

HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MEETING NOTES

May 30, 2002

Approximately 20 HNA members and residents, and three guest presenters attended the meeting. HNA Steering Committee member Laurie Limbacher chaired, in the absence of our president. People introduced themselves around the room, giving their name and residence address.

Upcoming Roadwork and Improvements to Guadalupe Street

Julie Strong, Paulinda Lanham-Mackie and Renee Orr spoke about two upcoming projects the City has planned for Guadalupe Street:

- Paulinda is the project manager for the Guadalupe Street Reconstruction project, located between 24th Street and 38th Street. The project includes work from curb-to-curb, including installation of a new underground water main and new asphalt paving, but no substantive work outside the curbs or on sidewalks. The project is in design, and will be issued for bids sometime this fall. Construction is currently scheduled to begin around March 2003, and is expected to last about a year.
- Renee is the project manager for the Guadalupe Streetscape Improvements project, located between 21st Street and 24th Street. The project includes new sidewalks, lighting and street trees, as well as a new underground water main and a new asphalt paving. Design is complete, and the project is now in City permit review. Construction will begin around November 2002, at the earliest, and is expected to last about a year.
- For both projects, one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained throughout the course of construction. At this time, there is no specific plan for traffic detours, although the City is discussing the issue with Capital Metro, since bus service will be maintained on Guadalupe throughout the course of the projects. Construction activities will be completed in accord with City ordinances, including noise and environmental protection ordinances. However, work may proceed until 7pm some evenings, in order to maintain the construction schedule.
- Julie, Paulinda and Renee indicated that they are available to answer further questions about the projects, as the plans proceed, and are also available to address concerns that arise as the construction work proceeds. They will provide periodic written updates, which will be posted on the HNA website.

Forthcoming Neighborhood Plan

In response to a recent City Council resolution, neighborhood planning for our area will begin around September. The City Neighborhood Planning Department has recently changed the planning process, in an effort to shorten the time required to complete a neighborhood plan. To accomplish this, the City staff will take a more hands-on role in the planning process, larger areas will be included in each plan boundary and the neighborhood planning team structure will not be used. Instead, the City staff will facilitate a series of workshops and focus groups during which information will be presented and directions will be set for the plan document.

Under this new structure, HNA will work together with (starting from the south) the Judges' Hill NA, West University NA, University Area Partners, Shoal Crest NA, North University NA, Eastwoods NA and Hancock NA. We will plan for an area that spans from Fifteenth Street and West Avenue, north to the University of Texas, north to 38th

Street and east to IH 35. A task force of delegates from each of these NA's has met several times with City staff, the City Manager's office and other NA's who have completed their plans to learn about and strategize for the process.

The City staff indicates that our planning process will begin with the distribution of a survey form, perhaps as early as August or September. The staff projects that the planning process will take nine to twelve months to complete. Copies of the survey form were distributed and reviewed during the HNA meeting. The data collected on the form establishes "critical" data that the City staff will use in preparing recommendations for the neighborhood plan. It is important that HNA members carefully review and respond to the survey forms. The content of the forms will be further discussed during the next HNA general membership meeting, on July 1, 2002.

Follow-up on 2910 Pearl Street Zoning Case

The property owner at 2910 Pearl Street withdrew the proposed zoning change case that had been filed earlier this spring. The HNA Steering Committee met with City planning and zoning staff and the property owner to discuss the case, and also attended several Zoning and Platting Commission meetings concerning the case.

The Steering Committee presented to the property owner their understanding of the City regulations that would apply to the proposed re-development project, if the zoning change were approved. They also communicated closely with various City staff members, to confirm this understanding and to convey the HNA concerns about the proposed zoning change.

Ultimately, the property owner withdrew the zoning change case, apparently because he learned that City regulations would not allow the type of re-development he had thought. Special thanks go to Ann Paterra, for polling HNA residents in the vicinity of the proposed change, and to Al Godfrey, for preparing site development diagrams for the proposed change.

Proposed Yard Parking Ordinance

In the next few weeks, the City Council will consider a proposed ordinance prohibiting parking in the front or side yard of a residence. The ordinance was drafted in response to conditions in a north Austin neighborhood, where ten or twelve cars are sometimes parked in a residential yard. Currently, there is no ordinance in Austin addressing this issue. Many cities have such an ordinance, including San Antonio and Arlington. As currently drafted, the proposed ordinance allows neighborhood associations to choose to participate or not. The ordinance is drafted as part of the traffic section of the City code, and will be enforced by the police department, not by the zoning inspectors. The ordinance is "complaint driven": action will not be taken unless a complaint is filed. Copies of the current draft of the ordinance were distributed during the meeting, and the draft will be posted on the HNA website.

In April, as the ordinance was being considered by the Planning Commission and City Council, the HNA Steering Committee voted to support and participate in the ordinance and sent a letter to both bodies indicating this. (The HNA bylaws stipulate that the Steering Committee is empowered to conduct the business of HNA between general membership meetings.)

New Meeting Location and Standing Meeting Schedule

For many years, HNA has held its meetings at the Friends Meeting House, on Washington Square. However, about a year and a half ago, logistical difficulties prevented the Friends from continuing to open their space to HNA. Loss of our meeting venue has made it difficult to hold general membership meetings on a regular basis.

More recently, the Friends property was sold and is now used as the Zen Center of Austin. The Zen Center has very kindly made their space available for small group meetings, like the Steering Committee, but does not have a suitable space for our large group meetings, like the general membership meetings.

The Steering Committee researched a handful of other possible spaces in the neighborhood, none of which worked out. Although it is outside our neighborhood, the First English Lutheran Church has appropriate space available, and has graciously allowed HNA to set up a series of standing meeting times on their space use calendar.

The new standing meeting schedule is the first Monday evening of every other month. The meetings will alternate between General Membership Meetings and Steering Committee Meetings. The new schedule will begin on Monday, July 1, 2002, with a General Membership Meeting. Having a set meeting location and a standing meeting schedule will make it easier for HNA members to plan for neighborhood activities.

Forthcoming Officer Election

HNA president Ray Strucker has completed his one-year term, and then some, and has given notice that he must resign his office. HNA secretary Paula Nichols has served several terms as secretary and as a Steering Committee member, and has given notice that she must resign her office, as well. The remaining officer and Steering Committee members (treasurer Doris Lowe, members Jay Farrell, Al Godfrey, Anne Heinen, Laurie Limbacher, Robert Mace and Ann Paterra) have indicated that they will continue to serve, unless other HNA members wish to join the committee.

During the meeting, HNA members discussed the importance of participating in HNA activities. In addition to serving as officers or committee members, volunteers are needed to distribute fliers, assist with zoning cases and ordinance issues, speak at public hearings at the City and assist with newsletter/website articles. It is important that HNA be sustainable over the long term, which can only occur if the work is divided among the members and if a range of people agrees to serve as officers and committee members.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer or serve as an officer or committee member should contact a current Steering Committee member to indicate his or her interest. The Steering Committee will present a slate of officers for consideration at the next general membership meeting. The election of officers and committee members will be held at the next general membership meeting.

Collection of Dues

By the HNA bylaws, HNA members must pay dues of \$5 per household or \$3 per individual. Only current members may participate in HNA votes. So, dues must be paid, if members want to vote. Paula Nichols collected dues during the meeting. If you want to pay your dues before the next meeting, contact a Steering Committee member, who will collect your dues and current contact information for inclusion on the HNA membership roster.

Items from the Floor

Tish Williams reported that she is part of a City committee charged with preparing a draft of a revised noise ordinance. She described some of the issues the committee is considering, including the possibility of nightclubs and music venues located outside the downtown area.