

October 2006
Volume 5, Issue 5

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 19 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Unity Church Main Building 2806 Del Curto

*** Everyone is Welcome ***

AGENDA:

- Election of SLNA Officers for 2007
- Current status of zoning cases in the neighborhood
- Vertical Mixed Use and Commercial Design Standards
- Jay Symcox, prospective developer of 2500 and 2502 Del Curto Road, will join us to discuss his plans for these properties, including his plans to remove the stone house.
- Other Announcements?

Election of SLNA Officers for 2007

The October meeting is when we elect officers for the coming year. The December meeting will be the swearing-in of officers and a Holiday Social. **Please note, due to its proximity to Christmas Day, the regularly scheduled December meeting will be moved from Dec. 21st to Dec. 14th.**

Below are the individuals we have identified as nominees for the five elected SLNA leadership positions for the coming year. A term is one year (Jan - Dec), and an individual may serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same position. Bylaws, with details, are available at www.southlamar.org and at our meetings.

President: OSCAR LIPCHAK

Oscar has been an Austinite since 1982 and has lived at 2511 Del Curto Rd (between the speed humps) since 1994. He has been a member of SLNA since 2002. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Oscar is licensed to practice law in Texas but does not actively practice at this time. He worked for several State agencies as an attorney before returning to law school to pursue his Master's of Law (L.L.M.) in International Law. Oscar has two sons, ages 22 and 19, both of whom are in college.

Vice-President: JAN CARTWRIGHT

Jan and his wife Dottie have lived at 3204 Clawson since 1976, and have also been members of SLNA since 2002. Jan is a recently-retired commercial architect.

Treasurer: JOHN BISSELL

John has been the 2006 Secretary for SLNA. Retired from IBM, he and wife Jane Chambers moved to 2816 Kinney Oaks Ct in 2004. To see how John spends his semi-retirement, check out his webpage at www.jmbissell.com.

Secretary: NANCY MACLAINE

Nancy has lived at 2302 Del Curto Rd. since 2003 and has been Vice-President of SLNA for the past two years.

Representative To Austin Neighborhoods Council & South Central Coalition (ANC/SCC): BILL STOUGHTON

Bill has been our Webmaster since the inception of SLNA's website, www.southlamar.org, and has served in several capacities over the six-year life of SLNA. He has lived at 3200 South Oak since 1994.

NOTE: Nominations will also be accepted at the meeting, if the nominee is either present to accept their nomination or has otherwise made it known they are willing to serve.

CALENDAR

October 19 – SLNA Meeting
December 14 – SLNA Holiday Party
(one week early)

Neighborhood & Corridor Planning

by Carol Gibbs, SLNA President

Some time ago, the City Council appointed a Task Force to develop a "Commercial Design Standards" Ordinance which dictates what commercial properties can and cannot look like inside the City.

A relatively new section in these Commercial Design Standards, called "Vertical Mixed Use" (VMU), is meant to encourage more residential development on the outer edges of the neighborhoods (such as Lamar Blvd.). This is one strategy for preserving our neighborhoods' interior character as we brace for the projected doubling of Austin's population over the next 30 years.

As if the Design Standards weren't already a challenge for the layperson to grasp, the VMU section has added another 20+ pages. One component to the VMU Ordinance is that Neighborhood Plan Areas will be asked to "opt-in / opt-out" of VMU zoning for properties facing our respective "Core Transit Corridors" (CTCs - specific roadways that have been identified as such, one of which is South Lamar; Ben White, Manchaca and Oltorf are **not** CTCs).

As participants of the South Lamar Combined NP Area, we will have a limited timeframe in which to make our decisions, along with other "opt-in" opportunities to "nominate" non-CTC properties for consideration of VMU zoning if we so desire. The October 19 SLNA meeting might be our only opportunity to discuss VMU before the 90-day window for input expires. Or we may need to have a brief "business meeting" in conjunction with our December 14 Holiday Party - if members so desire.

If you are interested in this topic, I urge you to review the Commercial Design Ordinance on the City's website: www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/commercial_design.htm. You might want to skip to the Mixed Use section, starting on page 75 of 98. If you have questions of Staff or want to request a hard copy of the Ordinance, the contacts are:

Jim.Robertson@ci.austin.tx.us or 974-3564
George.Adams@ci.austin.tx.us or 974-2146

As for the rest of our Neighborhood Planning efforts, we have now been at it for a full year and still have not reached consensus on a Future Land Use Map to present to City Council. Partly due to under-staffing at the City, partly due to our frustrations with how our particular planning sessions have been going, we do not even have a date set for our next meeting.

