

Audubon Place Association
Minutes for January 2, 2003
Neighborhood Meeting at River Cafe

Those in attendance: Patti Thompson, Tony Herrada, Peter Boyle, Chuck Noll, Peter Van Bommel, Jake Booth, Steve Hamilton, Linda Harnes, Brad Harnes, Francine Kensenkothen, Anita Bryant (11 total)

The meeting began with general discussion, including the following topics:

1. Increasing the use of e-mail as a means of notifying neighborhood residents of meetings and other upcoming events. New and renewing members will be encouraged to provide their e-mail addresses if they wish to be kept informed in this way. The mailed newsletter will continue to be sent as a means of reaching those who are not current members or who don't have e-mail.
2. The impact of increased traffic as a result of the closure of Spur 527. There continues to be great concern over the route that detouring drivers will take to reach downtown. The date construction will begin has been moved up (to ???). Tony Herrada will continue to be our neighborhood's representative to the task force that is working with TXDOT on minimizing negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods and will keep us informed of developments.

Financial Report Peter Van Bommel reported (in the absence of Maaike Van Bommel, Treasurer)

Savings Account	\$4678.01
Checking Account	\$ 943.46
Esplanade Account	<u>\$2901.32</u>
Current Balance	\$8522.79

Brad Harnes (President) mentioned that this balance will shrink in 2003 as we will begin to pay for postage for mailing the neighborhood newsletter from this account (estimated to be about \$200 for the year)

Historical Committee: Peter Van Bommel (chairperson of the Historical Committee) made this report.

At this time we have received a positive vote from 42% of property owners. We need to have a "yes" vote from 67% of property owners to apply for Historic District status for the whole neighborhood with the City of Houston. Action is being taken at this time to try to contact those property owners who do not live in the neighborhood but may have an interest in increasing their property's value through this action. Suggestions were also made as to how to contact the many condo owners as they represent at least 10% of property owners in our neighborhood, including the idea of a letter tailored to the condo owners explaining how the historic district designation would benefit them specifically.

Peter expressed concern that the Historic District ordinances may be changing. The new proposal could allow property owners to vote to exclude their individual property on a "lot by lot" basis. This would weaken the appeal of a Historic District as individual properties within the district may vote to not be held by the historic district ordinances.

Minimum Lot Size Proposal

A presentation was made by Francine Kensenkothen, a resident from Westmoreland.

Westmoreland and Audubon Place have been working together to try to ensure that lots cannot be subdivided when sold. The minimum lot size is based on average size lots in the area. All included lots must be +/- 10% of average for the proposal to be accepted. 51% of property owners must sign to present the plan to the City. At this time 41 of 106 properties in Audubon Place have signed to accept a minimum lot size and only 10 more signatures overall (between Audubon Place and Westmoreland) are needed.

Francine attended our meeting in the hopes that we could encourage our Audubon Place neighbors to sign these agreements and ensure that our neighborhood lots will not hold multiple townhomes in the future.

Francine will send a list of those properties that have not signed on to Brad Harmes & Patty Thompson. This list will be cross-referenced with those properties still not included in the Historic District proposals so that property owners will only be approached once about both issues.

New Business

Patty Thompson (Vice President) asked if we would plan to hold a Garage Sale in 2003. This issue will be decided at the February meeting. The Garage Sale usually makes \$300 - \$1200. If the garage sale will be held it will be held in April or, possibly, May. The owners of the house at Audubon and Kipling had previously expressed interest in holding this event at their home and Tony Herrada will approach them to see if they are still interested.

It was reported that while other neighborhoods seem to be having problems with parking and noise due to bars, no one has reported any problems with our neighborhood's establishments.

Patty Thompson also asked if the February annual clean up on the esplanade will occur this year. This also will be decided at the February meeting. There was discussion whether we should hire a landscaping company to do this for 2003 as we have the money in the neighborhood accounts but no decision was reached. Anyone who does do trimming work on the esplanade will be asked to trim (not top) the crepe myrtles and to try to even out the growth so that the overall look is more unified.

John O'Donnell had mentioned plans to meet with a landscape planner regarding the esplanade and someone will contact him to see how this is coming along.

