

# Dawson Neighborhood News

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

March/April 2017

## Free Exercise Programs Offered by Austin Public Health

Have you been thinking of becoming more physically active? Need a little help getting started? The **WALK TX AND MORE** program may be able to help. It is a free exercise program that's available through the Austin Public Health – Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Program. We can help people create their own neighborhood walking groups as well as offer the 10-Week Challenge, which is designed to help folks safely increase their physical activity levels. For more information go to <http://www.healthypaceshealthypeople.org/neighborhoods/>, or call 512-972-5463, or send an email to [Sabrina.mccarty@austintexas.gov](mailto:Sabrina.mccarty@austintexas.gov).

## Free "Healthy Living" diabetes self-management classes will be starting soon!

This is a 6-class series held once a week for 6-weeks. Each class covers a different topic. Win door prizes and an HEB gift card for attending!

*Location:* South Austin Neighborhood Center, 2508 Durwood Street, 78704.

*Dates:* On Tuesday mornings, April 11th, 18th, 25th, May 2nd, 9th, and 16th, 2017

*Time:* 9:30 to 11 am

To register, please call Judy Alvarado at 512-972-6854, or Sabrina McCarty at 512-972-5463.

## Questions About Recycling?

AUSTIN'S ZERO WASTE GOAL is to reduce the amount of waste sent to area landfills by 90% by the year 2040. Dawson neighbors, thank you for already participating in recycling and composting.

If you ever have a question about what to do with something you are throwing away, use the What Do I Do With...? tool at [austintexas.gov/recycling](http://austintexas.gov/recycling) to find out.

Remember that plastic bags, bubble wrap and all styrofoam **cannot** be recycled. These items can be dropped off at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center. Call the Center at: 512-974-4373.

If you are passionate about recycling, become a Zero Waste Block Leader and join the volunteer team. Serve as the go to person so your neighbors can become better "Zero-Wasters." Call Jennifer at 512-974-2744 for more information



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## New Businesses Coming to the Neighborhood

At the old Lulu B's location, (formerly El Flaco), **Papalote Taco House** is busy with building and permitting and should open soonish. At the same location, **Twelve Bones BBQ** will soon be opening a trailer.

At 121 Pickle Road (**Infinite Monkey Theorem, Crux Climbing Gym**) long-awaited coffee shop **Cosmic Coffee and**

## Next Meeting

April 10 at 6:30pm, So. Mollie Dawson Elementary, 3001 S. 1st

## New Location!

## Agenda

### Neighborhood Association:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Old business
3. New business
  - a. Greeting from Ms Jedele, Dawson principal
  - b. Update on the AISD school closings situation
  - c. Sabrina McCarty, Public Health Educator with the city of Austin, on free programs
  - d. Update on the AT&T dog park situation
  - e. Update on St Ed's
  - f. Auto Hero update
  - g. Vote on adding hours to the residential parking along El Paso

### Contact Plan Team:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Old business
3. New business
  - a. Park and Public Spaces: adaptation by DNA to maintain and adopt for grants
  - b. Recent residential parking permits
  - c. New businesses coming to the neighborhood
  - d. Permit variances requests: old and new

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

**Beer Garden** will open along with a food trailer space. Trailer **LeRoy and Lewis Barbeque** has been there a few weeks.

**Editor:** Eliot Kimber

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

### Minutes of DNA 02/13/17 Meeting

Peter opened the meeting. Thanks to Becky Sheller for sponsoring the newsletter. Minutes were adopted unanimously.

AT&T lot on Cumberland near Ben Howell: the manager of the facility has offered the neighborhood the use of the lot as a neighborhood park. AT&T is concerned about liability issues; we are in discussion with the city or the parks foundation. The Neighborhood Partnering Program says AT&T could sell us the property or issue an easement for the neighborhood use. Comment about potential for noisy use at late hours; will consider signage asking for quiet and parking on Cumberland instead of Ben Howell. Needn't be a dog park exclusively. Adult facility nearby might provide volunteers.

Discussed Dawson Elementary's listing as an under-enrolled school with possibility of future closing. Dawson is more highly ranked academically than other schools in the area. Letters to the committee and the school board are helpful.

