

# Dawson Neighborhood News

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

January/February 2017

## **AISD Considering Closing Dawson Elementary**

— *Eliot Kimber*

The Austin Independent School District is currently developing a new facilities master plan (FMP). AISD has identified four elementary schools as candidates for "consolidation" with other schools. By "consolidation" the District means closing the consolidated school and moving its students to another school.

Mollie Dawson Elementary, our neighborhood elementary school, is one of the four. The current recommendation is to consolidate Dawson with Galindo Elementary.

Dawson Elementary is an exceptional school and an essential resource for our neighborhood.

Dawson PTA President Linzy Foster sends this message:

Our neighborhood school—Mollie Dawson Elementary School—needs your help! Dawson is currently on the list of schools for consolidation/closure in the Facility Master Plan process as recommended by FABPAC (AISD's Facilities and Bond Planning Advisory Committee). So far, community members, teachers and parents have laid out a strong case regarding why Dawson needs to stay open and serving our community.

To get better numbers of families and children in the neighborhood, faculty, parents, and community members of Dawson will be walking the neighborhood to 1) conduct a neighborhood census and 2) spread the word about the amazing community and programs at Dawson. Would you like to help? Email me at [pta.at.dawson@gmail.com](mailto:pta.at.dawson@gmail.com) or [linzy.brakefield@gmail.com](mailto:linzy.brakefield@gmail.com). For more information, please join our Facebook group (search for Save Dawson Elementary). If you are a future parent of a Dawson dolphin, please feel free to reach out to me with questions. We feel confident that our voices have been heard and our school will remain open, but we can still use your support!

Dawson is Awesome!  
Linzy Foster  
DNA member  
PTA President and Dawson parent

If you would like to show your support with an I ♥ Dawson sign, contact Linzy at the email above. Signs are \$10.00 and proceeds go to the Dawson Elementary PTA.

## **Thanks to our newsletter sponsor!**

*I live and work in the Dawson Neighborhood*

**Rebecca Sheller, REALTOR®**

**512-496-9939**

[shellerrofcc@gmail.com](mailto:shellerrofcc@gmail.com)

Jim Jackson Broker



## **Real Estate Notes**

— *Rebecca Sheller*

In Dawson Neighborhood during 2016, approximately 10 lots with older houses were purchased and the houses were removed to prepare the lots for new construction, meaning these lots were purchased for the land value. The sold prices divided by the acreage of these lots averaged approximately \$2 million/acre!



## **Next Meeting**

February 13 at 6:30pm, So. Austin Multipurpose Center, 2508 Durwood

## **Agenda**

### **Neighborhood Association:**

1. Introductions
2. Sponsor thanks
3. Acceptance of minutes
4. Old Business:
  - a. ATT Lot
  - b. Residential Parking Permits
  - c. Neighborhood Partnering Program
  - d. Dawson Elementary
5. New Business

### **Contact Plan Team:**

1. Approval of minutes
2. Old business
3. New business
  - a. Approve new officers
  - b. Austin Marathon
  - c. IMPD MARCH 2017
  - d. Front Yard Parking
  - e. Austin Water 100 Year Meeting
  - f. CodeNext Meeting
  - g. Call for volunteers

**NOTE:** The Austin Board of Adjustment meets February 13 and has the variances for 2510 S Congress on its agenda. Some Contact Plan Team members may attend that meeting.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.



**Editor:** Eliot Kimber  
[drmacro@gmail.com](mailto:drmacro@gmail.com)

## **It's My Park Day, Spring 2017 at Gillis Park**

— *Martin Harris*

Saturday, March 4th, is the spring date for It's My Park Day 2017. We will finish mulching the trees that we started in the fall and start removing the non-natives, mainly ragweed, from the park and creek. We will pick up trash around the park. Register here if you can help:

<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/36982-Gillis-Park>



## **Mighty Texas Dog Walk 2017, March 4th**

— *Martin Harris*

March 4th is also the date for the Mighty Texas Dog Walk 2017 at the Austin American Statesman parking lot. Help support the training of service dogs and get free swag for your dog and a t-shirt for you.

Register early at: <https://www.picatic.com/MTDW2017> and save or on the walk date at the Registration Tent March 4th, beginning at 8am.

All Mighty Texas Dog Walk Registration fee supports the training program at Service Dogs, Inc.

Service Dogs, Inc. is a nonprofit that adopts dogs from animal shelters and trains them as working partners for Texans living with deafness or mobility related challenges. Each dog costs \$45,000 and takes 1 year to train.

## **Draft Minutes of DNA 12/12/16 Meeting**

Eliot Kimber called the meeting to order. Approval of minutes by acclamation.

Introduction of Ms. Jedele, principal at Dawson Elementary, who welcomed the membership and explained the news stories about consolidating Dawson; consultants have been reviewing the school district facilities. Dawson has a good-quality facility but is under enrolled; the timeline for consolidation is in a number of years. The goal is increasing enrollment. A community meeting is scheduled for January 31 at Martin Middle School and the Dawson neighborhood community is encouraged to attend and show their support for Dawson.

Introduction of our new APD District Representative Officer Shawn Rougeou. His district is most of 78704. Three biggest issues: junked vehicles, speeders and homeless people. Encouraged vigilance among neighbors and asked folks to call about suspicious activities. Cynthia mentioned apparent drug activity at Gillis Park and encouraged greater police awareness of the area; discussion of new drugs appearing in the city that have a greater affect.

Elections: officers nominated at the last meeting include Peter Davis, President; Becky Sheller, Vice President; Julia Woods, Secretary, Eliot Kimber, newsletter editor. Voted in by acclamation.

Motion to adjourn.

## **Draft Minutes of DNPCT 12/12/16 Meeting**

Vote on Approval of October minutes, with below updates:

The Board of Adjustments will review 2510 S. Congress Guest Hotel project variances in December.

The December 2016 Meeting was held at Dawson, not at Habitat for Humanity as sought in October 2016 meeting.

Marisa asked to not serve as a DNPCT Board member on another two-year term.

Minutes are approved with addition of above updates.

New Business:

Residential Parking Permits on Sacramento:

Ms. Joseph on Sacramento Street wanted to discuss Residential Parking Permits. There are street parking problems up and down Sacramento Street caused by the customers at the nail salon. Blocking street access for residents, blocking visibility access to S. 1st, and is compounded by construction of new homes on the street. She met with city staff, which will do a transportation study on parking, accessibility, and traffic on the street. The next step, if it moves forward, is a petition of affected residents and property owners.

Officer Rougeou said to call if there are problems, and he can arrange for ticketing or towing, if necessary.

Old Business:

The Board of Adjustments should be meeting on the 2510 S. Congress Guest House permitting at the same time as our December DNPCT meeting. But this was postponed until January as noted by Marisa.

DNPCT voting:

Before voting on new DNPCT board members a review of DNPCT membership voting eligibility requirements for contact team matters was performed as per the present DNPCT bylaws voting rules.

Private ballots were distributed: members to vote for any, or all, of the names on the ballot, or not. A simple circle for approval of those members each voter wanted to move forward. A cross out or no action meant a no vote.

All candidates moved forward with the vote: Cynthia Medlin, Jovita Pardo, and David Haun were all approved to serve a two-year term.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned for dinner with a presentation from Cap Metro on Mobility.