Tony Herrada asked if anyone was interested in installing permanent signs at the entrances to our neighborhood at both ends of Audubon. There was unanimous interest in this but many expressed concern regarding vandalism (specifically graffiti) and visibility.

Tony reported that there are two extra green metal Audubon Place neighborhood signs if replacements are needed for those currently installed.

A suggestion was made that these signs could be cleaned up on the Esplanade CleanUp day.

Chuck Noll suggested that people keep the alleys behind their houses clear of overgrowth and rubbish as burglars can use these as unseen access to our homes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2003 7:30 pm River Cafe

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, APA secretary

Audubon Place Association
Minutes for February 6, 2003
Neighborhood Meeting at River Cafe

Those in attendance: Patti Thompson, Steve Hamilton, Linda Harmes, Clay Sterling, Andrea di Bagno, Anita Bryant (6 total)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Patti Thompson, Vice President (serving as President in Brad Harmes absence)

Patti asked if anyone had any news on the Spur. Tony Herrada was not in attendance to give an official report from the task force but Steve Hamilton did report that he had read that the project could be postponed by as much as a year if the City comes up with it's own plan for the design of the new Spur and comes up with the money to pay for the changes. Some discussion was also held about the current resurfacing on West Alabama and Westheimer and whether the new paving will survive the additional traffic once the Spur is closed.

New Business

Patti asked if anyone knew who had done the trimming to the trees on the esplanade. No one was hired to do the trimming and no bills have been received. In addition, the person or persons cut back the trees a great deal more than was discussed at the January Audubon Place meeting. Any information on who trimmed the trees would be appreciated.

The date for the 2003 Esplanade clean up was set for Saturday, February 15. Everyone who is interested in helping should meet at the esplanade on Saturday morning. Please bring your own tools to help trim, rake and weed. Many hands make light work!

The date for the 2003 Garage Sale was set for Saturday, April 26 starting in the early morning. Linda Harmes volunteered their driveway at 3707 Audubon unless another volunteer comes forward. Steve Hamilton volunteered his garage as a place that can be used to gather items from those who would like to go ahead and move stuff out of their own houses. Steve's house is located at 3401 Audubon - please call ahead before dropping items off (713-522-8416). All items are gladly accepted except NO CLOTHES!

Regarding the newsletter, the cost to mail the February edition was \$ 100 to mail to 170 homeowners. The hard copy newsletter will be mailed 5 or 6 times per year and sent with first class postage. The money to pay for the postage will come from the neighborhood account. All other communication within the neighborhood will occur via e-mail.

Andrea di Bagno asked if there was any movement on the prospect of getting some help from the city in cleaning out the alleys behind our homes. Chuck Noll had brought this subject up at the January meeting but as Chuck was not in attendance no further

information was available. Hopefully, there will be information available on this situation by the March meeting.

There was no financial report at this meeting as Maaike Van Bemmelen, Treasurer, was not in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Bryant, Secretary

At this meeting, 2003 dues were received from:
Clay Sterling (renewing - \$120) \$20 membership and \$100 designated for the esplanade

Next meeting: Thursday, March 6, 2003 at 7:30 pm at the River Cafe

Audubon Place Association
Minutes for March 6, 2003
Neighborhood Meeting at River Cafe

Those in attendance: Brad Harmes, Steve Hamilton, Linda Harmes, Peter Van Bommel, Andrea di Bagno, Maaike Van Bommel, Alex di Bagno, John O'Donnell, Bill Bingham, Anita Bryant (10 total)

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by Brad Harmes, President

Old Business

Steve Hamilton reported on the recent Spur 527 meeting. Steve reported that 3 city council members and US rep, Sheila Jackson Lee, were in attendance but there was no representation from TXDOT. There will be a one year delay to the start of construction due to the 2004 Superbowl coming to Houston. During this time, the City of Houston is expected to raise funds to cover any changes to TXDOT's original plan. It was reported by Metro that the current traffic rating in the area will change from a "C" to an "F" (on a scale of A - F, with F being the worst and equal to gridlock) while the Spur reconfiguration will be going on. There will be new exits off North 59 at Main, Polk, and Pierce open in time for the construction phase but no new southbound entrances are planned.

