

# Dawson Neighborhood News

The newsletter of the Dawson Neighborhood Association

October 2009

## Next Meeting Includes Vote on Plan Team Bylaws

-- David Barker, Chair, Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team

Hello Neighbors,

I want to remind everyone that at the upcoming **Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team** (DNPT) meeting (held with the Dawson Neighborhood Association meeting), we will be voting on new DNPT bylaws. This is an important meeting to attend as it will affect the direction of the Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team in the future. If you have been dissatisfied with how the plan team has operated in the past, please attend this meeting and vote for a change.

The new bylaws do some restructuring of the plan team, setting up a board that can be larger than the current executive. More importantly, the bylaws set out new procedures for handling zoning and land-use changes in the neighborhood; these procedures seek to make the process more open, methodical, and considered than it has been in the past. This year has been a quiet one for development in our neighborhood and elsewhere. But it seems likely that as investment money becomes more available, Dawson will have to weigh in on zoning and land-use changes at an increasing rate. Doing so in a way that protects the neighborhood plan and considers input from all stakeholders is the goal of these new bylaws.

I believe the restructuring committee did a great job on these bylaws and that they satisfy the need to improve our structure and process. Importantly, they also have been influenced by the input of neighbors and reflect their concerns regarding input and safeguards in the plan team.

The bylaws will be discussed and may be amended at this meeting. You will have an opportunity for input, so it is important for everyone to attend. If there is something you would like to see different in the bylaws, please come armed with a possible alternative. The best way to debate these issues is to be talking about concrete proposals. If the revision passes, we will also nominate board members for next year's plan team, to be elected at the December meeting. Please give some thought to who might do this task, including yourself.

### READ IT ONLINE

#### Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team: Proposed Changes to Bylaws

You can look at the draft bylaws we will be considering and voting on at the next meeting. They can be found in this file:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DawsonNeighborhood/files/DraftBylawsDocuments/Bylaws\\_2009\\_rev3.pdf](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DawsonNeighborhood/files/DraftBylawsDocuments/Bylaws_2009_rev3.pdf)

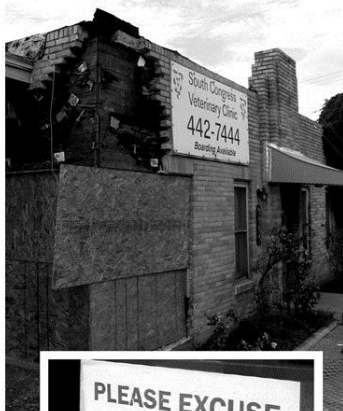
## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### South Congress Veterinary Clinic Open

Despite the damage to the exterior, the **South Congress Veterinary Clinic** at 3300 South Congress is open for business. Apparently, a couple of drunk teenagers were fleeing police and drove a car into the brick front of the building, but fortunately neither the treatment rooms nor the kennels are affected.

Having this clinic in the 'hood is a community asset, but an employee stated that the clinic began losing business immediately after the incident and many regular clients called to see if the clinic was indeed open. Thankfully this business is still operational while it recovers and will continue to serve the 'hood.

~ Sandy McMillan and Peter Davis



## DAWSON NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

**MONDAY**  
**October 12, 2009**  
**6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**

**South Austin**  
**Multipurpose Center**  
2508 Durwood

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### Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team

#### Agenda

1. Approval of minutes (Vote)
2. Membership meeting report
3. Old Business
4. New Business
- 4a. Letter of support for 3116 S. Congress site plan (Vote)
- 4b. Adoption of new DNPT bylaws (Vote)
5. Nomination of officers or Board members
6. Adjourn

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### Dawson Neighborhood Association

#### Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Old Business:
  - a) Peter Davis - Update on Green Neighbor Plans
4. New Business:
  - a) Nominate Officers (vote 12/14/09);
  - b) Discussion on Council Resolution regarding 'Neighborhood Matching Fund Program' (Read online @ [www.ci.austin.tx.us/council\\_meetings/wams\\_item\\_attach.cfm?recordID=19547](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council_meetings/wams_item_attach.cfm?recordID=19547))
5. Current Issues
6. Adjourn Meeting

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**Next Meeting/Potluck:**  
**December 14, 2009**

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## Dawson Neighborhood Association

*Meeting minutes,  
August 10, 2009*

**Minutes** from the 6/8/09 meeting were approved.

**Old Business:** none.

### New Business:

The nominations and election of a representative for the South Austin Neighborhood Seat on the Community Development Commission (CDC):

a. Myron Smith gave a description of the CDC, including the purpose, membership, geographic areas, and membership terms. Myron Smith, as the previously elected representative, provided additional descriptions of the duties of a CDC representative.

b. Cathleen Rodriguez described the CDC's desire to receive input from citizens.

c. Sandy McMillan gave a description of eligibility for nominations and voting, and led the process for nominations and voting. Peter Davis nominated Myron Smith. Jennifer Delgado nominated herself. Each candidate provided a brief statement. Paper ballots, previously distributed by City staff that checked each voter's eligibility, were used in the election. Mark Herman and Mary Villarreal served as ballot counters.

d. Myron Smith received the majority vote (votes for Myron Smith = 13, votes for Jennifer Delgado = 3, and vote abstentions = 1).

