

**West Austin Neighborhood Group**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

These are the minutes of the meeting of the West Austin Neighborhood Group Board of Directors held Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., at the Howson Public Library.

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by President Cathy Kyle. Board members in attendance included: Mary Arnold, Joyce Basciano, Joe Bennett, Mike Cannatti, August Harris, Haidar Khazen, Craig Lill, Holly Reed and Blake Tollett. Board members Elizabeth Adams, George Edwards and Gunnar Seaquist were not in attendance. Neighbors in attendance included Kristina and Evan Baehr, and ??

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

August Harris made a motion to approve the January 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Joyce Basciano, and approved unanimously.

**III. Neighbor Communications:**

**IV. Land Matters:**

**A.** 2605 W 8<sup>th</sup> St.: On February 12 the Board of Adjustment will hear a variance request by Kristina and Evan Baehr to construct a 37 SF elevated walkway between the second floor of their home and a second floor studio over their detached garage. This walkway would allow them to use the studio as an additional bedroom for their growing family by connecting it to the house. The house is currently at 39.99% FAR. The 37 SF walkway would put the FAR just over 40%. The Baehrs presented the WANG Board with letters of support from their surrounding neighbors. Blake Tollett made a motion to not oppose the variance, conditioned upon the removal of the outside staircase up to the garage studio, and an agreement to not install an internal staircase from the garage into the studio. The space above the garage is currently habitable as a studio and would remain habitable now repurposed as a nursery/bedroom space with bathroom. The motion was seconded by August Harris and approved unanimously.

**B.** Blake Tollett informed the Board that the Contemporary Arts Museum was requesting a renewal of their outdoor music permit. He has not heard any complaints or opposition from neighbors.

**V. Transportation:**

Happy Harris reported that the sound walls were progressing along Mopac with a new completion date of June, 2018.

President Kyle noted that she has heard renewed discussion of the Mopac South expansion over Lady Bird Lake.

Mary Arnold informed the Board that plans to expand the Red Bud Trail Bridge are still underway, but CAMPO has not agreed to consider work on the bridge as of yet. There have been no recent reports from Public Works regarding this expansion, other than exploring a CAMPO grant. \$512,712 had been paid to the engineering firm as of June 2017 -- but NO reports have been made public as to the engineering firms analysis of environmental issues, Austin Water needs, etc. Mary reminded the Board that the cliffs and natural habitat on the west side of the bridge were protected in the Brackenridge Development Agreement.

## **VI. Membership:**

Joe Bennett informed the Board that paid membership is slightly down. He has sent an email flyer reminder to 100 members currently needing to renew their membership. Joe has worked hard to successfully coordinate the online WANG Newsletter and WANG Membership list. He shared some of the analytics regarding members' preference of mailed newsletter vs. online newsletter.

## **VII. Newsletter:**

Haidar Khazen informed the Board that content is due by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Joe will drop content into the online newsletter. The Board discussed mailing out two hard copy newsletters to all residents in the WANG area this year due to these important upcoming dates:

- Brackenridge Tract Lease to Lions Munity expiring in 2019
- Austin State Supported Living Center possible relocation in 2019
- CodeNEXT vote/ possible adoption Spring. 2018

## **VIII. ANC Liason Report:**

Joyce Basciano reported that the Austin City Demographer will be attending the Austin Neighborhoods Council meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Town Lake Center.

**CodeNEXT:** Joyce reported that the **CodeNEXT Petition Drive for an Austin Ordinance requiring both a waiting period and voter approval before CodeNEXT or comprehensive land development revisions become effective.**

- The deadline to submit petition signatures is MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> for a November vote.
- Community Not Commodity needs volunteers to validate signatures, and collect signatures at the Town Lake Trail Mopac pedestrian bridge on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>
- Joe Bennett will send WANG members an online flyer with PDF of the CodeNext Petition
- City Ordinance requires that only original hard copies of each name and signature of registered voters may be submitted for this petition.
- Draft 3 of CodeNEXT will be released Monday, Feb. 12th

## **IX. Treasurer's Report:**

George Edwards email reported that WANG has \$9,868.16 in the Business Account, \$511.36 in the Tarrytown 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Account, and \$1,206.74 in the Oak Wilt Account.

## **X. Old Business:**

MLS Soccer Stadium on City Parkland: President Kyle made a motion to amend the letter from WANG to Mayor and Council Members to say that WANG is in support of a Council Resolution opposing the use of any City of Austin Parkland for the Precourt Sports Ventures MLS soccer stadium. The motion was seconded by Holly Reed and approved by the Board, with Craig Lill abstaining.

## **XI. New Business:**

- A. Mayfield Park Sponsorship: Blake Tollett informed the Board that Mayfield Park will host Trowl and Error, an annual gardening event, on April 7, 2018 from 9:30AM to 1:00PM. Blake asked for a 250.00 WANG sponsorship for Mayfield Park which the Board approved unanimously.
- B. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Craig Lill is working with Tarrytown Methodist for this meeting's location, as Howson Library will be a voting site for the March election.

**XII. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by President Cathy Kyle at 8:04 PM.

