

Dawson Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Dawson Neighborhood Association
www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org

Nov/Dec 2015

Gains and Losses by Peter Davis

Austin is booming! Everyone wants to live here and there are lots of jobs around. It continues to be the fastest growing US city with its festivals and outdoor lifestyle. Our neighborhood is accepting changes at all levels, with new people moving in to Dawson while some homeowners take the opportunity to sell up. Homeowners face ever increasing property taxes as the city spends more on infrastructure and land values go up. It is good to see young couples, some with babies, choosing Dawson as the place to be which says a lot for our neighborhood and our school. On the flip side rental property is on the increase and the rise of short term rentals for party weekends is giving some of our neighbors discomfort from the noise as are outdoor music events.

New houses going up with six months of construction are also noisy discomfort as well as startling for their size. On the flip side each new built house is required to pay a fee for sidewalk and the city is finally responding to the Neighborhood Plan for walking routes. After the North/south additions at Wilson and Euclid, we have more progress on Cumberland and Alpine is under construction, thanks to our Association volunteers, Cynthia Medlin and Marty Harris. Residential Parking Permit streets have been established on El Paso and Post Road to alleviate parking issues. Corinne Sumpter-Gonzalez and Chad Cosper were the champions of these. Board member from Abundant Life Church, Sostenes Palomo, has arranged for access along the creek as the start of a path from Cumberland to Gillis Park as well as providing a space and poop bags for dogs.

Our creek took a battering recently with water topping streets at Cumberland and Oltorf the worst. Cumberland is a poor bridge made of concrete drains that obstruct creek flow and should be replaced. The city did finish the task to restore some collapsed creek banks and back yard loss. Kam Magor was instrumental in working with the city to expand the project and protect other degraded banks in that area. Our first Creek Clean-up was in 1994. David Haun was instrumental in that effort, and current board member Marisa Fushille continued the tradition for the 21st year. Julie Woods organized this year's Its My Park Day, enlisting volunteers from Mollie Dawson School.

Businesses gains and losses. We welcome to LuLu B's Vietnamese on Congress. We did lose our Chinese food at 2410 Congress, but it will be replaced by a 3 story boutique hotel. We have welcomed the hotel owner's reassuring presentations at Neighborhood meetings. Sadly, Amy's ice cream and Nia Space have moved out of S. Congress and that theme is happening more because of rent increases. Nia space was owned and operated by our neighbor Donna Starnes, so we wish her well in her new ventures. Non-profit Habitat Restore has chosen Dawson for its home and will be a resource for our house repair and a place to offer our volunteer time. Habitat hosting our meeting speaks for itself. (cont'd page 2)

Many thanks our newsletter sponsor!



Now located in the
Dawson Neighborhood
500 Ben White Blvd.

Officer & Board Member Elections

Please attend the meeting and meet the nominees in person. Each will give a brief introduction to attendees. Remember, though, it's our annual potluck so the goal is to keep the meeting brief so we can break bread and commune.

The **ONLY** qualification required for nominees is that they meet the membership requirements* for the organization for which they were nominated.

*Jovita Pardo was nominated as a DNPCT Board Member; however, since she is not yet an Active Member, she is not eligible to run this year.

ANNUAL POT LUCK

Monday, December 14th

6:30—8:30 p.m.

Austin Habitat for Humanity ReStore
500 W. Ben White Blvd.

Join us for neighborhood festivities! Please bring your favorite dish or drink. The meeting will be brief so we can spend the time eating, drinking and otherwise being merry with our neighbors.

Neighborhood Association

1. Approval of Minutes
2. New Business
 - a) Election of Officers (see minutes for nominees)

Planning Contact Team

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Membership Report
3. New Business
 - a) Election of Board Members (see minutes for nominees)

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@yahoo.com.

The Austin Recycles Games

have begun! From now until March, Austin Resource Recovery will be calculating the average pounds of recyclables collected per household in each of Austin's **10 city council districts**. Each district will then compete for two prizes **most overall recycling and most improved**. The winning districts will receive a beautification project for a local library or park. The goal is to get every curbside customer in the city recycling at least 60 pounds every month. Let the games begin! More info>> <http://www.austintexas.gov/games>

Next door to Crow Bar, a new urban apartment building is going up that typifies the "density" goal of the city and will comply with Downtown standards (built up to the landscaped sidewalk with reduced parking and a fee for water quality control).

We have dramatic changes going on at Pickle Road. This has been a long time source of problems so the change in use is good news. We invited the new businesses to our meetings and they have responded well to concerns. So far, we welcome Infinite Monkey Theorum Winery, Crux Climbing Center and Buzzmill Coffee. DNPCT board members, including Donna Knapp and Marty Harris, have had meetings with city staff to address issues with overall planning.

Critters – We now have a third vet's office for our pets. Thrive on Oltorf who's business philosophy is affordable by focusing on basic services. Many of you know we have our own flock of Guinea fowl. They roam the area from El Paso to Havana. Look out for them and drive slow. DNA has worked with City staff to provide us with 3 official traffic warning signs, as we have lost chicks and adults through at least one thoughtless driver. Let's treat these birds as a special neighborhood feature and a unique asset. On El Paso, our red tail hawk family have got some attention completing another nesting season. Board member Julie Woods and Eliot Kimber were involved again in the annual Funky Chicken Coop

Tour in April.

