

Dawson Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Dawson Neighborhood Association
www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org

March/April 2015

Meet your New District 3 Council Member

Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria is a father, community activist, and a lifetime citizen of Austin's District 3. At a very young age he learned the lessons of hard work and serving others. At age 7 he was shining shoes and selling newspapers on Congress Ave and at 15 he entered the fields to pick cotton to help support his family. Pio went on to retire from IBM after 34 years of service as a Computer & Printer Technician. He has served on the East Austin Neighborhood Center Advisory Board, the AB Cantu/Pan Am Recreation Center Advisory Board, the Environmental Board, and participated for 14 years on the Community Development Commission, 8 years as chair. He was a leader with United East Austin Coalition, Friends of the MACC, East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team (vice-chair), and volunteered with Sanchez, Martin and Austin High PTAs and CACs. He is now a member of the Austin City Council, proudly representing District 3, which is Dawson's district.

Committees:

Housing and Community Development, Chair
Planning and Neighborhoods, Vice Chair
Audit and Finance
Austin Energy

Issues:

Affordability, Safety, Economic Development

Staff:

Ashley Fisher—Policy Aide, Former Policy Aide for Council Member Bill Spelman
David Chincanchan—Policy Aide, Former Campaign Manager for Sabino Renteria
Nicholas Solorzano: Policy Aide, Former Field Director for Sabino Renteria

Office Number: 512.978.2103

Website: www.austintexas.gov/department/district-3

Email: Sabino.Renteria@AustinTexas.gov

DNA/DNPCT Have a New Website!

After working together as a team for some time, the DNA/DNPCT officers launched a new official website for the association and contact team:

<http://www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org/>

Find information about the neighborhood, meetings, links to follow us Facebook and Twitter, a "Contact Us" page to reach the officers, and a "Discussion" page with info about joining our **Yahoo Group**, where you can share or read posts about lost pets, garage sales and other events.

Please Join Us!

Dawson Neighborhood Meetings

Monday, April 13, 2015

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

South Austin

Multipurpose Center

2508 Durwood

D.N. Association

- Guest Presentations:
 - City Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria
 - Angel Flores, CERT Program
- Approval of Minutes
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Havana Street resurfacing
- Other Business: Admin items
Adjourn 7:30 p.m.

D.N. Planning Contact Team

- Guest: Infinite Monkey Theorem Winery
- Guest: Jackie Chuter, Priorities Survey (see p. 2)
- Approval of Minutes
- Membership Report
- Old Business: Retroactive Election of Board Member Chad Coper
- New Business
 - 2502 Wilson, Demolition of Historic Business
 - Outdoor Music Permits
- Other Business: Admin items
Adjourn 8:30 p.m.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct & Dec.

DNPCT

Membership Report:

Members who do not attend one meeting within a 12 month period are moved from Active/Pending to Suspended status, and those who do not attend for three years are removed from membership.

Austin Police Department District Representative serves as a liaison between the community and the police department to assist in solving neighborhood problems. Dawson is in District 4, and our District Representative is Officer Robert Barboza (512)-974 8246 or Robert.Barboza@austintexas.gov.

Annual Creek Clean Up April 11

As we have for at least 2 decades, the DNA will clean up our section of East Bouldin Creek, and this year, like the past few years, we will do so as part of Keep Austin Beautiful's Clean Sweep Program. Meet at Gillis Park at 9 a.m.
For questions or to sign up, email Marisa: mfushille@gmail.com.

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Barton Creek FARMERS MARKET
supporting our local farmers with grass-fed meats, organic produce, live music, specialty prepared foods and local artisans since 1997
Held every Saturday From 9 - 1 on the back side of the Barton Creek Mall parking lot overlooking the city.
Check our website for our other locations!
BartonCreekFarmersMarket.org

Many thanks to the sponsor of this newsletter!

