

# Dawson Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Dawson Neighborhood Association  
[www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org](http://www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org)

Sept/Oct 2015

## DNA Officer and DNPCT Board Member Nominations

October is the month in which the Dawson Neighborhood Association (DNA) nominates officers and the Dawson Neighborhood Planning Contact Team (DNPCT) nominates board members. We will publish the names of nominees in the December newsletter and vote at the December meeting. If you are interested in serving as an officer or board member and are a member of the group for which you wish to serve, this is the opportunity to nominate yourself or have another member do so.

Since many of you may be new to the neighborhood, please note that there are no dues to join and participate in the DNA or DNPCT. Membership requirements for the two groups are, however, different. If October is the first time you attend a meeting and you live (whether as a renter or owner), own property or operate a business in Dawson, you immediately qualify for membership in the DNA. In addition to the DNA requirements, the DNPCT requires attendance at one prior DNPCT meeting and verification of membership eligibility provided on your application (TCAD record of ownership, utility bill, for example, for renters, proof of business, etc.) before becoming eligible to vote. You also must be at least 18 years of age and agree to become familiar with the Dawson Neighborhood Plan, which is available at city libraries and

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/neighborhood/dawson.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/neighborhood/dawson.htm).

The DNA Officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor. The DNPCT Board, which has up to 10 members, has a seat for a resident property owner, a renter and a business operator and a seat for a member from each of the 4 geographic sectors (north, north central, south central and south). According to the DNPCT by-laws, four members (Sostenes Palomo, Marisa Fushille, Steve Gee and Chad Cosper) have another year on their terms; however, Steve Gee has opted to leave the board. That leaves up to seven seats open, and those members whose terms are up (Julie Woods, Marty Harris, Peter Davis and Donna Knapp) are eligible to run again. As many of you may know, Myron Smith served on the board since its beginning, but she lost her battle against cancer earlier this year, which is a very sad loss for friends, family and the community.

**Please come to the meetings and get involved with your neighbors for the benefit of us all!**

Many thanks to the sponsor of this newsletter!



The Infinite Monkey Theorem Winery is coming to Austin y'all and it's time to get ready for it. We're bringing an urban, gritty, no pretense winery to South Congress where the weird and the normal have a place to drink Texas wine. GoodTexas wine.

**Coming soon to 121 Pickle Road!**

## Residential Parking Permit (RPP)

Due to ongoing issues with a nearby car sales business parking cars on Frederick Street, the residents are pursuing an RPP for their street. They currently have the required signatures of 60% of the residents and/or property owners on the street, and, due to their proximity to VMU, the expedited RPP requires a response from the DNA.

## Please Join Us! Dawson Neighborhood Meetings

Monday, October 12, 2015  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
South Austin  
Multipurpose Center  
2508 Durwood

## Neighborhood Association

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Old Business
3. New Business
  - a) Nomination of Officers
  - b) Residential Parking Permit for Frederick Street, vote

## Planning Contact Team

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Membership Report
3. Old Business
4. New Business
  - a) Nomination of Board Members

We meet on the 2nd Monday of Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct & Dec.

## Neighbors – Stay in Touch!

Join the DNA Yahoo site for notices about events, missing or found pets, garage sales & other news. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DawsonNeighborhood> or email [DawsonNeighborhood-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DawsonNeighborhood-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## DNPCT

### Membership Report:

Members who do not attend one meeting within a 12 month period are moved from Active/Pending to Suspended status, and those who do not attend for three years are removed from membership.

**Austin Police Department District Representative** serves as a liaison between the community and the police department to assist in solving neighborhood problems. Dawson is in District 4, and our District Representative is Officer Robert Barboza (512)-974 8246 or [Robert.Barboza@austintexas.gov](mailto:Robert.Barboza@austintexas.gov).

## Recycle Batteries at the Library

Thanks to the City of Austin Battery Recycling Program, all Austin Public Library locations and Recycled Reads will now accept residential batteries for recycling. Wondering what kinds of batteries are eligible for the program? A good rule of thumb is to drop off spent batteries that were used in the home, but not the garage! Car batteries are not accepted.

# ZERO WASTE

**What do you do with YOUR trash???**  
**In Dawson we have THREE bins!!!**

Before throwing anything away you can choose which bin to use. Be a good steward to your environment, use those GREEN and BLUE bins! Make ZERO WASTE a reality in Austin!! Zero Waste is a philosophy that goes beyond recycling to focus first on reducing trash and reusing products and then recycling and composting the rest. You can call 311 or visit [austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com) to answer any recycling questions.

