

STORY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 6, 2003

Members Present:

Heather L. Goebel
Susan Allen
Jonathan Mann
Bruce Hurst
Virginia Howard
Jerome Hartnett
Karl G. Obergh
Jeff Godbehere

Babette Mason
Luisa Stark
Darren Tutek
Lynda Reinhardt
Lynae Cole
Dan Hunting
Earlene McDonald
G. Lewis Penrose

Members Absent:

Sharon Betts
C.J. Carezza

David Stanton

Guests:

Betty Landy
David Anderson
Tim Eigo
Roberta Hancock

Lorrie A. Richerby (Neighborhood Services-
City of Phoenix.
Frank Lynn
Mary Jo Pitzl
Pat Tuli

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Dan Hunting at 6:35 p.m.

Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves.

Election and Bylaws Update: Luisa Stark and Lynda Reinhardt, of the nominations committee, reported on the recent steering committee elections. Luisa Stark reported that at times the bylaws are somewhat unclear about election procedures but that she and Lynda followed them as closely as they could. (1) Nominating Committee: The Steering Committee followed the Bylaws by selecting the nominating committee. (2) Slate for Officers : The nominating committee put together the slate following the Bylaws that state that “the nominating committee must forward the name of two candidates for each of the four elected Steering Committee offices.” With the exception of the office of treasurer, where there was a space left on the ballot should a write-in candidate wish to challenge the incumbent, there were two candidates for each office.

(3)Absentee Ballots : Although the Bylaws do not include language that refers to Absentee Ballots, there is wording that permits proxy ballots. That and the fact that absentee ballots were used two years ago, and that there was interest in the neighborhood that they be a part of the election this year, led the nominating committee to develop a system of absentee ballots. The availability of absentee ballots was advertised in *Story Times*. Nominating Committee members personally delivered absentee ballots to anyone who wished one, asked that the ballots be signed for, and registered the ballots when they were returned.(4)Voting. Approximately 120 people voted; almost half of the votes were cast at the annual picnic, the rest by absentee ballot.(5)Candidates for Office : There is no language in the Bylaws that states whether a candidate who runs for one of the four offices, and loses, should remain on the Board. Members had been urged to run with the probable assumption that if they lost, they could still serve on the Steering Committee. Luisa Stark reported that after consultation with Mary Jo Pitzl and Tim Eigo (who had served on the committee that revised the SPA bylaws), the Nominating Committee decided that if less than 17 at-large members had been elected (the maximum number of at-large members allowable according to the Bylaws) and the losing candidate for office had won enough votes to serve as an at-large committee member, then he/she should continue to serve as a member of the Steering Committee. Since there were twelve at-large candidates (10 nominated; 2 write-ins), the Nominating Committee suggested that candidates who had lost an election for officer become members of the 2003-2004 Steering Committee.(6)Voter Eligibility . Several questions were asked by committee members about voter eligibility. Luisa Stark and Lynda Reinhardt noted that the Bylaws state that owners, renters, owners living outside the neighborhood (whether they own residential property or businesses within Story) are eligible to vote. With regard to household members, the Nominating Committee allowed any adult (over 18 years of age) to vote.(7)Bylaws. The Nominating Committee strongly recommended that the Bylaws be revisited-- to be clarified in certain areas and made more consistent in others.

Apartments at 1505 N. 15th Avenue. Dan Hunting reported that there will be a parking Variance Hearing on May 20th at 3:30 p.m. regarding the apartments at 1505 N. 15th Avenue. At the moment the parking situation is out of compliance with 20 to 30 feet of parking for tenants at 1505 located behind the property directly to the East of the apartments.

Presentation: Susan Allen, owner of the property, reported on her progress cleaning up the apartments and her thoughts on the variance. Ms. Allen stated that she evicted all of the former tenants, and invested \$10,000 into the property fixing up the apartments both inside and outside. She plans to do even more upgrades. All violations have been cleared up with the exception of the parking situation, which has existed at least since 1971. She would have to meet four criteria/for gaining the parking variance. These include: (1) There is a clearly special circumstance that applies to the property; (2) Property hardship is not self imposed; (3) Authorization of a variance is necessary to enjoy reasonable and substantial property right; (4) Authorization of variance will not be materially detrimental to persons residing or working in the vicinity. Susan Allen stated that she believed that her request for a parking variance fit all 4 criteria, and that she was making the application in order to clear up the last outstanding violation on the property. She also requested that the Steering Committee take a position on the variance application.