Time to Update our Neighborhood Plan Priorities

The City of Austin's Planning and Development Review Department (PDRD) invites Neighborhood Planning Contact Teams to update the priorities identified in their Neighborhood Plans* every three years. The Dawson Neighborhood Planning Contact Team (DNPCT) last updated our priorities in 2012, so the spring of 2015 is our opportunity to assess which recommendations within our adopted plan are most important given the conditions in our neighborhood today. This year the city is asking us to select five Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) and five non-CIP priorities from a table furnished by the city. Incomplete priority rankings from previous years can be changed during this exercise. This information is utilized in the city's ongoing CIP planning pro-

cess, and it provides a focal point for PDRD's work with other city departments to advance neighborhood-identified projects and programs. In the past 3 years, we have seen the completion of some of the sidewalks we identified as priorities, and, perhaps, 2015 might be the year our sidewalk plan is completed!

Jackie Chuter with PDRD will attend the meeting to lead the process. Expect the survey to take up to an hour.

*The Dawson Neighborhood Plan is available at public libraries and at <ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/npzd/Austingo/dawson-np.pdf>.

Learn Emergency Preparedness from CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support

emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. The City of Austin has trained more than 1,000 Austin-area residents about how to respond to emergencies and how to be disaster-ready. (Source: CERT brochure)

Training is free and offered twice a year. Once trained, CERT volunteers are asked to educate friends, family,

neighbors and others on preparing for and responding to emergencies, volunteer to make safer communities and maintain their CERT skills.

To learn more about becoming a CERT volunteer, call 512-974-0471 or visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-community-emergency-response-team>.

Sidewalk of Fame

It was a surprise and very pleasing to see a work crew on Cumberland Street a few weeks ago. They were installing an ADA, wheelchair compliant sidewalk along the north side where none existed before. Now it connects South Congress with existing sidewalks.

Cynthia Medlin provided an update at the February Meeting of the Dawson Neighborhood on Sidewalks. (Apparently, we have a small fund from developments for sidewalks, but not enough yet for a feasible project). The section of sidewalk on Cumberland adds to our needed sidewalks identified in the Dawson Neighborhood Plan.

Cynthia has been discussing the Sidewalk funds with city staff and also the safety issue of the particular section of Cumberland. So it should not be a surprise that the work has been going on.

Cynthia is a long standing advocate for neighborhood issues and has a vast knowledge of our history and city planning rules. She was involved in the formulation of the Neighborhood Plan, and we should be very proud to have had her serve as a city Planning Commissioner also. (Current DNA President Myron Smith has also served recently as a Planning Commissioner).

If we had a SideWalk of Fame Cynthia would get the first star.

Other News

- 1) The city approved the Residential Parking Permits (RPP) for El Paso between S. 1st and La Mesa and installed the signs in February. The RPP for Post Road is underway.
- 2) It's My Park Day! was a great success. Dawson residents joined Dawson Elementary School teachers, parents and their children, the principal and her son to clean up trash in Gillis Park.

DNA Draft Minutes: The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Dawson Neighborhood Association was held on Monday, February 9, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. with the president and secretary present. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

No officer/committee reports or actions to record for New or Old Business or Issues in the Neighborhood.

Guests: 1) Greg Anderson gave a presentation on Habitat for Humanity; 2) Dawson Elementary School gave a presentation on its First Knight Club and events; and 3) Daniele Fedonni gave a presentation on Community Health Assessment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.
Sandy McMillan, Secretary

DNPCT 2-9-25 Draft Minutes: Meeting called to order by Peter Davis. Donna Knapp moved to approve, Myron Smith seconded, last meeting's minutes approved. Election of the board: Peter Davis Chair, Marty Harris, Vice Chair, Julie Woods, Secretary. Discussed whether to vote to correct the omission of Chad Cospers in the last meeting's board election and set aside the issue, given his absence. Chair opened discussion of the Front yard Parking ordinance. Chad V. proposed a friendly amendment to the ballot, which was voted to be tabled as not permitted under current COA requirements. Cynthia Medlin shared an update re. Priority Sidewalk program with COA. Discussion of the Parking Permit Zone on El Paso between 1st Street and LaMesa. Results of the Front Yard Parking ordinance vote announced: 9 in favor, 13 against, with 2 abstentions and 2 blanks. Ordinance not adopted by the DNPCT.

Membership report: new pending members include Katie Stoltz, Jon Notarthomas, Erin King, Vicki Gercans, Marco Mancillo, Greg Anderson, Robin Moore and Russell Moore.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
Julie Woods, Secretary