Due to Federal funding, there is the possibility of demanding an environmental study to be completed as one has not been done recently. Neighborhood associations can sue to have the testing done and force the Spur to remain in place for 3 years until the 59 reworking is complete and the Spur must be moved. Neighbors are encouraged to call the mayor's and our city council member's offices to put in their vote to leave the Spur open until absolutely necessary to move to join 59.

As nothing is being done in the traffic plan to alleviate excess traffic on side streets, Andrea di Bagno moved that Audubon Place will investigate the cost of speed bumps for the neighborhood. Steve Hamilton seconded this motion. Discussion followed regarding how to fund these and where to place the speed bumps. Comments against the speed bumps included how hard they are to remove after the traffic crisis is over and how annoying they would be to residents.

Steve Hamilton amended the motion to read: Audubon Place will investigate the cost of speed bumps for the neighborhood and investigate options on how to close Audubon at West Alabama and Hawthorne. Linda Harmes seconded this motion.

Brad Harmes called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously. Steve Hamilton will investigate the costs of these options and report at the April meeting.

Other options that were discussed included: enforcing the existing "No Turns" signs, installing stop signs at all intersections throughout the neighborhood, installing a "No Left Turn" sign from West Alabama onto Audubon.

The Garage Sale is set for April 26 at 3707 Audubon Place. Steve Hamilton has volunteered to keep those items that are donated in advance of the sale day. Neighbors are encouraged to price items before dropping them off and please NO CLOTHES. Brad Harmes will write a notice to be posted in the Greensheet advertising the sale.

Maaike Van Bommel asked if dues reminder letters could be sent to those AP neighbors who have not yet renewed for 2003. These letters will be sent out with the March newsletter and will include a return envelope in hopes that more members will renew! The March newsletter will include information about the Spur project, the April Garage Sale, and membership renewals. Newsletters will go out midway between today's meeting and the April meeting (April 3).

The Esplanade cleanup in February was cancelled due to bad weather and will not be rescheduled since the Esplanade is looking good.

Andrea di Bagno asked about the alley cleanup project that has been discussed at the last 2 monthly meetings. There is a possibility of getting the City of Houston to assign Community Service crews to clean up these areas as has been done in the past. Brad will e-mail Sam Bernstein to see how to organize this project. There was some discussion on coordinating this cleanup with Westmoreland as the alley between properties on Audubon and Garrott would be affected

Maaike Van Bommel, Treasurer, made her report:

Savings	\$4682.27
Esplanade fund	\$2905.17
Checking	\$ 752.76
Total	\$8340.20

Stamps for the newsletter purchased in January came to \$185 - left over stamps will be used on the March issue Linda Harmes suggested we could investigate the postage service at the Business Extension Bureau which will print, fold and mail newsletters for 52 cents a copy.

New Business

Andrea di Bagno asked about our nonprofit status and if we could get a break in postage costs. John O'Donnell stated that Audubon Place's non-profit status with Texas has lapsed. Sam Bernstein may have our copy of the charter so this can be investigated. Steve Hamilton will investigate this. Anita Bryant mentioned that we can not tell new and renewing members that their Audubon Place membership is tax deductible if we are not a nonprofit organization.

John O'Donnell suggested that there be a standard booth set up at all neighborhood events offering information about the Association, Historic District Designation and other neighborhood projects. The first opportunity for this outreach would be at the upcoming Garage Sale in April.

Brad Harmes reported that there will be no meeting in July and the August monthly meeting will be replaced by the annual Neighbor's Night Out with neighbors gathering on the Esplanade.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm by Brad Harmes

Next meeting: Thursday, April 3, 2003 at 7:30 pm at the River Cafe

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

Audubon Place Association
Minutes for April 3, 2003
Neighborhood Meeting at River Cafe

Those in attendance: Brad Harmes, Andrea di Bagno, Patti Thompson, Alex di Bagno, John O'Donnell, Susan Spence, Tony Herrada, Peter Boyle, Anita Bryant (9 total)

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by Brad Harmes, President

Old Business

The March meeting minutes were offered for review and, with no objections, were accepted as written.