Concerns: Steering Committee members and guests expressed their gratitude to Ms. Allen for all that she has done to upgrade the apartments at 1505 N. 15th Avenue. There were also a number of concerns. Wouldn't such a variance set a precedent for the neighborhood leading to more of the kind of problems recently associated with 1505 N. 15th Avenue? If the variance is granted, doesn't it apply to the owner and not to the property? Should the owner sell the property, would the neighborhood be forced to start all over again with the parking and other problems? Would it be possible to request a use permit instead of a parking variance --a use permit could be reviewed every few years. Could there be a lot-joining in order to resolve the problem?

Vote : After a good deal of discussion on the part of the Steering Committee, Carl Obergh made the following motion: "The Steering Committee at this time prefers not to take a position in this matter." Motion seconded by Luisa Stark. Passed unanimously. Dan Hunting will present the motion at the variance hearing.

Crime Reports . Lynae Cole reported about problems associated with the freeway including graffiti and people camping in the wash. The entrance gate to the freeway near 11th Avenue is broken. She also noted that kids on skateboards are using bats to break out windows on vehicles in the 9th to 11th Avenue and Culver area. Luisa Stark will let people know when Weed and Seed Law Enforcement meetings are held. Babette Mason would be willing to put deliver flyers. Schedule could also be included in *Story Time*.

Treasurer's Report: Lewis Penrose presented the Treasurer's Report. Jeff Godbehere moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Lynae Cole. Motion passed unanimously.

Communication: Dan Hunting requested e-mail addresses from Steering Committee members. He also suggested that agendas be posted in advance on the Story web site--perhaps noting that they are "tentative" in case of last minute changes.

Old Business: Dan Hunting suggested that, at the next meeting, the Steering Committee form a sub-committee to review the Bylaws.

Luisa Stark moved that the April minutes be approved. Virginia Howard seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

Virginia Howard requested that we enforce the "three-missed-meetings-and-you 're-out" rule except for the months of July and August. Heather Goebel suggested that we place a certain time limit on discussion of agenda topics. Luisa Stark recommended that Steering Committee members and guests be allotted 3 minutes to comment on a topic; this would not apply to the individual presenting the subject. Jonathan Mann recommended that we have a time-keeper, a recommendation that he had made earlier. It was noted that C. J. Carezza usually fills that position.

Karl Obergh reported on traffic calming project. City of Phoenix is talking about supporting a second stage grant application from Story. This part of the project would entail \$500,000 from the City of Phoenix; \$30,000 from Story. Babette Mason requested that Karl write an article on the potential Stage Two grant for *Story Time*. Karl also reported that SHPO turned down the

lights that we had chosen for the Stage One project. However, we can keep the bases and perhaps, at a later date, change out the lights.

Jonathan Mann discussed the problem with cut-through traffic on Portland Street. Streets and Transportation apparently doesn't want to do anything. Suggestion made that perhaps we can request no-turn signs at certain hours at entrances to neighborhood streets, following the examples at 12th and 16th Streets and Northern.

Lynda Reinhardt reported that Home Tour Committee will be focusing on Latham, Portland and Roosevelt for December's Home Tour. Home Tour Committee members include Lynda, Virginia Howard, Babette Mason and Earlene McDonald.

New Business. (1) Babette Mason announced the Tree Donor Reception at the Japanese Garden (Hance Park) on Saturday, May 17th. (2) Babette also requested that the Steering Committee look into liability insurance for Home Tour--which we used to carry. Earlene McDonald will look into it. (3) Karl Oberg reported that there will be an open house at Franklin School on May 11th. (4) Karl also presented an update on the ad-hoc committee that will make recommendations for uses should the fairgrounds be sold. Carl will be serving on the committee. (5) Committee discussion of getting historic designation for properties that are now historic, but which were not at the time the neighborhood received its historic designation. Also necessity to redraw neighborhood's city historic boundaries to match national historic register. Concern also expressed that tax breaks on historic housing may result in higher taxes. Luisa Stark suggested that we invite someone from city's Historic Preservation Office to one of our Steering Committee meetings.

Adjournment. Luisa Stark moved that meeting be adjourned; Lynae Cole seconded the motion; meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.