

Dawson Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Dawson Neighborhood Association
and Dawson Neighborhood Contact Plan Team
www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org

June/July 2017

CodeNEXT Land Use Codes Update

—Marty Harris

At June meeting we looked at the CodeNEXT Land Development Public Review Maps Draft released April 18. There will be another updated version released in August sometime. If you responded with comments hopefully these will be notated.

There are a lot of changes to the old code terminologies that were made to update the code and integrate it with Imagine Austin.

You can still go to the website for the Land Use Code comparison map for you property as it is listed now and what it will be designated when the Land Use Code is adopted next year at: <https://codenext.engagingplans.org/codenext-comparison-map>, or the overview site: <https://www.austintexas.gov/codenext>

We will again review this matter at our next meeting.

DNPCT Bylaws need update to newly added requirements from Neighborhood Planning

—Marty Harris

About this time last year the City Planning and Zoning department got approval from City Council to update the city NCPT Bylaws template and have now gotten around to our neighborhood with their updates and corrections to our DNPCT approved bylaws.

These updates are in response to some community groups not knowing what their NPCT group was doing, having no voice in decisions made, or even knowing, or being notified when the meetings are. There is also now a process to be included in the Bylaws for a Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Dispute Resolution.

We will address these issues, and only these issues, with the present DNPCT Bylaws and the new city request at our next meeting. A corrective re-write to these issues will need to be done and presented at our next following meeting and a vote taken there after.

It's My Park Day – Fall 2017, Saturday, November 4th

The Fall version of IMPD 2017 is scheduled between our next two meetings. Project registration will not open until late August or early September. If you have ideas that can be implemented to improve Gillis Park please respond, or attend the August meeting. Please remember that all improvement projects are subject to approval of the city and should be doable in about four hours. At the last two events we mulched most of the trees and still have a small area to do. We will also reach out to Austin Parks Foundation and the City Parks dept. to start a dialogue of what we can do and what is felt a priority

Thanks to our newsletter sponsor!

I live and work in the Dawson Neighborhood

Rebecca Sheller, REALTOR®

512-496-9939

shellerrofcc@gmail.com

Jim Jackson Broker



ATT Dog Park on Cumberland

—Peter Davis

After being approached by a considerate ATT employee, DNA has been discussing the use of the small lot next to the ATT building as a dog park.

The main obstacle was liability for public access onto ATT land. The DNA has no fees, no budget and therefore no insurance to take over this liability, but would take on basic maintenance like mowing, with the idea that volunteers and donations would come forward.

Sadly, ATT were not willing to open it on a permanent basis without DNA taking over the liability and so the property has been locked.

We would like to thank J.R. Jetson of ATT for his efforts and Julie Woods for creating a facebook page.

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

Editor: Eliot Kimber

drmacro@gmail.com

Next Meeting

August 14 at 6:30pm, Mollie Dawson Elementary, 3001 S. 1st

New Location!

Agenda

Neighborhood Association:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Old business
3. New business
 - a. AT&T dog park
 - b. Public pools closure planning

Contact Plan Team:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Old business
3. New business
 - a. IMPD Fall 2017
 - b. Draft CodeNEXT land use maps update
 - c. DNPCT Bylaws update

The future of Gillis Park's Pool?

—Marty Harris

There has been some concern again about the possible closing of Gillis Park's Pool. The city has had an ongoing discussion into their pool situations since at least 2015 and a final Master Plan (over 154 pages) has been released on July 21, 2017. Please see <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aquatics-assessment> for the draft.

The Council will review this document on August 10. This could equally affect all three of the local pools in our area, those just south of the river.

Notes from scanning the Master Plan document:

All three pools are very old, limited in size, and possibly limited in their ability to be re-purposed to the new requirements, ADA and such, and limited by size to accommodate the community adequately.

Gillis itself was built in 1954 and renovated in 1979, and is a rather small pool 86'x40' and 2550 square feet. It is reported to have leaks and not survive more than five years.

This Master Plan contains recommendations from public input, intensive studies and possible some reality. But they are not yet concrete, nor acted on by Council.

Let's meet at the next DNA meeting to discuss this and present a recommendation to forward to the Council a.s.a.p.

Statesman July 14, 2017 article: <http://www.mystatesman.com/news/local-govt--politics/your-favorite-austin-pool-worth-repairing-study-sets-priorities/QV5v89GiacwyTiR9Wc7LoN/>

Recycling Tips

—Marisa Fushile

Please put these items in your trash. They can **not** be recycled. They go to the landfill.

- All styrofoam
- Milk or juice box containers
- Cellophane wrap, plastic bags, baggies
- Items bagged in plastic bags (even if full of recyclables)
- Ceramic items, terra cotta pots, or drinking glasses

Suitability for improvement document:

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3894860/Pool-Rankings.pdf>

Leakage 2015 data:

<http://cityhall.blog.statesman.com/2015/05/01/how-much-water-are-city-pools-leaking/>

DAWSON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION Meeting Minutes 6-12-17

Peter opened the meeting. Minutes approved as written.

City of Austin presentation on the Wilson Street storm drain improvement project. Neighbors are reminded to call 311 to report flooding problems. Sergio Mendoza, project engineer on the project explained the ongoing flooding mitigation efforts. The final phase should finish along Powell and Lightsey. An aggressive schedule is planned with work beginning in July with completion early September. Stephanie Lott (Stephanie.Lott@austintexas.gov) is the public information officer who can be contacted with questions. Hope to finish the paving work by the end of the fiscal year. Speed bumps should be replaced where they've been impacted.

AT&T Park project is still in the works.

Post Road-Lessin Lane connector: a developer has purchased the cul-de-sac and has offered to build a bridge across the creek and a path. The property on the West side of the creek features a drainage easement; local property owners are currently not going to permit use.

Gillis Park pool is open every day except Wednesday from 1 pm to 8 pm. Swimming lessons available by request.

Neighbor expressed concern about the heavy runoff from the parking lot at Summermoon Coffee shop at 3115 S. First. Recommended calling 311 and asking to speak to someone in Watershed Protection; Code Enforcement may not be able to help.

Motion to adjourn.

Dawson Neighborhood Contact Plan Team Minutes 6-12-17

CodeNext will host a presentation about the changes to the land development code in Spanish. The Dawson Neighborhood Association is the only neighborhood association to host 2 presentations.

CodeNext rolled out in January and was based to be like the Imagine Austin plan. The CodeNext website has a comparison map available where neighbors can take the existing code and contrast it to the proposed code.

One neighbor asked if CodeNext was driving up the building of duplexes. Another neighbor replied the neighborhood's current zoning, SF3, allows duplexes to be built. The first approved map draft is complete. The impervious cover requirement has not changed.

Marty advised comparing your current property against the CodeNext website. One neighbor noted a part of the neighborhood, at Powell St. between Havana and South Park is zoned for apartments. Marty noted Dawson Elementary is currently zoned in the FLUM as an SF3. Marty noted all public areas need to be listed as public areas.

Marty emphasized the need to compare property zoning and send necessary comments. These comments allow the neighborhood to remark on these changes. Peter noted issues like impervious cover are buried in the code. Peter added the new code slightly decreases the minimum parking requirement for small businesses, which is to make the neighborhood focused on connectivity and decrease the need for automobiles. Julie suggested the precinct team review the zoning for the entire neighborhood.