

# Dawson Neighborhood News

May/June 2016 Newsletter of the Dawson Neighborhood

Next Meeting June 13 at 6:30pm  
at So. Austin Multipurpose Center, 2508 Durwood

## Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team NOTICES

The Austin City Council on February 28, 2016, revised the ordinance governing all neighborhood plan contact teams (NPCT). The changes are intended to create a greater uniformity among the city's various neighborhood plan teams and to encourage a greater transparency between the plan teams, their neighborhoods and with the city entities, such as the City Council, Planning and Zoning Department, and work better with the implementation of **Imagine Austin** and **CodeNext**.

Among other changes for the NPCT, the new ordinance creates a process for resolving disputes that may arise between local neighborhoods plan team members and their elected plan teams, with the city acting as the mediator to resolve the differences. Contact plan teams are expected to become familiar with the dispute resolution process (which is still in development and not yet written directly into the city code, at this writing) and will also wait for the city to inform us of the needed changes to adjust our contact team bylaws and process to comply with their new ordinance.

Feb 28, 2016 City Council Resolution: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=247936>

City staff is also in the process of reviewing and revising the contact team bylaws for all of the neighborhood plan contact teams and will inform plan teams what adaptations will be needed to bring their bylaws into compliance with the new city rules and bylaws template. City staff will report their present status to the city in December 2016.

Note: The new City Ordinance itself does not appear in the new Contact Team Bylaws in its exact wording as of yet, but will be included into the City Ordinance soon, and is already effective on the NPCT process through the city council action.

City Neighborhood staff are also working to expand the NPCT orientation manual and create more information on the city's website regarding the new ordinance, and how to respond it. For example, how to update the neighborhood plan, or the FLUM. The new NPCT bylaws template and instructions for it, the implementation guide, and other related sources are available at **Contact Team Resources** on the city website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/neighborhood-plan-contact-teams>

### Small Area Plan

City Staff also shared with us the Small Area Plan Implementation 2015 Annual Report, which illustrates the neighborhood plan projects in progress so far. Several Neighborhood Plans were chosen for that year (2015), responded to by the city and either implemented or began, to fulfillment process.

Report is available here: <ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/npzd/Austingo/ImplementationAnnualReport.pdf>

Note: Dawson was a part of the 2015 Implementation last year and is a part of the process every three years.

Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams' web presence may be provided by the city soon, but a date has not been announced. The City also announced plans for a city based NPCT web based source to help announce their meeting dates, local neighborhood sites, and other announcements, and general city needed information. This is still in the planning stage and subject to department budget, as there will be a new staff position to fulfill.

Reporting by: DNPCT Chair Marty Harris and member Julie Woods at DNPCT meeting 5.2.16

## Austin's Bicycle Master Plan, Urban Trails and High-Priority Sidewalks

Bike Austin and several other local active transportation non-profits are working to pass a mobility bond referendum this fall that would fund infrastructure for bicycling and walking. The language of the bond hasn't been set yet, and Bike Austin is working to round up support for their vision of funding Austin's Bicycle Master Plan, Urban Trails and High-Priority sidewalks. The Bike Plan would fund over 200 miles of protected bike lanes, along with 50 miles of off-street Urban Trails - both of which would be safe enough to allow Austinites of all ages and abilities to ride comfortably to school, work or around town. Investing in high-priority sidewalks would generate enough resources to build sidewalks within a quarter-mile of every school or transit stop in Austin. Bike Austin has presented to our association, and is hoping for us to pass a resolution stating our support for funding the bike plan and sidewalks at our next meeting. A representative from the group will be on hand to answer questions.



Austin's newest indoor climbing scene, and proud neighbor of the Dawson community!

**OPEN:** MON - FRI: 11AM - 11PM  
SAT - SUN: 10AM - 10PM

### FREE DAY PASS

FOR ALL DAWSON NEIGHBORS

BRING THIS FLYER TO REDEEM A FREE DAY PASS FOR YOU  
AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD (INCLUDES GEAR AND YOGA  
CLASSES).

### Crux Climbing Center

Crux Climbing Center opened up its doors May 7th. Located next to Infinite Monkey Theorem winery, this brand-new climbing, yoga and fitness center is an elite facility not only for climbers, but also for members of the Austin community looking for a fun, new way to exercise.

