

### South Austin Social Club Meets Monthly at Crow Bar

Since December, The South Austin Social Club has been hosting its monthly meet-up at The Crow Bar. This is a gathering of artists from all disciplines that network to build a stronger community for social change. More than the usual music event, SASC invites socially active artists of all types to join the meet-up and network the old fashioned way.

Everyone from dancers, painters, sculptors, actors, and, of course, musicians gather and share information about the good things they do to make Austin a better place to live. Arts supporters attend, too. The event is hosted by the Christy Claxton Band, and they invite another local musician to share the night. They also choose an artist who is actively working to create a more positive community for Austin’s youth.

Past artist recipients include Dawson residents Sheila Fox (for her work on the Light Project), and Meg Brooker (for her work with McCallum High dance students). Theatre Action Project has also received donations from the social club. The club raises their money by passing a hat around the bar and asking patrons to contribute to the artist recipients’ programs. This has been a hit from the beginning, and the rest of the neighborhood is invited to join the club!

The 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7-9 pm!

April 24<sup>th</sup> - Guest Musician: Quenby & the West of Wayland Band

<http://southaustinsocialclub.com>

## DNPCT Membership Changes since April 2011

Per the new Bylaws adopted in April 2011, DNPCT members must attend at least 1 meeting within a 12 month period or membership status will be suspended. Reactivation requires attendance at a meeting AND continued compliance with membership eligibility.

The following people (active as well as pending members) have attended at least one meeting since adoption of Bylaws: David Adams, Cole Alexander, Julie Alexander, Reed Baker, Patti Bishop, Diana Claitor, Chad Cosper, Claire Closmann, Mary Dallas, Peter Davis, Mike Densley, David Elliot, Cheryl Fillekes, Sheila Fox, Jerome Garvey, Steve Gee, Lowell Greene, Martin Harris, David Haun, Mark Herman, Emory Jones, Eliot Kimber, Donna Knapp, Anne Lewis, Kam Magor, Sandy McMillan, Cynthia Medlin, William Ng, Sos Paloma, Mike Pecina, Kathleen Pixley, Lauri Ramos, Rick Reyna, Rebecca Sheller, Erin Skehan, Jake Skehan, JoEllen Smith, Myron Smith, Miguel Stoupignan, Raul Suarez, and Julie Woods.

The April 2012 meeting marks the first 12 month period since adoption of the bylaws, so, if your name is not listed above, your membership will be suspended if you do not attend this meeting. For more information, contact Peter Davis at 693-2532 or design4spirit@earthlink.net.

### Euclid-Wilson Storm Drain Project Update:

Completed: Water lines on Euclid and Forest have been relocated. Upcoming: The crew will continue improvements to the water quality pond in Gillis Park, which is expected to be completed in April before the summer activities begin. The crew will install storm drain lines along Oltorf, which will take about 6 to 8 weeks to complete. So far, about 70% of the lines have been installed on Forest and, after the Oltorf work is complete, work will continue as the crew re-excavates much of the same area. The removal and replacement of curbs, paving of the street and general restoration will occur at the end of the project. The Project Team will work with the Contractor to advise the residents on Forest before the work is re-initiated. Although our work may seem to some to be in "hop scotch" fashion, this was not by design. We appreciate your patience as we work with the many intricacies of this project. For project contacts and other information, please see the February newsletter or recent messages posted on the DNA’s Yahoo! site.

### Dawson Neighborhood Association (DNA) Draft Minutes – February 13, 2012

**Minutes:** Minutes from 12-12-11 were approved as written in the newsletter.

**New Business: a.** The annual, citywide creek cleanup will by April 14<sup>th</sup>, 9-11 am. Dawson volunteers will meet in Gillis Park. **b.** The storm drain project has started and will take approximately 2 years to complete. **c.** Sandy will accept Dawson’s 3<sup>rd</sup> place award on 2/15/12 for the Neighborhood Habitat Challenge. The annual Challenge begins a new round on 4/15/12. **d.** A photograph of neighbors will take place on Sat. 2/18/12 at the Green Neighborhood sign in front of Sandy & Peter’s property.

