

***HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MEETING NOTES
July 1, 2002***

Sixteen Heritage Neighborhood Association (HNA) members and residents and two guest presenters attended the meeting. HNA Steering Committee member Laurie Limbacher chaired the meeting in the absence of our president. People introduced themselves around the room, giving their name and residence address.

Noise Ordinance

Officer Desiree J. Small, Senior Police Officer with the Austin Police Department (APD) and a noise specialist with the department, gave a presentation and answered questions about noise.

- Ability to enforce noise complaints limited due to lawsuit from downtown businesses.
- Noise violations have low priority.
- There is a State law on noise.
- There is an APD noise Committee with officers, business owners, and residents on it. HNA member Tish Williams is on the committee. The committee is developing new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for dealing with noise.
- If you have problems with a noisy neighbor, Officer Small suggested (1) Videotape the date and time off of TV, record noise level in home (with doors and windows closed), walk over to disturbance and record noise levels, walk back to your house and record the date and time again and (2) dial 311 or 911 and ask police officer to identify person responsible for noise and to fill out a violation (get officer number). You can file one violation on a person a day. Judges want to see that your personal space (inside your closed home) has been disturbed before deciding a case in your favor.
- Noise ordinance now: 85 db (+/- 5 db) until 10 pm and 80 db (+/- 5 db) after 10 pm as measured 6 feet from the point of entry. A violation is a Class C misdemeanor, up to \$200 fine.
- APD has only two db units (they cost \$10,000 a piece!)

APD report on neighborhood issues

Officer Andrew L. Dixon, Police Officer with the Austin Police Department, reported that the main issues facing our neighborhood is (1) graffiti and (2) burglary of vehicles. APD photographs and then paints over graffiti. One HNA member in attendance noted that his car was recently broken into and vandalized. The neighborhood was also asked to be on the watch for a man in a white bronco that has been harassing female joggers. Officer Dixon was asked about starting a neighborhood watch. He mentioned that this is done on a block-by-block basis and that most of the neighbors on the block have to be involved. Signs cost about \$26 a piece.

Elections

While the HNA had candidates for secretary (Robert Mace) and treasurer (Doris Lowe) and several candidates for the steering committee, we did not have a candidate for

president. Laurie Limbacher suggested that in lieu of a president, running of the HNA fall to the steering committee until such a time that someone wants to be president. Because there was a number of people willing to be steering committee members, the issue of what a quorum was came up. Al Godfrey offered to investigate for the next meeting. The motion to elect the slate of officers and steering committee members and rotate presidential duties was seconded and passed unanimously. Therefore:

- President - vacant (defaulted to steering committee)
- Treasurer - Doris Lowe
- Secretary - Robert Mace
- New Steering Committee members:
 - Shellie Shores
 - Jeff Webster
 - Raye Ward
- Returning Steering Committee members
 - Laurie Limbacher
 - Al Godfrey
 - Anne Heinen
 - Ann Paterra
 - (as treasurer and secretary, Doris Lowe and Robert Mace are also steering committee members)

Members thanked the exiting officers (Ray Strucker, President, and Paula Nichols, Secretary) and steering committee members (Jay Farrell) for their hard work on behalf of HNA.

Neighborhood Issues

- **Light Rail** - Potential stations at 38 1/2 and 29th streets where they cross Guadalupe St. An underground alternative was considered and discarded. Information on light rail can be found at www.rapidtransitproject.org.
- **Neighborhood Plan** - Will be a 9 to 12 month process, probably more to get codified. Zoning changes recommended in plan will take place. HNA (via Laurie Limbacher) is looking at developing a Neighborhood Conservation Combining District similar to what Hyde Park did to preserve the character of our neighborhood. Al Godfrey pointed out that our neighborhood is essentially the ideal the city is looking for: fringed by businesses within walking distances, a mix of income and types of housing in the neighborhood. The city will be sending out surveys for neighborhood occupants to fill out. Laurie Limbacher, Shellie Shores, Al Godfrey, and Britta Kresse agreed to work on the neighborhood's behalf on the plan. Several others offered to help if needed.
- **Mother-in-law house on your property?** - The city is considering lowering the lot square footage required for building a separate housing structure on residential property in town (i.e. guest house, garage apartment). At the moment, the minimum lot square footage required is 7,000 square feet. The city has proposed lowering this to 5,750 square feet. This affects several pieces of property in the neighborhood.

- **Yard Park Ordinance** - The city council will take a vote soon on the controversial yard park ordinance. The ordinance would forbid folks from parking on their yard unless the yard is designed for parking. Ticketing would be complaint driven. Neighborhood Associations can opt in or out of the ordinance. The HNA steering committee has been acting in support of the ordinance. A motion made to support the Yard Park Ordinance. The motion passed with one member opposing.

Dues

Ken Jordan (808 W. 30th St.) and Robert Mace (3208 King St.) paid dues of \$5 a piece.

Attendance

The following folks signed in at the meeting:

- Laurie Limbacher (614 W. 31 1/2 St.)
- Wendy Weiss (3208 King St.)
- Robert Mace (3208 King St.)
- Shellie Shores (808 30 1/2 St.)
- Jeff Webster (206 W. 31st St.)
- Susan Van Haitsma (706 W. 31st St.)
- Tish Williams
- Jay Farrell (616 W 31 1/2 St.)
- John Boardman (700 W. 32nd St.)
- Mikal Grimes (700 W. 32nd St.)
- Ken Jordan (808 W. 30th St.)
- Paul Donn (617 W. 32nd St.)
- Britta Kresse (3110 West Ave.)
- Anne Bouer (614 W. 32nd St.)
- Clifford May (3316 Guadalupe, # 321)
- Al Godfrey (614 W. 31 1/2 St.)

As noted by Robert E. Mace, Secretary, 7/1/02

Ammendment to the minutes:

Mikal Grimes (700 W. 32nd St.) was also elected to be on the steering committee. Jennifer Manning was also discussed as a possible candidate but was not nominated because she was not at the meeting (and we had a good numbers of volunteers). Added 7/17/02 after discussion with Laurie Limbacher.