Residential Parking Permits: parking problems have been ongoing on Coleman, Sacramento/Fontana. Corinne, who lives on El Paso, spoke about their experience getting RPP. The opening of Toss Pizza added problems. Considering extending the RPP hours, which were originally planned to address daytime parking concerns at Torchy's. Toss customers are parking later and beyond the RPP area. Neighbors on Stacy haven't expressed an interest in getting added to the RPP area. Application is underway to extend the hours. The noise has also been a problem, along with pedestrian safety. Corinne contacted the city about a pedestrian-triggered light on S. 1st. The DNA and neighbors can contact the city about these issues.

New business: Peter announced that Feb 22, 6:00 to 6:45, at the Munday Library, St. Ed's will have a meeting to discuss their master plan. Neighbors may want to get in touch re. students parking in Dawson.

Marisa asked neighbors to volunteer to be a block leader re. recycling.

### Minutes of DNPCT 02/13/17 Meeting

Marty Harris, President, called meeting to order at 7:26pm. Minutes were approved. M. Harris announced DNPCT Officers were selected by the DNPCT. Motion made to accept officers as stated. The officer slate is: Marty Harris for Chair,

Greg Anderson for Vice Chair, and Jovita Pardo as Secretary. Motion was seconded. Passed by acclimation. The officer slate was accepted. M. Harris noted he had made sure our neighborhood officer was aware about activities that continue to take place at night in Gillis Park. M. Harris noted the 2510 S. Congress Guest House and the church's case were currently waiting to be heard in the Board of Adjustments to hear about their variances.

M. Harris introduced the issue of front yard parking. M. Harris noted the Dawson neighborhood has never felt that it has needed to enforce this policy and that if the neighborhood opted in it would take the neighborhood three years to opt out. A neighbor noted Toss has been allowing their employees to park on a vacant lot, and created a lot of noise in the late evening. M. Harris noted this situation was larger than just front yard parking, and that it sounded more like code violations. The neighbor presented photos of the lot being used as additional parking for Toss employees and the infractions that were being talked about. M. Harris suggested sending a letter to code enforcement & Council Member Renteria before taking a resolution vote on front yard parking. Cynthia Medlin, DNPCT Member, noted this has been an issue for years. C. Medlin noted most people voted against this resolution as it has never been a problem. C. Medlin noted the reason the ordinance exists are because neighborhoods found front yard was a problem. Vote was asked to be taken. Discussion occurred to determine if a vote was to be taken this evening or at a later date. M. Harris noted most of the contention with front yard parking is between neighbor vs neighbor. M. Harris noted there were two issues 1) zoning 2) front yard parking. Julie Woods noted she was hesitant towards not voting for this resolution tonight. Peter David made a motion to vote for front yard parking. Motion seconded. M. Harris noted the large amount of opposition towards taking a vote about front yard parking without additional notice. A vote was taken to take a vote upon the resolution of front yard parking with seven in favor and four against. The motion to vote was accepted. Meanwhile, C. Medlin reported about the CodeNext meeting, noting maps are to come out in April 2017. A vote was taken about the front yard parking ordinance with six in favor, six against, and one abstention. The front yard parking resolution did not pass. P. Davis suggested DNPCT to send a letter to Toss and the code enforcement to assist with issues related to Toss.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

### Storm Drain Work to Resume

The City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department is planning to resume construction on the "Wilson Street Storm Drain Improvements Project" in the coming months. The project scope included the installation of storm drains and inlets on Wilson Street, Havana Street, Powell Circle and Lightsey Road to help alleviate flooding.

The department started work on the project several years ago with its own field crews and completed the storm drain work on Wilson Street, Havana Street and a portion of Powell Circle. However, the crews encountered a large amount of rock in the area that required specialized equipment. Then the crews were assigned to emergency work in other parts of town. Both these factors have caused significant delays in completing the project.

In order to continue, the department has decided to add this project to an existing contract. Staff are currently in discussions with the contractor regarding a start date and how much of the remaining work can be constructed within the budget. The remaining work is on Powell Circle and Lightsey Road.

The department expects to have more information in the next couple of weeks. There's more information at [www.austintexas.gov/dawson](http://www.austintexas.gov/dawson). If you would like to receive email updates, please contact [Stephanie.Lott@austintexas.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Lott@austintexas.gov). For inquiries about the project, please contact Sergio Mendoza, P.E., at 512-974-3346 or [Sergio.Mendoza@austintexas.gov](mailto:Sergio.Mendoza@austintexas.gov).