Steve Gee, owner of the Crow Bar, has been a good neighbor, even being Vice President, but unfortunately his business commitments forced him to resign in the summer, sorry to lose him. The biggest loss above all this year was the sad passing of President Myron Smith after a battle with cancer. She served the neighborhood for many years and served the whole city as a Commissioner on two boards and was honored by PODER as an individual who helped to keep the spirit of Cesar Chavez alive and continue the struggle for Justice. Myron brightened everyone's life with her upbeat, vibrant and outgoing personality and her selfless attitude. She is sadly missed.

The Neighborhood Association website is dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org and you can follow us on Facebook. We are served by social media groups dawsonneighborhood@yahoo.com and Nextdoor Dawson. These are operated as friendly online front doors to our neighborhood, but are no substitute for being out and about to meet face to face with our neighbors. Volunteers work in their spare time without personal gain, to help friends and neighbors and receive differing viewpoints. While they don't expect to be rewarded, they are open to attacks and personal abuse, so we need to remember that we all neighbors of the Dawson community. So thanks to all our volunteers for DNA, DNPCT and our newsletter delivery team.

Meeting Neighbors over Noise from Fun, Fun, Fun Fest 2015

On November 10th and 11th, I set out to talk to a few neighbors about the noise from Fun, Fun, Fun Fest (FFF Fest) the previous weekend by going door-to-door in Dawson neighborhood. I carried with me a survey in which I asked people if they were not bothered by the noise ("No" on my survey), moderately bothered, or very annoyed.

After knocking on many doors, I made contact with 63 households (a small percentage of the neighborhood). I had hoped to go out and find that everyone was just as annoyed as I was by the noise. Actually, 37 households were No's on my survey, meaning that they weren't bothered by the noise. They heard it but were resigned to it, were used to it, or were okay with it because it was a part of living in this neighborhood. Some even liked it. There were, however

15 households that were very annoyed by the noise and another 11 that were moderately annoyed by it. 6 people were so annoyed, they called 311. A few of these "very annoyed" households were older residents who don't have access to the internet. Some didn't even have a computer. This is something for us to consider when making decisions about our neighborhood.

At the Parkland Events Task Force the following week, attended by myself and two other Dawson neighbors, we spoke out about how the noise from FFF Fest affected us, along with people from Zilker Neighborhood, Bouldin Neighborhood, and someone from the Long Center. The ordinance for Auditorium shores limits "A" frequencies to 80 decibels when there is a northerly wind blowing, but that only affects people up close to the music. What we

learned was that the "nuisance" frequencies, those that travel long distances and cause the thumping and home vibrations, are low frequencies in the "C" range, and are not regulated by the noise ordinance. The C frequencies were allowed to go up to as high as 105 decibels on many occasions during FFF Fest 2015. APD and the City Council are currently rewriting the ordinance to include these frequencies, which makes sense to me. I will be following this issue as it develops, so please stay tuned, and be ready to discuss your thoughts about this at our February DNA meeting.

Please feel free to email me at cclosmann@gmail.com.

Claire Closmann

DNA 10/12/15 Draft Minutes

Chad Cospo called the meeting to order and explained the absence of elected officers and volunteered to run the meeting today. Chad was elected president pro tem for the purposes of this meeting. Appointment of Julie Woods as secretary pro tem.

Approval of minutes: passed unanimously.

Old Business: none

New Business: Nomination of officers for 2016: President, Vice President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor. Newsletter editor: Chad Vanderlinden, David Haun nominated. Secretary: Julie Woods and Chad Vanderlinden. Vice President: Chad Vanderlinden, Chad Cospo, Omar Rivera. President: Omar Rivera, Eliot Kimber.

Motion that the newsletter editor print statements from the candidates, length subject to the discretion of the newsletter editor. Seconded. Motion passed.

Residential parking permits for Frederick Street discussed. 60% of residents on Frederick Street have signed the paperwork with the city. Motion to approve permit parking on Frederick Street passed with no opposition, one abstention.

Michael Danberg on Brinwood asked a question about the erosion control project on the creek and damage to a large tree that is now in danger of falling. Claire offered to put him in touch with neighbors who dealt with the city on that project and Donna recommended getting in touch with councilman Renteria's office.

Linzy Brakefield announced that Dawson Elementary has a project coming on October 24 to do some beautification at the school featuring a pet parade. The Fall Carnival will be on October 30 and the neighborhood is invited to enjoy the festivities and sponsor booths, prizes or other food items.

Chad V. presented information about the National Night Out gathering from last week; asked for neighbors to sign up (to be on a mailing list) for an official event next October.

Chad V. also presented information about the coming opening of the Habitat Restore coming soon to the neighborhood.

Greg from Habitat has offered to host the December meeting at the Habitat Restore location on S. 1st and Ben White.

Motion to adjourn passed.

DNPCT 10/12/15 Draft Minutes

Vice Chair Marty Harris opened the meeting.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: the folks from Infinite Monkey Winery announced the approval of their conditional use permit and were thanked for sponsoring the newsletter.

City changes in Neighborhood Plan Contact Team are in proposal stage. Secretary will send the email to the listserve and Nextdoor. Meeting to be held Saturday October 17, 2015, plus another on the following Monday.

Short term rental notifications: some new houses will be used as short term rentals. New proposed rules in the works with the city, but no specifics available at present.

New business: nomination for board members for the plan team. Three members' terms will continue for another year: Sostenes Palomo, Marisa Fushille and Chad Cospo. Seven seats will be open for election. Nominations for board members induced the following: Jovita Pardo, Chad Vanderlinden, Greg Anderson, Donna Knapp, Omar Rivera, Julie Woods, Marty Harris, Peter Davis.

Motion to adjourn passed.