



WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

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

Organized 1973

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

Our next meeting will be February 4th, 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

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Secretary

Blake Tollett
Assistant Secretary

August "Happy" Harris III
Past-President

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Mary Arnold
Joyce Basciano
Joseph Bennett
Erik Cary
George Edwards
Gwen Jewiss
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Honorary Committee Members

Hon. Lloyd Doggett
Hon. Lee Leffingwell



I first discovered Mayfield Park when my boys were little. My sister had set up a photo shoot with a posh photographer to take pictures of my children and hers for our mother. What a delight! The natural light filtered through the trees, the low walls forming a perfect backdrop, the coy ponds to avoid at all cost, the call of the peacocks... those are still some of my favorite pictures. The part became a family favorite – one of my sisters had her bridal portrait made there. More recently, my family took a hike over the holidays to explore the paths the wind through the woods behind the park, one more secret getaway. Every time I go, I am astounded that such an oasis of peace and greenery remains unseen within our busy town. It truly is a hidden gem.

I've often wondered about the cottage forming the centerpiece of the park. The home and surrounding 23 acres were purchased by Allison Mayfield in 1909 as

a summer retreat. The home stayed in the family, and Mayfield's daughter, Mary Mayfield Gutsch donated the property to the City in 1971 to be used as a park.

The Mayfields and the Gutsches can claim honors for the unique design of the park, along with input and help from Steve Arredondo, the resident gardener for many years. Mary Gutsch's husband, Milton, directed the building of the stone walls, ponds, and garden features, emulating an English cottage garden. Today, the gardens are filled with heirloom plants and the unusual Sabal Mexicana Palms, transplanted from the Rio Grande Valley in the '30's. And the peacocks? They were gifts from friends in 1935, and the descendants of the same birds make their home in the park today.

The park encourages community involvement. The Mayfield Council, a volunteer group, is dedicated to restoring and improving the park, working closely

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

Presidents Message, continued from page 1

with Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Plans for the park include restoration of the cottage and of the gardens. Also, garden plots are available for families or other groups interested in contributing their gardening talents. The preserve behind the cottage is the focus of Friends of Mayfield Preserve, a group of volunteers devoted to maintaining the natural beauty of the 21 acre preserve.

A favorite event is the annual fundraiser, Trowel & Error, to be held April 6, 2013. There's still time to sign on as a sponsor, but at the very least, mark your calendars to stop by the park that day. In addition to a plant sale, there will be speakers addressing organic weed control, cultivating culinary herbs, and color combinations with perennials which tolerate shade.

As my family has grown older, we use the park differently, no longer posing for photos by the old stone walls. Now, we're more likely to spend a couple of hours exploring the preserve to its very limits. Whatever your interest, you will find Mayfield Park worth your time and your support. We're so lucky to have it as part of our neighborhood.

Save Muny 5K "Run for the Green"

The second annual "Run for the Green" will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2013, on historic Lions Municipal Golf Course, beginning at 8 a.m.

For those who do not golf, or who have not visited this beautiful greenspace, this is an opportunity to run, or walk, through the course's beautiful trees and fairways, and to view the hills and cliffs beyond.

For additional information see the WANG website or [www://savemuny.com](http://www.savemuny.com) website. Register at: <https://register.bazumedia.com/reg/form?eventID=2721>.



**West Austin Neighborhood Group
Minutes of Meeting**

By August Harris in Mike Cannatti's absence
January 7, 2013, 7:00 PM, Howson Library

- Chair:** Cathy Kyle, President
- Attending:** Arnold, Basciano, Edwards, Harris, Kyle, Tollett.
- Guests and Visitors:** FloAnn Randle

I. Call To Order: Kyle called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes: Harris offered an amendment omitting Section I and amending III.1, IV.A.2, & IV.B.1 to reflect the finding that Betty Trent was not appointed as the liaison to WANG from the Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association and thus did not have standing to be seated at the December 3, 2012 meeting. As amended, Harris moved approval, Arnold seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