**Issues in the Neighborhood: a.** Havana Street is still torn up and frequently closed. The storm drain work that is the cause of this will continue for a while. **b.** The neighborhood meeting with the owners of the Crow Bar ended well.

### Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (DNPCT) Draft Minutes –February 13, 2012

DNPCT board members who were in attendance (Mike Densley, Peter Davis, Sandy McMillan, Donna Knapp, Marty Harris, Cole Alexander, Julie Alexander, Becky Sheller, and Myron Smith) met in front of the entire DNPCT and elected officers. Peter Davis is Chair, Mike Densley is Vice Chair, and Julie Woods is secretary. The length of terms, 1 versus 2 years, will be decided at a future meeting.

**Minutes:** Minutes from 12-12-11were approved as written in the newsletter.

**Membership Report:** New member, Mike Pecina, introduced himself as the new Pastor of the church at 412 Cumberland. Sos Palomo and Mike Pecina are the two current church representatives for the DNPCT. New member, JoEllen Smith, introduced herself.

**New Business: a.** The annual vote to decide whether to adopt a city ordinance to prohibit front/side yard parking took place. Members unanimously voted to continue the policy of not enforcing a front/side yard parking ordinance for the Dawson Neighborhood. **b.** A City of Austin proposal to eliminate the February/July Plan Amendment windows was discussed. The following motion was unanimously passed: Dawson Neighborhood Contact Team opposes any alterations to the current February and July planning area amendment windows. Furthermore, if the City staff or Planning Commission chooses to move forward with any changes, the process used should require a reasonable opportunity for all Neighborhood Contact Teams to formally vote on any proposed changes before adoption. **c.** Donna and Cole volunteered to attend a New Traffic Control meeting on 2/21/12. **d.** Potential changes may be made to the Heritage Tree ordinance in downtown Austin. **e.** Future plans for development at 3800 Congress are pending. The owners may come to the DNPCT in the future with proposed zoning changes.

### Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs)Priorities

The City of Austin is again asking plan teams to prioritize our CIPs --- identified in our neighborhood plan\*--- using a table furnished by the city & to include a reason for each selection. Previously, contact teams were asked to rank their Top 10 priorities from the complete list of neighborhood plan recommendations. This year the city is asking for the Top 5 priorities from only items considered CIPs. Priority rankings of CIPs from previous years remain on the tracking chart for reference & can be changed for this exercise.

The DNPCT’s 2012 priorities are part of the CIP planning process & will be forwarded to relevant city departments for further review & analysis. The City’s 5-Year CIP Plan is updated annually & outlines the City’s projected major capital improvements over the next five years. The Dawson CIP funded in the last round is ADA sidewalk upgrades on S. Congress & S. 1<sup>st</sup>, which is now in progress.

### **The deadline to submit is Tuesday, May 29, 2012, so we must complete this exercise at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

As part of this exercise, Cynthia Medlin would like to speak to the plan team about sidewalks.

For the current CiP Plan: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/cip-plans>.

\* Go to <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-areas> or call 512-974-6439 to request a copy.

## City of Austin Changes Traffic Calming Program

The City of Austin is proposing a change to its traffic calming program. The new program is called Local Area Traffic Management (LATM). Initially this new program will provide a process for mitigating excessive speeding on neighborhood streets. Eventually the program will include methodologies for dealing with cut-through traffic and the removal of existing traffic control devices.

Plan Team Member Donna Knapp attended a training session and reported the following: The procedure is similar to the one we followed to get the speed cushions, but the initiation is very grassroots oriented. That is, the application can and must be submitted by a resident from the street of interest. Applications are dealt with in the order that they are received. The city studies for eligibility, and if the eligibility is determined valid, the city designs a mitigation plan. At that point the residents on the street get to say aye or nay to the plan. The percentage of residents in favor obviously has a great deal to do with whether or not the project is funded.

The guidelines and procedures can be found at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=160679> and the PowerPoint is at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=160205>