

**South Lamar Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2006**

Officers Present: Carol Gibbs, Nancy Maclaine, Don Ewalt, John Bissell

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Nancy Maclaine at 7:05pm. Those at the meeting were invited to briefly introduce themselves.

Announcements:

- Carol Gibbs' house was burglarized this afternoon. She will be late to the meeting while awaiting APD.
- Don Ewalt gave the treasurer's report. We have a total of \$4160.44 in available funds. This is split among various checking, savings, and CD accounts.
- Roger Moreno is the SLNA outreach rep for the Austin Toros NBA Development League team (<http://www.nba.com/dleague/austin/>). SLNA Night at the Toros will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The group rate is \$11 per person. Contact Roger at [just\\_4\\_fun\\_2001@yahoo.com](mailto:just_4_fun_2001@yahoo.com) for details.
- Chad Hymel reminded everyone that March 4<sup>th</sup> is the Keep Austin Beautiful "Clean Creeks Kickoff" ([http://www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/news.php?p\\_query=event&p\\_id=79](http://www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/news.php?p_query=event&p_id=79)). SLNA will be working on W. Bouldin Creek that day.
- The Town Lake Park grand opening will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 11:30am on Barton Springs Rd. just west of Palmer Events Center. Everyone is invited. See <http://www.southaustinculture.org/> for more details.
- Bill Stoughton gave an update on the South Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning progress. The next meeting is at the Faith Methodist church on Lamar on March 20. It is getting increasingly difficult to catch up on these meetings if you haven't been going, so if you are interested in being part of the process, please attend this meeting. The City continues to send out meeting information to all interested parties.

APD Update:

APD Officer Robert Barboza reported that crime statistics are available. These will be posted on the SLNA website. Bryan King has already reviewed the data and questioned Officer Barboza on crime hot spots in the neighborhood. Officer Barboza said that, in general, SLNA has been fairly quiet of late. A representative from Bainbridge Village announced that they are forming a neighborhood watch.

The City has a revised, simplified yard parking ordinance. Vehicles must be parked in a driveway or on a paved area. Enforcement is complaint-driven, so call 311 to report violations.

### Foundation Communities Presentation:

The major business of the evening was a presentation by Walter Moreau, executive director of the Foundation Communities (<http://www.foundcom.org>), on their plans to turn the former Ramada Inn (currently the Oak Inn) on Ben White into Skyline Terrace (the working name) with 100 efficiency apartments for people with annual incomes under \$25,000. An overview of their presentation is available on the SLNA group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthLamarNA>) in the “Files” section.

Foundation Communities is applying for city and state funding for this \$1.5M project and was asking SLNA to take an “approve,” “neutral,” or “opposed” position on their proposal. The funding decision is to be made at the beginning of April, so SLNA needed to decide on a position at the February meeting. There will also be a zoning change required to go from a hotel to a residence. Foundation Communities has initiated the necessary zoning change request, which may or may not be delayed by the Planning Commission because we are in the midst of Neighborhood Planning.

Several other staff people from FC accompanied Mr. Moreau. A current resident of FC’s Garden Terrace project on William Cannon spoke about his experiences living there. He has been there well over a year and credits their facility and support with helping him get back on his feet and become productive.

There was a lot of lively discussion on the proposal. Several people were concerned that locating the facility in what is already a higher crime area would be detrimental to the new facility’s residents. Walter said that FC was well aware of the problems in the area and did not consider them a major issue.

After the discussion, the Foundation reps left the meeting. There was then some confusion about who was eligible to vote. The by-laws were consulted and it was determined that a member in good standing could renew their membership at the first meeting of the year and be eligible to vote at that meeting. New members are required to join SLNA at least 10 days prior to a meeting in order to vote. Several members renewed at the meeting. There was a quorum of eligible members at the meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

A motion was made by Bryan King to require “consensus” (defined as a super-majority of 75%) on the Foundation proposal rather than the normal simple majority. The motion was seconded and the vote was 2-11 against.

Carol Gibbs moved that SLNA vote to support the Foundation Communities proposal. The motion was seconded and approved 10-3.

### Other Business:

Since a representative of Walgreens was unable to attend to discuss several issues (notably the “porkchop” exit design on Bluebonnet), Bryan asked that the Board set up a meeting with Walgreens. This was agreed to.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm with cookies provided by Nico the Cat.