III. Neighborhood Communications: None

IV. Land Matters: Tollett advised of pending matters.

- a. C15-2012-0111 3312 Beverly Road Applicant: William & Katie Fowler, Jr. 512-761-2225 Owner: Pablo Serna 512-963-0919 The applicant has requested a variance to decrease the minimum side street setback requirement from 15 feet to 12 feet in order to maintain and erect an addition to an existing single family residence. This is a Bryker Woods case. Basciano reported their non-opposition to this amended variance request.
- b. SP-2012-0212C 2314 Enfield Road (Tarrytown Place) Applicant: A.J. Ghaddar, PE & Associates 512-535-7489 Owner: Mehdi Asgharzadeh 512-704-7221 Project Description: The applicant is proposing to

- construct a multi-family residential use with associated improvements. The applicant is requesting a waiver from LDC 25-2-1602 (C) to encroach into the 15.5 foot compatibility side yard setback from the single-family (SF) zoned or used property line. The site plan waiver was scheduled for January 8th before the Planning Commission. Tollett met with the case manager, spoke with the owner as well as an adjacent owner who objected to the variance. ExComm discussed a parking waiver that was granted by the City because the property lies within the City's "desired development zone which in Tarrytown includes the Johnson Creek watershed. No action was taken pending review of the parking issue. It was determined that if necessary, a vote would be taken electronically. None was.
- c. C14H-2012-0012 Historic zoning of 2617 Pecos: ExComm reviewed the historic zoning case initiated by City staff. It retained the position that it would not engage on this item and no further action was taken.
- d. Tarrytown Center Wine Bar: Via email, Tollett had circulated restrictive covenants and a letter agreement that could be used as a framework for the rezoning of the Tarrytown Shopping Center space that the prospective tenants would like to lease for a wine bar. Michael Curry, from our sister neighborhood association Bryker Woods, provided the documents the folks on West 35th Street agreed to in order to put a wine bar there and which similarly necessitated a rezoning from to CS-1. Harris has been in contact with the prospective tenant's representative and will forward the documents for their consideration.
- e. Case Number: 2012-120342RM 2200 Mountainview Road Applicant: William Hablinski, AIA 310-600-6940 Owner: Georgia Leonard The applicant requested a modification to allow a FAR increase from the maximum development permitted allowed of 40% (3,480.5 s.f.) to 48% (4,199 s.f.) in order to relocate mechanical

equipment to an existing attic space in a single-family (SF-3-NP) zoning district. This house was already built and there were significant questions as to how it got this far. This case had significant and widespread opposition. ExComm had voted electronically to oppose this case in support of the neighbors and policy. RDCC unanimously opposed the modification. The owner had 10 days to appeal the RDCC's decision. Tollett had not heard of their intent and they had not yet filed an appeal.

- f. NRD-2012-0137 1619 Watchhill: Historic District Building Permit. No action was taken as this is in the Old Enfield Neighborhood Association.
- g. NRD-2012-0137 1712 West 29th Street: Historic District Building Permit. No action was taken as this is in the Old Enfield Neighborhood Association.
- h. NRD-2012-0137 2207 Bowman: Demolition Permit. No action was taken.

V. Infrastructure:

- a. Interlocal Agreement between City of Austin and the Texas Facilities Commission: Harris reported that WANG's letter had been well received by various stakeholders. Despite widespread community concerns, City Council approved the Interlocal Agreement 5-2. An effect may be delayed because of legislative action during the current session.
- b. Mount Bonnell Meeting Tuesday January 22nd, 9:00AM: Kyle reported that the purpose of the meeting was to dialogue with stakeholders on user management, responsibilities, fencing, wildfires etc. A call for volunteers from ExComm to attend on behalf of WANG was made.
- c. Volunteer Tree Planting on Shoal Creek Greenbelt, February 9 from 9AM to Noon: Kyle announced that the City was seeking volunteers for this project. Arnold noted that a tree planting was taking place in Reed Park as well. The Reed Park Tree Planting is scheduled for January 18 from 9 til 12:30 p.m. The city's Forestry Division, Watershed Protection and TreeFolks are all listed as sponsors. Harris asked if it were being done in coordination with a master plan. Arnold agreed to find out.
- d. TCEQ Water Quality Study: Arnold reported on a TCEQ study of Taylor Slough South. Being studied is the total