An estimated 58,000 tons of recyclables are going to the landfill each year. That is enough to fill the UT tower 29 times. "Although 96 percent of Austinites consider themselves recyclers, the reality is that more than 44 percent of Austin's trash stream is recyclable materials," said Austin Resource Recovery Director Bob Gedert.

More recyclables are going to the landfill than are being recycled in residents' blue carts.

- 44 percent of what is found in the trash stream could have been recycled:
- 23 percent is recyclable paper
- 13 percent is recyclable plastic
- 8 percent is recyclable metal and glass

"Processing waste has a large environmental impact and carbon footprint," said Chief Sustainability Officer Lucia Athens. "If we all work together to keep those 58,000 tons of recyclables out of the landfill, Austin can avoid adding 178,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This would contribute to meeting our goal of Net-Zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions."

Zero Waste activities generate many economic benefits for our community:

- The value of recyclables thrown in the trash last year totaled \$4.7 million
- Recycling creates more jobs than discarding materials in the landfill
- Austin's recycling and reuse industries generated \$720 million in economic activity in 2014 and supported over 2,600 jobs

**Make ZERO WASTE a reality in Austin!!**

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## HABITAT RESTORE

A new resource is coming to the Dawson Neighborhood - the Austin Habitat for Humanity ReStore will have its soft opening on October 23rd.

The Austin Habitat ReStore is a discount retail outlet that sells new and gently used construction materials and home goods to the community. Reclaimed wood, lighting fixtures, artwork, tools, windows, doors, cabinets, paint supplies - you name it, they probably have it.

When you choose to shop ReStore, you shop for a cause. All revenue generated is used to build affordable homes for hard-working, low-income residents of our community. For example - buying one door from the ReStore can help to install another for a child who has never had their own room, or purchasing one hammer leads to another in action on a build site. It's a simple way to support Austin Habitat's mission of providing everyone a safe, decent, and affordable place to live.

However, support can also come in the form of donations. A donation to the Austin Habitat ReStore is a donation for hope. They are

able to provide discounted goods because of those who generously donate their old materials. The more they have, the more they sell - which in turn means more revenue to put back into the community. The new facility will be three times the size of their old location on 310 Comal, so the need for your old stuff is high! They are currently accepting donations at both 310 Comal and 500 W Ben White Boulevard.

Don't forget to mark your calendars either - on November 21st, they'll be having a Grand Opening celebration! More details on the event to come.

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### DNA 8/10/15 Draft Minutes

Minutes approved.

Skipped Old Business to conduct Committee Development Commission election. Rosanne Singer was elected by acclamation.

Peter Davis brought up the issue of recycling in Austin, which has progressed slowly toward the city's goal for zero-waste by 2040. Discussed ways to increase recycling in Dawson and will ask a rep from the city to come to the next meeting to discuss increasing

Village Motor Inn at Havana and S. Congress raised as a problem for the neighbors in the immediate area with prostitution and drug use openly conducted. Recommended getting in touch with Officer Barboza, APD district representative and keeping everyone informed on the listserve or Nextdoor.

Peter explained that Guinea crossing signs have been placed in the neighborhood on La Vista, Brinwood and El Paso to remind folks to slow down and watch for them. Traffic has been too fast on La Vista in particular and it's been dangerous for pedestrians, too. Neighbors are asked to get in touch with Peter or Donna if they want to help in efforts to protect the birds.

Road resurfacing on Havana is scheduled for 2016.

Motion to adjourn.

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### DNPCT 8/10/15 Draft Minutes

Peter Davis opened the meeting. Minutes approved. Membership report: two new members present tonight.

New business: Infinite Monkey at 121 Pickle owners are present to discuss the wine tasting room, under the same rules as a brewpub, which requires a conditional use permit. Motion from the floor, seconded, to approve the conditional use permit. Motion passed unanimously. The DNPCT will share that information with the city.

Other developments in the neighborhood: Great Outdoors garden center is planning a new building. Deutchman's Plumbing building will be adding a restaurant and will share parking with another business (an office or similar), with no overlap of business hours. Guesthouse Hotel will need a compatibility setback variance for their driveway, but with no vote scheduled for this meeting; the board of adjustment will address that later. SF neighbors and a church nearby are talking to the owners.

Demolitions in the neighborhood have sending a lot of debris into the landfills. Austin Resource Recovery includes demolition waste as part of their zero waste effort.

Comments re. short term rentals: South Park and Fontana has some new STR properties. Management company has worked with nearby residents but large groups still show up and have noisy gatherings, park all over and leave garbage. City notifies neighbors within 100 feet when a STR is being established. About half the STRs in the neighborhood aren't legal.

Neighborhood pool is open until 8 pm until the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn.