

**South Lamar Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2006**

Officers Present: Carol Gibbs, Nancy Maclaine, John Bissell, Kevin Lewis

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Gibbs at 7:05pm.

Announcements

- Carol (standing in for Bill Stoughton) gave a brief update on Neighborhood Planning. While it's still not too late to become involved, anyone starting to attend at this point is urged to familiarize themselves with the process and current status. Links are available on <http://www.southlamar.org/>.
- Carol gave the treasurer's report for Don Ewalt. We have several CDs and about \$1000 in checking. We have a good financial position as the only ongoing expense is producing the newsletter.
- Kathy Smartt spoke about her concerns with traffic on Manchaca. There is a lot of speeding, a lack of speed signs. The City has basically said, "live with it." Manchaca is considered an arterial despite its largely residential character through our neighborhood. Technically, CAMPO "owns" the road since it is considered a regional artery. There was also discussion about the limited sight distance on Manchaca at Lightsey/Barton Skyway.

Kathy will look at forming a committee to investigate possible solutions and proposals to take forward. This issue can possibly be wrapped into the Transportation item in Neighborhood Planning.

- Kevin Lewis announced that there will be a benefit showing of the Banff Mountain Film Festival on April 30<sup>th</sup> for the Austin Parks Foundation. The festival features rarely-seen documentary and experimental films on rock climbing, skydiving, Himalayan culture, kayaking, and other aspects of mountain life. See <http://www.austinparks.org/> for further details and tickets.
- Carol reminded everyone that elections for new SLNA officers will be coming up at the October meeting. Almost all of the officers have already served their allowed two consecutive one-year terms so a full slate of officer nominations is needed.
- The Unity Coffeehouse series made 20 free tickets available for the taking by anyone who wanted to attend the concert on April 21.

Lamar/Bluebonnet/Manchaca Water & Wastewater Improvements

Jason Himes, a project manager for the COA Public Works department, and several colleagues presented this project which will start in the fall of 2007 (although some work near the new Walgreens will be starting soon). Jason showed maps of the work, which is designed to increase water pressure in the north end of our neighborhood as well as some

sanitary sewer improvements. More sewer upgrades will be done via the larger ACWP plan that was presented to SLNA several months ago.

The construction will cause various lane closures on Lamar and Manchaca as far north as Mary St. The overview of the plan has been posted to the “Files” section of the SLNA Yahoo! Group site. If possible, we will try to get copies of Jason’s maps.

If you have questions, you can contact Jason at [jason.himes@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:jason.himes@ci.austin.tx.us) or 512-974-7098.

### Propositions 1 and 2 Debate

Kevin Lewis moderated a debate on the upcoming COA Charter Amendment propositions. There are seven propositions on the May 13 ballot, but the two most controversial are Propositions 1 and 2, also known as the “Open Government Online (OGO)” and “Save Our Springs (SOS)” propositions. Kathy Mitchell of the ACLU and Bill Bunch of the SOS Alliance (<http://CleanAustin.org>) spoke in favor of the propositions while Mike Blizzard of EducatePAC (<http://educatepac.org/>) spoke against. There were several questions to the panel from the audience.

The text for all of the amendments can be viewed at <http://www.keepaustinvoting.com/propositions.html>. Early voting begins May 1.

### Other Business

- Kevin Lewis provided an update on the issues at the Austin Neighborhoods Council. There is a “McMansion” taskforce setup to make recommendations on house sizes. Also, the AISD’s proposal to close Becker Elementary and Oak Springs Elementary schools has been postponed for at least a year.
- Bob Thompson mentioned that some members are interested in proposing changes to SLNA’s bylaws. This will likely make the agenda for the June general meeting. A copy of the current bylaws is available at <http://www.southlamar.org/docs/Bylaws-Feb04.pdf>.
- Bob also mentioned that he is sponsoring a petition in opposition to the Foundation Communities proposal to turn the Ramada/Oak Inn into an FC facility. This issue was discussed at length at the February SLNA meeting and SLNA voted to support the proposal. The request has already been approved by the Planning Commission. City Council is scheduled to hear the item on its April 27<sup>th</sup> agenda. Contact Bob if you are in opposition and wish to sign his petition.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.