

Dawson Neighborhood News

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

May/June 2018

Dawson Flood Control Storm Drain Project Phase 2

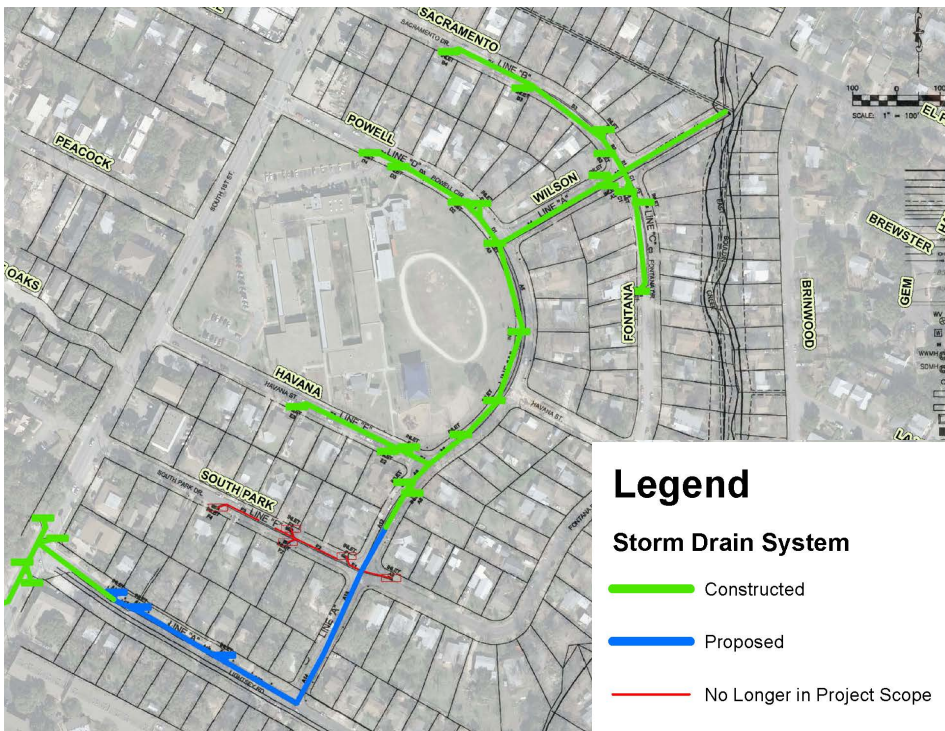
— by Cynthia Medlin

An alert neighbor and concerned citizen on Powell Circle has been tracking the status of the Dawson Flood Control storm drain improvement project for the Powell Circle and Lightsey Road area. He reports good news from Sergio Mendoza, PE who is currently managing this project for the Watershed Protection Dept.

Mr. Mendoza has informed him that on May 24, 2018 a permit will be issued to complete the drainage project for the area on Powell Circle and Lightsey Rd.

Per Mr. Mendoza the contractor has been given advanced notice of this and will receive a formal notice when the permit is issued. Construction can then begin as soon as possible. The contractor will provide the timeline to the City of Austin. By the time this newsletter hits the streets this will, hopefully, have come to pass.

Once the storm drain project is completed on Powell Circle and Lightsey the street repaving can begin in the areas impacted by the storm drain project along Brinwood, Havana, Powell Circle and Lightsey. This will be a long process but in the end well worth the wait.



Next Meeting

June 11 at 6:30pm, Mollie Dawson Elementary, 3001 S. 1st

Agenda

Neighborhood Association:

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Old/Continuing Business
3. New Business
 - a. Report on meeting with Councilman Renteria regarding S. 1st street and other street repairs
 - b. Support our neighborhood pool: pool parties with Galindo
 - c. call for newsletter volunteers

Plan Contact Team:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Old business
 - a. Pickle Rd. parking update
3. New business

Gillis Pool

Gillis pool, at 2504 Durwood St., will be open from **June 11** to **August 12**.

Pool hours are **1:00 PM to 8:00 PM**. The pool is closed on Wednesdays.

The pool web site is:
austintexas.gov/department/gillis-pool

Thanks to our newsletter sponsor!

Melanie Angermann
REALTOR® and Dawson
Neighborhood Homeowner

If you have a real estate
question, call me!