### Current Issues:

1. Russell Allen expressed concern about current plans for large oaks to be cut down for a planned development at 404 Alpine.

2. Diana Claitor described her observations of the clearing and rearranging of the creek south of Cumberland Drive. The City of Austin issued a "stop work" order on the work on 8/7/09. Peter Davis provided a diagram describing the need for a creek's flood plain and the need for a city permit before planning work near a creek.

3. Russell Allen indicated that the property at Alpine and S. First Street was applying for Section 8 Housing designation. Myron Smith indicated that many Section 8 designations are expiring soon and properties might be reapplying for the designation.

**Meeting adjourned.**

~ *Rebecca Sheller, DNA Secretary*

## DNPT to vote on 3116 S. Congress

Rani and Nico Ila will give a brief presentation at the October Plan Team meeting and ask the plan team to vote to write a letter supporting their intention to change the use of their property at **3116 S. Congress** from religious assembly (yes, that's right) to cocktail lounge and administrative offices. Some of you will remember that

this was the anticipated use for the property when the plan team voted in favor of the zoning and land use changes on the property two years ago. This letter will be a part of the site plan application they have submitted to the City.

~ *David Barker, Plan Team Chair*

## Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team

### Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2009

-- *Kam Magor, DNPT Secretary*

*Note: Short meeting because very little business; also DNA needed extra time for their meeting following ours.*

Meeting called to order by Chair David Barker.

HEB (on Oltorf). She was here 4½ years ago. She's had a salon there.

**Adoption of last meeting's minutes:** Moved by Becky Sheller to adopt minutes as printed in newsletter. Second by Russell Allen. Passed unanimously.

### Discussion

David: You can do a presentation at our next meeting. We can have a vote here.  
Kathy: What do I need to show in presentation? (Explained that she'd like to sell the property to a law firm.)

David: Would you do a zoning change?

Kathy: Yes I'd like to.

**Membership report** by Kam Magor, Secretary: Nothing to report.

David explained steps in process of *new bylaws*. Newest version is a little different. Mostly cleaning up typos, a little new language.

David: We need to see zoning, FLUM change, restricted covenant.

Laurie Ramos: There are provisions for home offices but you can't put up a sign.

K: Lawyer would need to have sign.

Sandy McMillan: You also would have to consider impervious cover regulations.

Kathy Pixley came to see if she can get her home changed to business zoning for an office. City told her she has to get FLUM change; she hasn't submitted anything to City. They take those changes only in February. Her house is next to

Motion to **adjourn** by Russell, second by Myron Smith.

## Wanna get e-mail updates with neighborhood news?

**Lost a dog? Having a yard sale? Or just want to know what's going on in our neighborhood?**

Join the Dawson Neighborhood Association (DNA) message forum on *Yahoo! Groups*, and receive neighborhood news by e-mail.

Go online to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DawsonNeighborhood>

or send an e-mail to

[DawsonNeighborhood-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DawsonNeighborhood-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

*NOTE: When you submit your request for membership, you will receive an automatic message asking for your full name and address. Please reply with that information because your membership will not be approved until you complete that step.*

Once you're a member, you can receive any messages posted to the list, and you can post messages as well.

### Special Note: **Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team Listserv/Forum**

The DNPT (Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team) now has its own listserv separate from the DNA (Dawson Neighborhood Association) listserv. The DNPT listserv was started last year and hasn't been used very much, but the DNPT officers are going to begin using it now to post materials of interest to plan team members and minutes of DNPT meetings, and as a forum for discussion of plan team issues. Anyone can join the DNPT Yahoo! group listserv, but we ask that only members of DNPT post messages. Last year through some miscommunication, two Yahoo! groups were started for the DNPT. The one we are going to use is named simply DNPT. The one we are going to dissolve is named DNPT Team. Anyone who signed up to be on the DNPT Team listserv will be personally notified when we dissolve that group shortly after our next meeting. To join the DNPT listserv, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DNPT/>