If you don't know what I'm talking about, I encourage you to visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/slcnpa.htm to see what has been done so far. Many of our original participants have dropped out due to the tedium of the process. If you plan to live in SLNA for years to come, you might want to hear what is being planned for it – and give your input! We are especially having trouble getting Staff to support making Thornton Road all-residential. The above website also has Staff contact information if you'd like to join the process. We need **your** participation if you want to have a say in your neighborhood's future.

You can also contact Bill Stoughton, our NP Chair (see back) for more information.

Got a concern? Get involved!

If you did not receive this newsletter on your doorstep, it may mean we need a Distributor for your part of the neighborhood. If you can volunteer one hour every other month to deliver a batch of newsletters, please contact Roberta Leahy, our Newsletter Distribution Coordinator, at 415-9075

Join the SLNA Email Group to stay on top of all the neighborhood happenings. We don't generate very much email, and it is a great way to share time-sensitive information such as zoning cases and meetings, as well as info-sharing such as home-repair referrals, lost pets, and other news. You do not have to be a member of SLNA, but you do need to live (or own residential property) here. **How to join:**

1. Go to www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthLamarNA
2. Click on the 'Join This Group' button.
3. If you don't already have a Yahoo! ID, it will prompt you to create one - OR - If you already have one, simply log in.
4. In the 'Comment to Owner' section, include your **full name** and your **SLNA address**, to expedite your membership approval.
5. Select your preferences, etc. and finish by clicking on 'JOIN' at the bottom of the page.
6. Your membership will be "pending" until a Moderator approves it (usually within a few days).
7. Once your residency or home ownership has been verified and a Moderator approves your membership, you will receive an email at the email address you signed up with (if a Moderator needs more information before approving your membership, you will get an email from him/her requesting clarification).
8. Once you are a member, you will have access to all the archived email messages of the group, as well as all the photos and files that have been uploaded, on the group's website.

NOTE: You do **not** have to have a Yahoo email account to join a Yahoo! group. Any email provider will do (although some employers may not allow Yahoo Group memberships on their servers).

2006 SLNA Officers & Contacts

Carol Gibbs, President 442-8060 cgibbs1@austin.rr.com
Nancy MacLaine, Vice President 916-1258 nmacLaine@sbcglobal.net
John Bissell, Secretary 345-8238 john@jmbissell.com
Don Ewalt, Treasurer 653-7035 ewaltjr@yahoo.com
Kevin Lewis, ANC/SCC Delegate 627-6898
kLewis@wholeearthprovision.com

Webmaster & NP Chair:
Bill Stoughton, 448-2754 bill@southlamar.org

Newsletter Editor: **vacant**

Newsletter Distributor
Roberta Leahy, 415-9075 robertaleahy@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
Kay Dorsey, 743-7938 sweetmamatax2004@aol.com

SLNA Keep Austin Beautiful Clean-Up Coordinators:
Link Davidson 326-2379 osouthaustin@aol.com
Wendy Brennan 416-6516 wenbrennan@aol.com

**WANTED! BLOCK CAPTAINS
FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH**

Kay Dorsey, Coordinator for SLNA's Neighborhood Watch Program reports that nearly 20 folks turned out for the Crime Watch Kick-Off meeting on September 12th. If you'd like to find out what's involved in being a Block Captain, call Kay at 743-7938.



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SLNA MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT

- Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency (including renters) or residential property ownership, and timely payment of annual dues or waiver request.
- SLNA boundaries: North--Oltorf; South--Ben White; West--South Lamar/Manchaca; and East--Union Pacific Railroad.
- Persons meeting the above criteria may request a reduction in dues or a waiver when submitting the Membership Application.
- The privilege of introducing motions and voting shall be limited to those who have joined the Association at least ten (10) days prior to any regularly-scheduled or special called meeting.
- Complete bylaws – and links to lots of other useful SLNA-related information - are available at www.southlamar.org.



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South Lamar Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Initial Application / Renewal

PRINT NAME (Couples, please use both first names): _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____ / _____

If you live outside SLNA's borders, the address of SLNA property you own: _____

Annual Membership: \$10 per Household -OR- \$20 to be a "Big Bubba/Bubette" - TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to "SLNA". Mail/Deliver with completed form to Don Ewalt, Treasurer, 1605 Lightsey, Austin, TX 78704
- OR - Check here if you are requesting a Waiver of this year's Membership Fee: []