512.949.9457
mells78704@gmail.com



Chicken on Wilson St.
near El Paso

Editor:

Eliot Kimber,
drmacro@gmail.com

Galindo Neighborhood Association to Sponsor Pool Parties

The Galindo Neighborhood Association is sponsoring two pool parties at Gillis pool and invites all Dawson families:

- **Saturday, June 16**, 3:00 to 5:00
- **Saturday, August 11**, 3:00 to 5:00

Ice cream treats will be provided.

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

Protecting Neighborhood Trees: Tree Removal Permits and the TreeFolks Tree Registry

With all the new construction in our neighborhood one concern is protection of trees. Removal of trees above a certain size requires permits, as does construction close to trees.

Tree permits are issued and managed by the Austin City Arborist Program. See <http://www.austintexas.gov/cityarborist> for details about tree rules and the process for tree ordinance review applications.

The Austin municipal code defines a *heritage tree* as a tree having a diameter of at least 24 inches, measured four and 1/2 feet above natural grade (so basically where your arms would be if you wrapped them around the tree and you're not too tall), and is any one of several species, including Texas ash, bald cypress, American or cedar elm, all oaks, pecan, and Arizona and eastern black walnut.

The code defines a *protected tree* as a tree with a diameter of at least 19 inches, measured four and 1/2 feet above natural grade.

Per the municipal code, a protected tree may not be removed unless a permit has been issued for its removal or the tree is identified for removal on an approved preliminary plan, final plat, or site plan. This implies that there may not be a separate permit request for some trees for which removal has been approved through the site plan.

Note also that removal includes not just cutting down a tree but also damage to the root zone or excessive pruning.

Historically the tree permitting and approval process has been slow and cumbersome. The City Arborist now provides online tree review applications with the goal of streamlining the process and making it easier to get timely tree reviews.

If you have concerns about trees on a lot under construction you can now view any permits online.

In addition, TreeFolks and the Austin Parks Foundation maintain a public tree map: <https://www.opentreemap.org/treefolksaustin/map/>. They provide a phone app you can use to add trees to the map. Dawson seems to be well represented.

Dawson Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes April 9, 2018

Cynthia called the meeting to order.

Minutes approved.

Michelle Beebower from Twin Oaks Library shared adult programs and services available at the library.

Mandy McClendon described the South Congress Corridor Mobility Plan Development, a preliminary engineering report. Information and opportunities for input are available at AustinTexas.gov/SouthCongress.

The owner of Cosmic Coffee and Beer Garden, Paul Oveisi, described his business model, permaculture, and desire to make a positive contribution to the neighborhood, including helping to clean up Alpine Pond and work with the COA for a pedestrian hybrid beacon to cross Congress at Pickle.

Jerome Garvey described methods for addressing residential parking issues (see March/April DNA newsletter).

Dockless bike share community forums were announced.

Permits have been delayed for the Wilson Street Storm Drainage project.

Meeting adjourned.

Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Meeting Minutes April 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Eliot Kimber.

The minutes from the previous meeting on April 9, 2018 were approved.

Martin Harris reported on parking issues on Pickle Road raised during the April meeting. Paul Oveisi, owner of Cosmic Coffee was also present to support Marty's report. Though there had been complaints about parking on Pickle Rd, the City had nothing further to report but would follow up.

Marty reported on prior meetings with the owners of buildings on Pickle Rd and development plans that had been shut down because of a lack of site plans. Environmental issues caused by parking in Pickle Road appeared to be of particular concern, something that Paul Oveisi's business was determined to address. Paul Oveisi is determined to find a solution to the problem himself despite continued harassment from the owner of adjacent property. He reported on what appeared to be frivolous complaints about parking, and his chicken coop, though successfully resolved with his neighbors, could not be resolved with the complainant.

It was reported that a resident on Lessin Ln was often unable to find parking anywhere near her own home. Cynthia Medlin reminded the group that the remedy to residential parking was a petition to the city for residential parking permits. This was a specific process that must be followed in order to secure the permit that the city would investigate. If the city's criteria were not met, the permit would not be granted. Beyond that, there was little the DNA could offer.

Cynthia Medlin concluded that there was little the DNA could offer to help except to encourage the membership to pursue the legal avenues open to us and to see how to explore ways to address the problem in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.