VII. New Business -- Blake noted briefly that efforts should begin to plan for the Neighborhood Social and Annual Newsletter advertisements, and that WANG should send a thank-you letter to McCarthy printing for all of their valuable

*Continued on last page*



**1605 PEASE**

If you live in the 03 zip code and you are considering downsizing but can't ever imagine leaving the neighborhood, you need to consider a condo at  
**1605 Pease Road.**

5 units, 3 2BR/IBA and 2 IBR/IBA units will be available this spring. The units are under renovation and landscape improvements are under way.

For preliminary information, call 512-474-1632 and ask for information on 1605 Pease or call 512-731-4471, or 512-218-1300.

# West Austin Neighborhood Group

P.O. Box 5722

Austin, Texas 78763-5722

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## Please Check Mailing Label for Renewal Date

### June Minutes, *continued from page 3*

support over these many years. Mike also asked for the Board to consider supporting a request for increased park funding in the upcoming city budget cycle. Joyce asked if WANG would support the proposed Animal Shelter Policy for spaying or neutering all pets, but there was no vote of support.

VIII. Adjournment: At 8:55, the meeting was adjourned. The next WANG Board meeting will occur on **Wednesday, July 7, 2010 (7:00 pm) at a Howson Branch Library.**

Name		<h2>Join WANG Today!</h2> <p><b>Contributing Levels</b></p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Family</td><td>\$30.00</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student</td><td>\$15.00</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Friend</td><td>\$50.00</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Patron</td><td>\$100.00</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor</td><td>\$250.00</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining</td><td>\$500.00</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Business Friend</td><td>\$500.00</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Business Sustaining</td><td>\$1,000.00</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Friend	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Sustaining	\$1,000.00
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