Austin locals and Crux Climbing Center owners, Matt Twyman and Kevin Goradia, set out on a mission to build a premier hub where climbers could not only perfect their craft, but could also enjoy a community space where they could learn from and teach one another. After searching around Austin for the perfect location, they landed at 121 Pickle Rd., the old home to An Honest Mechanic. In May 2015, they started construction, and so began the extensive project of raising the roof, building out walls, navigating Austin's permitting process all while juggling Austin's fickle weather. The end product consists of a main hall full of bouldering, a 24hr. bouldering cave, rope climbing, a kid's room, a multi-purpose room for yoga and fitness classes, a dedicated fitness area, and a lounge area with public WiFi.

Beyond the facility, Crux has immersed itself in the community by hiring local artists to paint murals on their walls, participating in the Alpine pond clean up, reaching out to local businesses to collaborate, and hosting community events.

## Join Twin Oaks Library for

### 50 Shades of Green: Spicing up Sustainability

Presentations about farmers market cooperatives, green burial, gray water reuse and xeriscaping, all part of the Library's ongoing TALK GREEN to Me sustainability discussion series. Thursday, June 23, 7-8pm

Annelies Lottmann, "Yard to Market Co-op: Cultivating Abundance to Enhance your Pantry and Your Pocketbook"

Thursday, August 25, 7-8pm

Ellen MacDonald, Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park "Recycle Yourself: Back to Nature Burials"

Thursday, October 27, 7-8pm

Robert Stefani, Conservation Program Specialist, Austin Water Utility: "A Gray water Overview"

Twin Oaks Library; 1800 So. Fifth St. Austin 78704  
library.austintexas.gov/talkgreen

## Don't Let Ligustrum Take Over!!

Do you know an invasive plant so aggressive that it chokes out everything, all native plants? That was the situation in a one-acre retention pond in Austin's Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park. The culprit? *Ligustrum lucidum*, a.k.a. glossy privet. At our Alpine pond area here in Dawson, the situation is similar. During our workday for Keep Austin Beautiful, volunteers uprooted hundreds of invasive ligustrum using weed wrenches! We participated in the long process of eradicating this non-native plant. Ligustrum is ultimately crowding out native species that are the foundation of biodiversity in our open spaces. We may remove ligustrum from parks and the greenbelt, but trees in private yards produce fruit that is brought to public lands. Many of our yards have ligustrum trees or bushes. Consider replacing these invasive ligustrum with natives! LEARN MORE about INVASIVE SPECIES at TexasInvasives.org

## The Mystery Gourmet visits Habana

### A foodie eats his way around the 'hood

When Ron and Yasbel Flores opened Habana Soco way back in 2001, they did it to celebrate the culture and cuisine of Yasbel's native Cuba. Nearly a decade and a half later, Habana continues to provide Austinites with the authentic taste of the Islands.

They are known for their mojitos, but I go for the food. Vegetarians can find a wide variety of dishes, including Cuban sandwiches, entrees and many variations of fried chips.

After four visits, Habana Soco is now my favorite restaurant in Austin. I love the thatched roof palapas outside in front. Service is snappy, and waitstaff attentive.

A friend had been to Cuba and looked at the menu saying, "They have LECHON." This is the most tender pork we have tasted. Lechon is the second thing Habana's is known-for.

I have also tried their FRICASE DE POLLO/CHICKEN FRICASEE, a bone-in chicken stewed with Cuban spices and homemade tomato sauce, with chunks of potatoes. The best chicken dish ever and the potatoes were an added treat.

The third thing Habana's is known for is sometimes not on the menu. Ask for it and don't miss the succulent Tres Leches cake. It's finger, licking good, if you eat with your hands.

Habana Soco is at 2728 S Congress Ave, next to the Great Outdoors, near Cumberland Raceway, opening at 11am, with week-day lunches until 3pm, and dinner until 10pm.

