

Dawson Neighborhood News

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

March/April 2019

Update on St. Edward's University and the former El Gallo property

— Liz Johnson, Director of Government & Community Relations, St. Edward's University

As you may recall, in February 2018, St. Edward's University representatives attended the DNA meeting to discuss their purchase of the former El Gallo and adjoining Kennedy Apartments properties at 2908 & 2910 S. Congress, as well as the university Master Plan.

In a recent update to the DNA leadership, the university announced plans to seek a partner for a new restaurant on the site. The restaurant will be open to the campus, neighborhood and general public. Over the coming months, the university intends to select a partner and begin the planning process.

Look for more updates on St. Edward's progress in future editions of the newsletter!

More Information: <https://www.stedwards.edu/about-st-edwards-university/campus-master-plan>

Community Development Commission Election

Dawson Neighborhood is the nominating organization for the South Austin District of the Austin Community Development Commission. Commission members serve four-year terms. Our current representative, Julia Woods, was elected to replace Rosanne Singer and serve out the remainder of her term, which expired 1 March 2019.

An election will be held at the upcoming Dawson Neighborhood Association meeting 8 April 2019 to select a new representative. Julia Woods is nominated but anyone interested in serving on the commission is welcome to put their name forward.

To be allowed to nominate and vote, you must be 18 years of age or older, must live within the area shown on the map to the right, and must be at the meeting.

Must bring proof of age and proof that you live within the area on the map to the left. (driver license, ID, utility bill, etc.).

Translation services will be provided at this meeting.

Thanks to our newsletter sponsor!

Mollie Dawson Elementary Where there is a place for everyone!

Dawson Elementary serves children ages 3 to 12 years.

Dawson offers special programming with dual language, STEAM activities, arts-based instruction, and social emotional learning.

PreK for four years olds is open to students who qualify for the program, as well as families who would like to pay tuition.



AUSTIN Independent School District

You are welcome to come by for a tour to see what we are all about!

Please contact Dawson's principal, Tania Jedele, at 512-698-9151, to set up a time for a tour.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 8 at 6:30pm,
Mollie Dawson Elementary,
3001 S. 1st

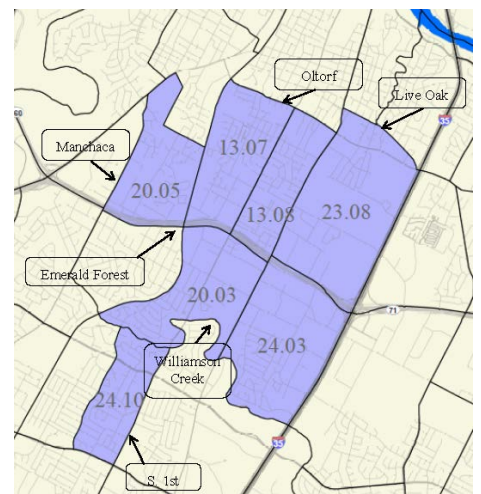
Agenda

Neighborhood Association:

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Old/Continuing Business
 - a. Adoption of Gillis park
3. New business
 - a. CDC election
 - b. Park Cleanup April 20
 - c. Galindo Neighborhood Meeting summary

Plan Contact Team:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Old business
3. New business



Community Development
Commission South Austin District



Palm trees on Frederick St.

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

About the Austin Community Development Commission

The Austin Community Development Commission advises Austin City Council on the development and implementation of programs designed to serve the poor and the community at large with an emphasis on federally-funded programs. The commission also serves as the board required by the federal Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. §9910). The board is composed of both members appointed by City Council and members democratically elected from eight districts within Travis County.

The commission addresses a wide array of issues that affect low-income people and communities, including housing, education, and transportation. The commission also provides oversight for Austin's community centers.

Dawson Neighborhood is the nominating neighborhood for the South Austin commission district because Dawson has the South Austin Neighborhood Center.

See <https://www.austintexas.gov/cdc> for details.

Austin Strategic Mobility Plan

The Austin Strategic Mobility Plan is the new master plan for all Austin transportation improvements, including roads, sidewalks, public transit, and shared services such as ride share, bike share, and scooters.

The draft plan is out for review and the City is encouraging feedback and engagement. The DNA has requested a presentation on the ASMP for the June DNA meeting.

You can find more information at: <https://austintexas.gov/asmp>



Birdhouse near Post Road

Park Cleanup April 20

— Julie Woods

Thanks again to everyone who helped us pick up trash at Gillis Park on It's My Park Day!

We're still working with the city and the Austin Parks Foundation on cleaning up the park so that everyone can feel safe and comfortable enjoying a lovely neighborhood gem. The neighborhood association is working toward adopting the park officially with the Austin Parks Foundation and will be holding regular cleanup events, including on **April 20**, which is the week after Keep Austin Beautiful day.

We plan to invite neighbors from the Galindo and Bouldin Creek neighborhoods to join us in Gillis Park and also encourage our Dawson neighbors to help out at events in those areas. If we all work together, we can preserve and improve our local community amenities that make our neighborhoods special.

Thank you, and see you Saturday!

Dawson Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes Dec 10, 2018

Julie Woods, President, called the meeting to order at 6:35. Minutes approved.

Old Business: Gillis Park -

A. Cynthia Medlin wrote a letter to PARD and asked that they empty park trashcans more frequently. PARD responded that they will collect the trash daily.

B. On March 2, 2019, "It's My Park Day", Julie Woods will organize volunteers who want to clean up Gillis Park.

C. Julie volunteered to research the process for the DNA to adopt Gillis Park. To adopt it, the neighborhood needs to do 4 things for the park. The DNA would like to seek municipal funds for more tables and chairs at Gillis Pool. Marty Harris took a course on how neighborhoods can apply for City grants.

D. Kam informed attendees that Next Door had multiple recent postings, including interest of Galindo neighbors, about Gillis Park.

E. Cynthia expressed gratitude to the City Council's recent plans to address the unsheltered population in Austin.

Meeting adjourned.

Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Meeting Minutes Feb 11, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Eliot Kimber at 6:55 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Marty Harris was formerly elected to the Board by voice vote. All board members were named. Eliot Kimber, Kam Major, Marty Harris, John Murphy and Kermit Johns.

Discussion about businesses in the DNA area followed. Hotel on Congress Ave construction is continuing. Businesses in Lessin Lane area were expanding or moving to East Side. Crosswalk is now active on Congress Ave, but traffic often fails to stop.

A question was raised about deed restrictions on auxiliary dwelling, but it was concluded that most deed restrictions of that type may be unenforceable. Further discussion about short term rentals (STR's) reminded those present that only 3% of dwellings in the census tract, the boundaries of which generally make up the DNA) can be STR's. Therefore, that roughly equates to one STR in a single block. If there are two in one block, one has to be illegal. Several people present reported what appeared to be illegal STR's. While no conclusions were reached on advice given, we were reminded that 311 was available to report violations of different types..

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.