

Dawson Neighborhood News

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

Nov/Dec 2019

Atlas 14: Flood Maps and Development Code Updated

The National Weather Service has finished its update to the Austin area flood maps, the "Atlas 14" project. The proposed land development code now treats what was the 500-year flood boundary as the 100-year flood boundary, reflecting the increasing chance of large rain events.

In the Dawson neighborhood, most properties bordering Bouldin creek that were not in the flood plain before are not in the expanded flood plain. A small number that were just outside the flood plain are now within it. These properties include 2607 Stacy Ln; 2703 La Mesa Dr.; 2718 Wilson St.; 3021 Havana; and 3500, 3505, and 3509 Alpine Circle.

While the proposed land development code imposes stricter requirements on building in the flood plain, existing properties are unaffected as long as they are not modified.

Proposed code changes include requiring properties be two feet above flood level rather than the current one foot (freeboard requirement) and make it easier for city staff to waive flooding-related requirements.

You can explore the flood map yourself:

1. Using the Chrome browser, go to <https://www.austintexas.gov/FloodPro/#/FloodProIntro>
2. Click on the "I want to..." button and select "Explore Atlas 14 Changes"
3. Enter your address in the Address Search field

Gillis Park Adopted

The Dawson Neighborhood Association has officially adopted Gillis Park through the Austin Parks Foundation and Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Adopting the park makes the DNA eligible to apply for park improvement grants from the Parks Foundation. Adoption also emphasizes Dawson's commitment to Gillis Park to the city, making our park advocacy stronger.

As a park adopter, the DNA gains access to additional resources and support for maintaining and improving the park from PARD and the Austin Parks Foundation. The Parks Foundation sponsors It's My Park Day spring and fall and encourages organizing additional work days.

Next Meeting

Monday, December 9 at 6:30pm, Mollie Dawson Elementary, 3001 S. 1st

December's meeting is a potluck—bring a dish!

Agenda

Neighborhood Association:

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Greet guests
3. Old/Continuing Business
4. New business
 - a. Election of officers
 - b. Potluck

Plan Contact Team:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Old business
3. New business
 - a. Election of board members

It's My Park Day Fall 2019

The Dawson neighborhood showed up to spread mulch in Gillis Park for this fall's It's My Park Day. Led by Marty Harris, about 20 people helped spread about four cubic yards of mulch around the south-side trees.

The assembled crew is pictured below.

Thanks to our newsletter sponsor!

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

Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Election Nominees for 2020

The following people have been nominated for positions on the Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team board for 2020:

- John Murphy
- Jason Callahan
- Michael Moody
- Don Dory

Board members have staggered two-year terms that start at the February meeting. Voting will be held at the December 9th meeting.

Dawson Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes October 14, 2019

Julie Woods, President, called the meeting to order. Minutes approved.

Old/Continuing Business:

A. Dawson Neighborhood Association, led by Julie Woods, finalized the adoption of Gillis Park.

B. Melissa Brown updated us on Mid-City Development's plans to develop the Lindsay lot on S. 1st St. Mid-City postponed their request for variances at the Board of Adjustments until December. They are reviewing the new Land Development Code that might allow more height but require greater setbacks from residential properties. It will reduce parking requirements and allow more impervious cover. In addition, "Atlas 14" a study that defines new flood plains, might impact the development at Lindsay site and neighboring residential properties.

New Business:

A. Wes Bickman, a maintenance supervisor with Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) described his personal efforts at Gillis Park to help unsheltered people find housing and to get rid of drug dealers. He emphasized that Gillis is unique among city parks because of 2 distinct populations, "homeless" and drug dealers. He works with APD and Code Enforcement to help enforce city codes and report illegal activities. He described his compassion for unsheltered people he has met and reminded us that all people who obey laws have the right to be in the park anytime but curfew hours, 10 pm-5 am. Marty mentioned that DNA volunteers will mulch the trees in Gillis Park on Nov. 2, It's My Park Day, and Wes volunteered to notify park people of our plans. Wes encouraged us to ask City Council representatives for help in getting rid of drug dealers in Gillis Park.

B. AISD proposal to close Dawson Elementary: Carrie Cordova of Dawson PTA and parent of a 4th grader described frustration with trying to understand the reasons for AISD proposing the Dawson closure. She stated that AISD has not described how specific schools were selected. Dawson has approximately 60% transfer students who specifically selected Dawson. Linzy Foster made a motion: DNA will send a list neighborhood perspectives on the proposed Dawson closure to AISD board of trustees, individual trustees, Austin City Council members, state representatives. Motion was seconded and passed with hand vote. Kam Magor made a motion for DNA representatives to meet with Paul Cruz representatives. Motion was seconded and passed with hand vote.

C. Officer Nominations for 2020:

President: Julie Woods, Vice President: John Murphy, Secretary: Rebecca (Becky) Sheller, Newsletter Editor: Eliot Kimber

Meeting adjourned.

Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Meeting Minutes October 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Eliot Kimber, at 8:15pm. Minutes from the previous meeting on August 13 were approved and seconded.

The first order of business was to nominate a new Board of Directors for a new term. Kam Magor requested that her name be removed from consideration. In addition to the existing members of the board, Eliot Kimber and Marty Harris, the following asked they be nominated to the board for terms beginning in 2020:

John Murphy, Jason Callahan, Michael Moody, and Don Dory

Eliot encouraged everyone to review the map in the Dawson Neighborhood News and online. He reviewed the major provisions of the Land Development Code Draft and what it means for the Dawson neighborhood.

Some discussion followed that the project proposed for the Lindsay's site will not receive more generous zoning under the new code. In reviewing the new map, many existing Dawson lots that border the transit corridors are affected by allowing at least on additional dwelling unit. This may or may not have a positive effect on the residents of Stacy Lane as the west side of this street fall under RM1 zoning allowing up to 6 units. It was noted that only one resident selling their property to a developer could conceivably destroy the character of the street.

Eliot pointed out the language appears to be conclusive to bring in affordable (low income) housing. He pointed out that developers can pay a fee to circumvent the requirement. Some discussion followed on the desire of developers of building low cost housing in an area like Dawson that already had high priced single-family homes and condos.

The meeting concluded at 8:50pm.