### Neighborhood Association

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Old Business
3. New Business
4. Member announcements

### DN Planning Contact Team

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Membership report
3. New Business

### STAY IN TOUCH

#### Yahoo Forum =

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DawsonNeighborhood>

#### Website =

[www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.com](http://www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.com)

### DNA Meeting Minutes April 11, 2016

Approval of Minutes from the February meeting: Motion to approve the minutes, seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Miller Nuttle from Bike Austin spoke about \$250m mobility bond issue coming up to be voted on in November. They want to fully fund the bicycle master plan: urban trails with ADA-compliant concrete paths, improving sidewalks, and protected, continuous bike lanes.

DNA is invited to endorse the Bike Austin vision—will put that on next meeting's agenda for a vote.

Rebecca Gonzales from the public safety commission introduced herself and talked about the commission's work regarding public

safety: fire, police, ambulances. The commission meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. She invited neighbors to get in touch with their concerns and will send us her email address to put in the next newsletter.

Marisa Fushille and Marty Harris spoke about the March and last Saturday's cleanup at Alpine Pond. Goals include eliminating invasive species and applying to the city and park foundations for funds to buy butterfly and hummingbird friendly plants.

The Great Outdoors Garden Center is still open; they are working out the permitting issues with the city. Peter moved that the officers draft a letter to the city in support of the Great Outdoors and recommending that the city rule in The Great Outdoors's favor. Motion passed.

Sidewalks on Alpine are not yet finished from S. 1<sup>st</sup> to Congress. Work is underway but still incomplete. There is a sign at the location with a phone number, but no response so far.

Marisa spoke about the city's recycling contest. The neighborhood that has the biggest increase in recycling gets a prize.

Guinea fowl eggs have disappeared and neighbors expressed support for the birds and hope that the flock survives.

Meredith announced a party at the Infinite Monkey Theorem Winery on April 22, introducing their new sparkling wine.

Crux Climbing Center is expecting to hold a grand opening on May 7 and has made plans to minimize traffic and parking problems for the neighborhood since they expect a large turnout.

### DNPCT Meeting Minutes April 11, 2016

Motion: Adopting of prior February meeting minutes

Elliot Kimber – Motioned; Motion seconded; Majority approval

New Business: 121 Pickle Road Crux Climbing Center – new business

**Speaker: Matt Twyman**

May 7th – Grand Opening all day 9am-11pm.

Considering parking - Already have 50 spaces. Looking at additional spaces across the street. Working with St. Edwards on using some of their parking as well.

Buzzmill Coffee – still working on permitting for construction of their business.

537 Oltorf at South 1st; Transportation Bus Stop; CU notice needed

**Speaker: Jim Wittliff**

Regarding- owner applying for conditional use permit for limited bus service, a "Transportation Terminal" – as defined by city code. This is an informational presentation only. Owner intends to place planned schedules, and traffic frequency in a restrictive covenant. (Hours of operation, number of busses allowed per day).

DNPCT Members brought up issue of turning south out and into of S. 1st street to exit – is disruptive to traffic flow. Does not have on-site parking for pickup/drop-off. They will have an open lobby with 2 f and 2 m bathrooms. Rick Reyna brought up concerns about safety. Concern that travelers to and from Mexico are often targets of crime. Jim – says owner will monitor safety of travelers and respond as necessary.

\*\*\*Peter Davis proposes that we will to vote in a future meeting – we will need to promulgate plan after Jim has sent permit proposal to city to finalized and DNPCT will plan to vote on following next meeting, or schedule an interim meeting, if necessary, to meet city deadlines.

**Speaker: Marty Harris**

Yearly Music Permits renewals: Stomping Grounds, Opal Divines, Lucy's Chicken, Mercury Hall (These are businesses that will typically have city music permits around us.)

City NPCT Meeting: next meeting regarding changes to management of city/neighborhood planning contact teams (NPCT), May 2nd to discuss City Council changes by adding a conflict resolution section:

- New Contact Team Bylaws templates coming forward through City Council
  - Adding Compliance/Conflict resolution process for NPCT through City Neighborhood Planning Director for contact teams to bylaws template
  - Also CoA will provide Neighborhood Contact Team with an informational guide to be set up online to assist and guide the NPCT groups
- Ridesharing Works for Austin- a political action committee

**Speaker: Patrick**

Makes announcement advocating for Proposition 1; Not for deregulation; Guesthouse Hotel: 2510 South Congress- Update about proposed hotel: Owners have submitted two waivers to the city for pool, driveway Adjourned 8pm.