Brad Harmes reported that resurfacing on West Alabama seems to be complete through our area. It was noted that lines have been painted in anticipation of a reversible lane being used during Spur 527 construction. It was also reported that the neighborhood's sewer lines are currently being relined (not replaced) by the City.

Steve Hamilton was not in attendance so was not able to report on any progress about getting speed humps or other traffic deterrents for our neighborhood during construction. Everyone agreed that we do not want to let this fall through the cracks and we will pursue getting some way to control traffic installed in our neighborhood BEFORE Spur reconstruction begins.

Brad reminded us that the Garage Sale is slated for Saturday, April 26 starting at 8:00 am at 3707 Audubon. Neighbors can begin bringing items to the Harmes' at 3707 Audubon or Tony & Peter's at 3407 Audubon or Steve Hamilton's at 3401 Audubon. Please price items before dropping them off! The sale will be publicized in the Greensheet and via yard signs. Set up will begin Friday evening the 25th - help gladly accepted!

Further discussion on how to collect more dues from residents (including past members who are not renewing). A much smaller percentage of residents than usual are currently paid members of the Association - ideas on how to increase this number are welcome. Some suggested that perhaps it is confusing when the year ends (if one joins in November do they understand that they owe again in January for the following year?) and that perhaps the dues amount should be raised to make them more important.

The e-mail list has grown to 40 addresses and new and renewing members are being encouraged to provide their online address. A good stream of information from the APA will make the membership seem more valuable and will no doubt encourage membership and participation.

New Business

Westheimer Street Festival: After a few years in "exile" on Alien Pkwy, Brad reported that the WSF organizers are planning to return to Westheimer although they have no permit. The WSF organizers are apparently trying to hold their event at the same time as the Gay Pride parade (which does hold a valid permit) and take advantage of the street closing. The Festival, in the past, has caused traffic problems along with problems with litter and vandalism. Concerned neighbors should contact city council members with their concerns.

Drug Rehab Facility planned for Days Inn property on Main: Brad reported that US Veterans is planning to purchase this property and house 460 people in a drug rehab center recreated in the former hotel. They will spend \$9 million to renovate the buildings. They report that they have an 80% success rate at their other rehab centers and will have ample security to protect the community. It was noted by those present at this meeting that there are already a number of drug rehab centers in the area and that 20% of 460 people is a lot of people not succeeding in the rehab program. Raju Adwaney, President of the Neartown Association, joined us and reported that both Nearjown (of which *we At. < -afe a member*) and Midtown have opposed this plan. Patti Thompson (Vice President) moved that APA correspond with Neartown and add our neighborhood's objection and concern about this use of the property. Tony Herrada seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr Adwaney also reported that TXDOT has agreed to consider reconstructing Spur 527 underground (instead of rebuilding it above ground as is the current plan) if Neartown and other local citizen groups will pay for the new engineering plans and preliminary design -using TXDOT approved engineering firms. This process will cost approx. \$60,000. Neartown will be responsible for raising \$20,000 of this total within the next 60 days. John O'Donnell moved that APA pledge \$1000 towards Neartown's total. Andrea di Bagno seconded and the motion passed unanimously. It was not clear whether the money will only be collected if the foil \$60,000 is raised and when it would be due.

Mr Adwaney also spoke about the Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Program (NSRP) that First Montrose Commons is currently working on. If 75% of residents will agree and sign a petition, the City of Houston will scrape down and resurface the streets with concrete, pour new curbs and sidewalks, and add streetlights (as needed). There is **no charge** at this time for this rehabilitation although there has been in the past and there is no guarantee that a charge will not return in the future. Based on previous (1993) rates, a 50' street frontage lot would pay \$420 for this work (at \$8.40/linear foot). There is currently a 5 year waiting list for neighborhoods who successfully collect the required signatures and submit the petitions. First Montrose Commons has almost completed collecting the signatures needed for their neighborhood and are requesting our help in contacting the property owners on the North side of W Alabama. This will help assure that W Alabama is repaired after the major increase of traffic during the Spur reconstruction.

