

## **CodeNEXT** by Martin Harris

On Monday Feb 10<sup>th</sup> representative from CodeNEXT will come to our DNA meeting to talk about updating the city's Land Development Code with us as a part of the Imagine Austin Plan. They are helping the city rewrite the city code to simplify the building codes and hand the Council their results in the next few months. They have not gone through our neighborhood yet and would like input from us. We could help them if we want to by doing some of the legwork. It seems similar to what we did in forming our DNA plan and to get the FLUM map approved. i.e. like what we like/dislike about our neighborhood and hope to retain/contain as we grow. (See: <http://www.austintexas.gov/CodeNEXT>).

From the CodeNEXT website:

CodeNEXT is the new City of Austin initiative to revise the Land Development Code, which determines how land can be used throughout the city – including what can be built, where it can be built, and how much can (and cannot) be built. The process is a collaboration between Austin's residents, business community, and civic institutions to align our land use standards and regulations with what is important to the community.

This initiative to revise the Land Development Code is a priority program out of Imagine Austin, our plan for the future adopted by City Council in 2012.

Every neighborhood in Austin has a distinct character worth preserving and building upon. The diversity of lifestyles and uniqueness of our living environments has given our city its personality and feel. The new Code will put a framework in place to better protect, enhance, and ensure the long-term stability and appeal of our neighborhoods.

A revised land development code could:

- Provide a document that is more accessible and easier to understand for all users.
- Provide more effective zoning tools to address specific issues.
- Help define what we can build near or within neighborhoods.
- Make neighborhood plans and visions are easier to access and understand.
- Ensure that new buildings will make good neighbors with existing ones – in terms of their size, character and design, and allowed uses.
  - Reinforce the mix of creative small businesses that prosper in Austin's neighborhoods, integral to defining their character.

## **Coons and Coyotes in the Hood** by Martin Harris

While seeing raccoons and possums in our neighborhood is quite common, there have also been several sightings of a coyote(s) along the creek area. In December, the Animal Advisory Commission brought in a coyote expert to talk to the community about coyotes. (Much of this information is from that talk and other sources cited at the end of this article.) Coyotes are nocturnal and have been reported in the Blunn Creek Nature Preserve area for at least a year. In 2009 Austin became a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat, and our neighborhood has also been certified. This includes coyotes, foxes as well.

However, there are many things you can do to discourage coyotes and other animals from frequenting your property. Control the outside food/water sources and garbage/compost piles. If you do feed outside, then remove the food after your animals are finished. Most animals are adaptive to the environment and will figure out your routines. Secure your garbage cans and keep your compost materials limited to materials appropriate to composting-no meats or animal wastes. Existing in an urban area offers more resources for them so they maintain a smaller roaming area, they may become less afraid of us, and they learn by our behavior towards them. Coyotes tend to hunt alone and are probably being seen due to the seasonal changes and the scarcity of food sources.

They will attack dogs to defend their territory and rarely as a food source. Yet they did recommend watching your animals while they are in the backyard and walking them on leashes. They can jump a six foot fence easily. There have never been any conclusive reports of coyotes attacking people or children. Coyotes are also not prone to rabies. They do not attack cats as a food source as there is not enough meat on most cats for them. (Continued on page two)

## **You are invited to the next Dawson Neighborhood Meeting**

**Monday, February 10, 2014  
6:30 pm  
South Austin Multipurpose  
Center at 2508 Durwood**

### **Presentations**

- CodeNEXT- Community Character (DNPCT)
- APD Officer Barbosa (DNA)
- Opal Divine's (DNA)

### **DN Planning Contact Team**

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Membership Report
3. New Business
  - a. CodeNEXT
  - b. Parking Vote
  - c. Officer Elections
4. Old Business
  - a. Deutchmann's

### **DNA Meeting Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes
2. New Business
  - a. APD
  - b. Presentation from Opal Divine's seeking to extend live music hours
3. Old Business
4. Issues in the neighborhood

DNA meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, & Dec

### **Planning Team Membership**

**Report:** The following members' status will change to suspended if they do not attend the February meeting: Mike Pecina, Michelle Ellis, and Lindsey Prince

## **Annual Vote: Front or Side Yard Parking?**

By Peter Davis

The City of Austin's Restricted Front Yard /Side Yard Parking ordinance prohibits parking a motor vehicle in the front or side yard of a residence except in a driveway or a paved parking space.

Neighborhoods within an adopted planning area and a recognized contact team have an opportunity each February to adopt this ordinance. For more information: <http://austintexas.gov/departments/front-yard-parking>



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