

Don't forget!! -Sunday Feb 15 - The Austin Marathon is an event in our neighborhood as it routes right around our Dawson and it will make leaving the neighborhood difficult from about 7am until late morning. Alternatively step outside and join your neighbors to cheer on the runners.

Dawson Neighborhood Sidewalk Update

by Cynthia Medlin

At the April 9, 2012 meeting of the Dawson Neighborhood Plan (DNP) Contact Team our Implementation Tracking Chart was updated to reflect the status of our priority sidewalk needs in the DNP area. Since that time the priority sidewalks on one side of the street have been constructed on Wilson and Euclid between Oltorf and Cumberland. These sidewalks were constructed as part of the roadway reconstruction that followed the Wilson/Euclid drainage improvement project. In addition, the American Disabilities Act compliant improvements along South 1st St. and Congress Ave. from Oltorf to Ben White Blvd. have largely been completed. The other priority sidewalks in the plan have not been addressed.

Many of you have noted the increasing number of properties that are being totally "redeveloped" in our neighborhood. Rule §25-6-351 – 354 of the Austin Land Development Code requires sidewalks to be installed when a new building is built or an addition to the building increases the floor area by 50% or more. Recently the code was amended to allow developers to pay a "fee-in-lieu" of building a sidewalk under certain conditions, many of which apply throughout this neighborhood. The benefit of the change is that the fees go into a fund to be used to build a complete sidewalk structure along a street all at once instead of in disjointed sections. The concept is a good one, but there are circumstances and interpretations of the land development code that may need to be addressed in the upcoming code revisions through Code Next to enhance sidewalk construction. The code does require the funds generated in our area to be used in our area. According to Peter Davis the Dawson NP area has approximately \$10,000. "sidewalk fees-in-lieu" but is not enough to construct a complete sidewalk at this time. Per Eric Dusza of the Public Works Department (PWD) the PWD "utilized the approved Sidewalk Master Plan as well as the priorities in the neighborhood plan and in consultation with Capital Metro to prioritize sidewalk construction citywide".

THE EARLY ACT FIRST KNIGHT PROGRAM.

From the Dawson Elementary Principal:

For the past five years, all of our Dawson scholars have been engaged in learning about and demonstrating great character through a program called Early Act First Knight. In learning about knights from the Middle Ages and the character virtues they demonstrated, our scholars also learn about the lives of service the knights led, and how we can lead lives of service as well. To that end, each year we complete at least one community service project as well as one international service project. We are always looking for ways that we can serve the community, and we look forward to service activities that can do together. If you have any ideas for projects for us, please contact the Dawson Elementary School front office at 512-414-2070. Thank you,
Tania Jedele, Dawson Principal

Dawson Neighborhood Association (DNA) Draft Minutes – December 8th, 2014

Minutes: Minutes approved unanimously as printed in the newsletter.

New Business: New Business: Officer elections: Myron Smith, President; Steve Gee, Vice President and Sandy McMillan, newsletter editor and secretary. Officers were elected unanimously.

Old Business: the City of Austin has said that the fee in lieu of sidewalk-construction account for the neighborhood has some money set aside for Dawson; Peter will get in touch to get more information to discuss the matter at the February meeting.

Motion to adjourn approved unanimously.

Dawson Neighborhood Planning Contact Team (DNPCT) Draft Minutes - December 8th, 2014

Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously as printed in the Newsletter.

Membership report: The meeting welcomed Linda Leibfarth as a new attendee.

Board Member Elections: Nominations for the DNPCT Board Members, Steve Gee, Sos Palomo, and Marisa Fushille were elected by unanimous vote. Board members continuing from previous year are Peter Davis, Myron Smith, Donna Knapp, Julie Woods and Marty Harris.

New Business: No new business was introduced at this meeting.

Old Business: No change in status of 103 La Vista St. A meeting will be set up with the Planning department to discuss the issues at 121 Pickle Rd properties. The proposed 3114 S. Congress building permit process is ongoing. Motion to adjourn approved unanimously.

The main function of the December meeting is the Social Pot-luck so meetings are as brief as possible with very limited agendas.