Andrea di Bagno suggested we pursue garnering this project for Audubon Place as well. Block captains will need to volunteer to be in charge of collecting signatures. Signatures were collected by those in attendance. It was suggested that signatures be collected at the upcoming Garage Sale and that this project be publicized through the e-mail list but no further action was taken.

Mr Adwaney invited APA neighbors to First Montrose Commons Spring Festival on the 3rd of May in the North parking lot of HSPVA. Children's games, food and fun will be available for all.

Lastly, Mr Adwaney reported that a land swap between HISD and the Houston Parks Dept is in the works to guarantee that the HSPVA property will become a city park once the school relocates to its new site. This would occur within the next 2 years. Neartown has pledged to raise funds to convert the emptied lot into a hospitable park. We thank Mr Adwaney for attending our meeting and sharing all this valuable information with our association.

Brad reported that a neighbor has requested permission to plant a tree on the esplanade in honor of the birth of their child. The tree would be provided through Trees for Houston. John O Donnell reported that no trees can be planted on the esplanade due to the sewer lines beneath. Large shrubs (like the crepe myrtles) are the maximum allowed. Brad will report this news back to the interested neighbor.

The Esplanade clean-up, originally scheduled for February, will be rescheduled in May.

Andrea di Bagno suggested hosting a Spring party as a way to make contact with residents more than once a year (at the Christmas party). Alex di Bagno proposed holding this party on the esplanade to increase visibility. Patti Thompson moved that a- APA cookout/outdoor event replace the usual June meeting (to be held 5 June). Andrea di Bagno seconded this motion and it was passed unanimously. The cookout will be a potluck and will be held at the Harmes at 3707 Audubon and on the esplanade (weather permitting). Information will be shared via e-mail. Andrea also volunteered to host the 2003 Christmas party.

As there was no further new business, Tony Herrada motioned that we adjourn, Patti Thompson seconded and the meeting ended at 9:00pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 1 7:30 pm at the River Cafe

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

Audubon Place Association
Minutes for May 1, 2003
Neighborhood Meeting at River Cafe

Those in attendance: Linda Harmes, Andrea di Bagno, Patti Thompson, Alex di Bagno, Valerie Greiner, Steve Hamilton, Rick Greiner, Chris Bryant, Tony Herrada, Peter Boyle, Anita Bryant (11 total) plus Thomas McWhorter (from Greater Houston Preservation Alliance)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Patti Thompson, Vice President acting as President in Brad Harmes' absence.

Old Business

Garage Sale results: The Garage Sale was held on Saturday, April 26. Most everything contributed was sold and a total of \$935 was raised on the day. Thanks to Brad and Linda Harmes for hosting the sale in their driveway. Linda volunteered to hold the 2004 Sale at their place as well - thanks in advance! The money raised during the sale will go toward fulfilling APA's pledge of \$1000 to go toward the offsetting the costs of new engineering plans needed to redesign the Spur 527 (see April minutes).

Spur 527 News: Nothing to report on the Spur redesign or on means (such as traffic humps) to mitigate the increased traffic in our neighborhood.

Membership Drive: As a result of the push for membership in the last APA newsletter, we received 25 memberships for 2003 in April (renewal and new combined).

Treasurer's Report

Anita Bryant reported (in the absence of Maaike Van Bommel, Treasurer)

Savings Account	\$4684.06
Checking Account	\$2277.40
Esplanade Account	<u>\$2906.24</u>
Current Balance	\$9867.70

April's income total was \$1495 (including \$560 in membership and \$935 from the Garage Sale)

New Business

Esplanade sprinkler repair: A bid was received from Frusco Irrigation to repair the in ground sprinkler system on the Esplanade. The total bill would be at least \$2819 and could increase depending on what the workers would find once they started work. There was a discussion about the necessity of repairing this system when the landscape is for the most part well-established and does well on its own. It was decided that the sprinkler repair plan would be tabled for now and APA will not go ahead with the repair.