maximum daily load (TMDL) and the determination of fecal coliform levels. A committee will be established to help with community education and the implementation of strategies to combat contamination in the watershed.

- e. West Enfield Pool: Harris reported that the City's Aquatics Director, Tom Nelson, has confirmed that West Enfield Pool will be prioritized for funding to replace the aging facility. It is anticipated that construction will begin after the 2013 swimming season. Harris noted that an emergency maintenance project is underway to deal with the pool's pump system.

VI. Membership Committee: No Report

VII. Newsletter: No Report

VIII. Liaison: Basciano reported on Austin Neighborhood Council activities and upcoming priorities including code amendments, single member districts, subdivision rules changes and short term rentals. It was agreed that an article would be prepared for the January newsletter regarding single member districts. Basciano added that neighborhood association dues were due. ExComm voted 5-1 to renew WANG's ANC membership.

IX. Transportation: Harris reported that the bids are due for the MoPac managed lane project which continues to remain on schedule.

X. Treasurer's Report: Edwards reported that WANG's bank account balance is \$8,663.92 and that the Oak Wilt Fund remains at \$1,205.92

XI. Old Business: Arnold reported that Save Munny's Run for the Green has been moved to Sunday, March 3 in anticipation of more inviting weather.

XII. New Business: None

XIII. Adjournment: Kyle announced WANG's next meeting will be February 4th, 2013, 7:00PM at the Howson Library. There being no further new business, Kyle adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM. The Director of the Austin State Assisted Living Facility

Join WANG Today!

Name _____

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I prefer to receive the newsletter via:

E-Mail Regular Mail

Email Address: _____

Contributing Levels	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$5.00
<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

We offer PayPal at
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 E-mail: membership@westaustinng.com

REDISTRICTING IMPLEMENTATION

February 22, 2013 Deadline for Applications for Applicant Review Panel and Citizens Redistricting Commission

The City Auditor is charged with responsibility to organize the selection of the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is mandated by the vote last November to change the city charter to provide for 10 geographic districts from which to select our city council members, in addition to a Mayor, selected at-large. Information about the qualifications for the Citizens Redistricting Commission may be found on the City of Austin website, at www.austintexas.gov/departments/10-one-qualifications

West Austin Neighborhood Group

P.O. Box 5722

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Drain Flies



Photo by Sam Myers.

Drain flies are small, have two wings and are a brownish or grayish color. Drain flies have a fuzzy appearance and when at rest, the wings are held roof-like over the body making them look like tiny moths which is why they are also sometimes called moth flies.

Drain flies are often seen in kitchens and bathrooms often near sinks and tubs. They tend to be more active in the evening. Female flies lay eggs in the thin film of organic matter that builds up on the inside of pipes. Larvae develop in the slime layer, feeding on fungi and other microorganisms.

Killing adult drain flies will only temporarily solve your problem. To manage drain flies, the source should be treated to reduce the population of developing flies. To track down the source, place tape over one side (don't cover the drain completely) of the drains in sinks and tubs before you go to bed. In the morning, check the tape for flies that emerged during the night to find out which drain is infested.

Once you locate the drain, take a stiff brush and scrub the inside of the drain. Flush the drain with boiling water. There is no need to treat the drain with bleach or ammonia. It may take several days to see a reduction of the adult flies once the drain has been cleaned; you have to allow the emerged adults to die off.

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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