

Opal Divine's Seeks Agreement with Neighborhood to Extend Outdoor Live Music Hours By Myron Smith

Opal Divine's Penn Field would like to extend their current hours of Outdoor Live Music from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday to 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 10 a.m. - 12 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. In order to extend their hours, they are required by the city to get agreement from nearby affected neighborhood(s). We will have an opportunity to hear from the Owner, GM and the Sound Engineer at our February 10th meeting. Questions and concerns will be addressed before we take any action.

Walkability and Pedestrian Safety By Cynthia Medlin

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee's (PAC) stated goal is "to ensure sensitivity to pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public and private projects impacting pedestrians." At their December 2013 meeting, the Austin City Council passed a resolution for a Complete Streets Policy. There is a new emphasis on pedestrian safety and accessibility in keeping with "Imagine Austin" and other mobility initiatives that encourage "walkability and pedestrian safety" at the PAC.

Recent improvements in our area included better bus stops on South Congress and the addition of 16 "accessible parking spaces" that had the added benefit of slowing traffic and decreasing J walking in the busy retail area. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons are an important safety feature for pedestrians but because of expense only 6 to 8 can be installed per year in Austin. Another feature coming in future is an improved accessible pedestrian button that talks when activated.

Mike Curtis, Division Manager, Public Works Department Neighborhood Connectivity Division stated that Austin has \$824 M in missing sidewalks that need to be built (2,200 miles). There is only \$5 to \$7 M a year in bond funds dedicated to independent sidewalk construction. Other funds are from partnerships with Capital Metro, Austin Energy and grants for ADA and school projects. "The distribution is in high and very high priority areas within the Sidewalk Master Plan."

Another informative presentation by Molly Ritter, Division Manager, Public Works Department, was about sidewalk repair funds. The Department has about \$1.2 M per year for sidewalk, curb and gutter repair/maintenance. We were told that if there is destruction of a portion of an existing sidewalk call 311 to report it. This program will put in a temporary patch within 24 hours and the location placed on a master repair list. Funding is dispersed equitably across the city so that the final repair may take a while. PW also has a "lifting and grinding" program to level hazards in sidewalks.

Randy Harvey, Project Manager over street reconstruction stated that there is a concerted effort to address the lack of pedestrian accessibility when doing their projects. 20% of reconstruction funds must be dedicated to sidewalks if needed.

The PAC meets at 6 PM the first Monday of each month. For more information about the PAC contact Robert Anderson at (512) 974-6405 or robert.anderson2@austintexas.gov. Minutes of the meetings are online through www.austintexas.gov.

Dawson Neighborhood Association (DNA) Draft Minutes – December 9, 2013 By Sandy McMillan

Minutes: Approved as published in the newsletter.

New Business: Election of officers – Kam moved that the DNA elect the slate by acclamation, seconded by Donna. All voted unanimously to elect Myron Smith, President, Mitchell Harrison, VP, Sandy McMillan, Secretary and Marisa Fushille, Newsletter Editor.

Old Business: Kam updated us about the city's plans for Auditorium Shores and requested that the DNA write a letter in opposition to those plans. After much discussion, Peter moved that we use the language in the last paragraph of the Bouldin Creek letter, seconded by Sheila. 18 yeas and 1 nay. Kam agreed to write and send, with DNA officers approval after review, the following: "With regards to the current PARD proposal on Auditorium Shores, we respectfully ask City Council Members to consider opposing the design and ask PARD to go back to the drawing table. PARD should engage with Austin taxpayers (not C3) to create a balanced design for multiple uses by park users first and foremost, and event-attendees second".

Issues in the Neighborhood: a) Discussed abandoned DNA blog; b) Myron updated us about the ongoing issues with regard to Opal Divine's outdoor music permit and activities, OD's want to meet with DNA.

Dawson Neighborhood Planning Contact Team (DNPCT) Draft Minutes – December 9, 2013 By Julie Woods

Motion to approve minutes was made by Marisa, seconded by Sandy. Motion carried.

Membership report: New attendee Shelly Gray living on South Park welcomed

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Election of board as shown in newsletter. Board members whose term continues: Steve Gee, Mitchell Harrison, Marisa Fushille and Ted Finkbeiner. Re-elected board members are Julie Woods, Donna Knapp, Peter Davis, Marty Harris and Myron Smith. The motion to re-elect old board members made by Sheila, seconded by Sandy. The motion carried unanimously.

The site of the old Deutchman's Plumbing is fenced and being worked on; no contact from the city re. new use but they appear to be preparing for demolition.

Motion to adjourn carried. Meeting adjourned.

COYOTES (Continued from page one) Coyotes learn from our reactions to them. Hazing or scarring them off teaches the group to be aware of where they are not wanted (this is not known to work on raccoons as they may not back off). Yelling at them, throwing tennis balls and establishing our presence visibly and audibly is a good deterrent to them. You are not allowed to capture/trap and/or remove them. Coyotes maintain self-control of their numbers and if you remove one or kill them, they respond by having more offspring to maintain their level. If they become aggressive or appear sick, then call 311 and report it. This has happened recently with two raccoons who later suspected of having distemper.

Here are some sites for more information:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/coyotes-central-texas>

<http://online.nwf.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=10521>

<https://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/nuisance/coyote/>

for tips on hazing: http://m.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes/tips/hazing_guidelines.html#.UrZY5Z_nbqA

Channel 6, Dec. 19, 2013 city meeting on coyotes: <http://austintx.swagit.com/play/12192013-736>