Esplanade planting: Valerie and Rick Greiner reported that the area of the Esplanade at Audubon and Kipling needs some work. They are having trouble keeping cars from parking on the esplanade and nothing seems to grow in the area. It was decided that a

work party would get together to enrich the soil and then lay in some plantings that will do well in the shade. A group will meet on Saturday, May 3 at 8:00 am to work on the soil and then again in 2 weeks to plant. It was decided that the Esplanade clean up that was postponed from February will be held this same day. And so, on **Saturday, May 17 at 8:00 am there will be an Esplanade Clean Up and Planting Day. Anyone who would like to help with this project is encouraged to attend.**

Peter Boyle moved (Steve Hamilton seconded) that \$50 be contributed to the purchase of compost and topsoil to prepare the area at Kipling and Audubon for planting. The motion passed unanimously.

Esplanade Trash pickup: The yard waste bags left by the people who trim the grass on the Esplanade are not being picked up with the rest of the yard waste. There was also concern expressed about the irregularity of the pickup schedule. The bags of waste left on the Esplanade is causing problems with some of our neighbors at Audubon and Kipling. Tony Herrada stated that he will speak with the landscapers about placing the waste bags in a different location.

June 5 potluck: This potluck will be open to the whole neighborhood and will be held in place of the regular June meeting at the River Cafe. Brad and Linda Harmes will be hosting this event. Linda stated that they will divide up the types of food needed and forward this information to APA members via e-mail.

Thomas McWhorter from the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance (GHPA) attended our meeting and reported that all is quiet on the preservation front in Houston right now. He announced that the GHPA Preservation Fair will be held on May 9 at 11:00 am at the Houston Club (811 Rusk). All historic neighborhoods are invited to set up a booth and exhibit how their neighborhood is working to preserve it's houses and historic setting. A lunch will follow with Alan Greenburg, architect and preservationist, will be the guest speaker. The cost to attend is \$60 per person.

Andrea di Bagno (Linda Harmes seconded) moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 5 at ????. At Brad & Linda Harmes' house
There will be no meeting held in July.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

Audubon Place Association
Minutes for September 4, 2003
Neighborhood Meeting at River Cafe

Those in attendance: Brad Harmes, Andrea di Bagno, Patti Thompson, Alex di Bagno, John O'Donnell, Bill Bingham, Linda Harmes, Anita Bryant (8 total) plus Thomas McWhorter (from Greater Houston Preservation Alliance)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Brad Harmes, President.

Old Business

August Neighborhood Night Out Brad reported that there was a good turnout for this event, including a few new faces. Local HPD officers also attended.

Spur 527 News: Several members attended the recent West Alabama Quality of Life (WALQ) meeting WALQ has filed 2 lawsuits against TXDOT regarding the Spur development. The first addresses problems in association with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the second addresses environmental issues. The Spur redesign uses Federal funds so the project should meet current ADA & EPA standards The last impact study was done on this project in the 70s and is completely out of date WALQ hopes to force TXDOT to do a new environmental study which should point out a number of problems with the currently proposed design.

Patty Thompson, Vice President, proposed that APA donate some money to WALQ to defray some of the costs of the lawsuits. Anita Bryant, Secretary, asked what had become of the \$1000 that APA donated to Neartown Association last Spring to help pay for the costs of hiring an engineering firm to offer an alternative design for the new Spur. There has been no news whether this project is going ahead or what has become of money that was donated to that cause.

It was decided that no more money will be donated until we find out what is happening with the funds we have already donated.

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's Report due to the absence of Maaike Van Bemmelen, Treasurer)

New Business

Westheimer Street Festival: The festival was held again this year on lower Westheimer after being "in exile" for a few years. The organizers set up on private properties and thus avoided the requirement of getting a permit from the City. As a result, there was no requirement that the organizers provide restrooms, trash collection, cleanup or parking for the attendees. This is not a good situation and it was agreed that if it appears that the Festival organizers will attempt to circumvent the rules next year, APA and possibly the other affected neighborhoods should approach the City about our options.

Street parking: It was observed by various neighbors in attendance that it is getting harder to find street parking directly in front of their houses (particularly at certain times of day).

At this point it was decided that the problem is not bad enough to instigate any kind of permit decal program. It was noted, however, that if anyone observes a car parked in the same place on the street for 24 hours or more, HPD will remove the car.

Christmas Party The 2003 Christmas party will be held Thursday, December 4 at Alex & Andrea di Bagno's home at 608 Harold. In an effort to increase APA membership all attendees will be asked to join the Association

Elections Patty Thompson, Vice President, reminded us that it is time for nominations for the 2004 board. Nominees will be presented at the October meeting in time for the elections in November. Tony Herrada, as immediate past President, will serve as Chairman for the Nominating Committee. Tony will form his own committee with other APA members and present the nominees at the next meeting.

Thomas McWhorter from the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance (GHPA) attended our meeting and reported that GHPA will be hosting a meeting on September 11 at Holy Rosary Church School at 6:30 pm. This City Council Candidates Forum will focus on quality of life issues and will be a forum for city residents to voice their concerns and for the candidates to respond. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Tom at tmcwhorter@ghpa.org for more information.

Brad Harmes adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 2 at 7:30 pm at the River Cafe.

Other Upcoming Events:

Greek Festival at Annunciation Orthodox School	October 3 - 5
APA Christmas Party at Alex & Andrea di Bagno's house (608 Harold)	December 4

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

Audubon Place Association
Minutes for November 6, 2003
Neighborhood Meeting at River Cafe

Those in attendance: Brad Harmes, Patti Thompson, John O'Donnell, Maaike Van Bommel, Peter Boyle, Tony Herrada, Anita Bryant (7 total)

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by Brad Harmes, President

Old Business

October minutes were not approved as they have been misplaced.

Esplanade: A clean up day was held Saturday, October 25. There was a good turnout and the esplanade is much improved for all the hard work. Thank you!

2004 Nominations: Nomination Committee Chair, Tony Herrada, put forward the following slate of officers for 2004:

President: Brad Harmes
V President: Steve Hamilton
Treasurer: Maaike Van Bommel
Secretary: Anita Bryant

Patti Thompson moved to accept the list as presented, John O'Donnell seconded and the entire slate was unanimously approved

Spur 527 News: Several members attended the recent West Alabama Quality of Life (WALQ) meeting and report the following:

- + Sheila Jackson Lee will deal with TXDOT for not holding up their agreement to negotiate with the local neighborhoods affected by the spur closure.
- + Metro has agreed not to add any more buses on West Alabama. Extra buses will be routed to South Main utilizing the new exit off 59 onto South Main.
- + WALQ is collecting contributions to offset the costs of a possible lawsuit against TXDOT. Donations can be made at their website (www.walq.org)
- + WALQ is planning to organize informational meetings for Fort Bend County residents to let them know about the Spur closure plans as these closures will affect them very much!

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Maaike Van Bommel, Treasurer

Checking Account balance:	\$302.63
Savings Balance:	\$4,696.56
Esplanade Balance:	\$2,913.89
Total bank balance	\$7,913.08

The body discussed raising the dues amount to be sure to at least cover the costs of our mailings. APA has reduced the number of mailings to 5 times per year at a cost of approx. \$114 per mailing (includes printing and first class postage). If 50 memberships are received (at \$10 each) this just about covers these costs. If we are able to get more than 50 memberships, we are generating income.

It was decided not to raise dues at this time. Members will be encouraged to make additional donations above the minimum dues amount.

New Business:

Esplanade: Tony Herrada asked if APA wanted to purchase mulch for the plants on the esplanade for the Winter. He will consult with the gardener regarding his costs so we can decide whether to buy the mulch and do it ourselves or pay the gardener's team to do it. Tony will report back about these costs.

Membership: Labels have been printed for all active, current member households (50+). These will be used to send out a request for 2004 dues and invite neighbors to the Christmas party. A return envelope will be included to encourage response. A reminder will also be included that the membership year runs Jan - Dec regardless of when a member paid their previous year's dues.

Present for Clay Sterling: Long time AP resident Clay Sterling will be leaving the neighborhood soon and the body discussed organizing an appropriate gift to thank Clay for his dedication to the neighborhood group and remind him of us as he moves on. Various neighbors will be working together on this.

Christmas Party: The 2003 Christmas party will be held Thursday, December 4 at Alex & Andrea di Bagno's home at 608 Harold. In an effort to increase APA membership all attendees will be asked to join the Association. Ada Edwards, our representative on the City Council, has been invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary