

# Dawson Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Dawson Neighborhood Association  
and Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team  
[www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org](http://www.dawsonneighborhoodassociation.org)

March/April 2023

## Last of the Neighborhood Guineas are Gone

The last two of the Dawson neighborhood flock of wild guineafowl have passed, one to a predator and the other to a hit and run.

The flock of guineas had roamed the neighborhood for at least ten years, raising multiple broods over the years. Unfortunately, the last survivors were male, meaning it was only a matter of time before the flock came to an end.

As far as we know the flock started as a flock of domestic birds that escaped or were abandoned. They roamed the the neighborhood as south as Lightsey at least and as far north as Cumberland, if not all the way to Oltorf.

This photo is from 2015. It's difficult to remember or tell from the photographic record, but only one or two of this brood survived.



Guinea are robust birds, not far removed from their wild ancestors. They are loud and fiercely protective of their young. It was many a morning they made their presence plain as they moved up Wilson street and into our yard.

This is the last photo I took of the remaining pair, February 12, 2023:



I know not everyone enjoyed having these loud, aggressive birds around—their calls could be quite grating and they did roost in the neighborhood trees. But on balance I think most of us in Dawson will miss having these unique birds wandering the neighborhood. They were no peacocks, but they were ours.



Guinea brood, June, 2015, Wilson St.

## Next Meeting

Monday, April 10, 6:30  
Cosmic Coffee, 121 Pickle Rd.

## Agenda

### Neighborhood Association

1. Approval of minutes
2. APD regional rep Officer Brodie Sisson
3. Possible development in Wadford Street area
4. legislative update

### Plan Contact Team

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



Guineas, August, 2015



Guineas, June, 2018

## Thanks to Our Sponsor



Dawson Elementary serves children ages 3 to 12 years.

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

## New Dawson Neighborhood List Serve: Groups.io

<https://groups.io/g/dawsonneighborhoodassociation>

## Find Us On Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/DawsonNeighborhoodAssociation>

## Editor:

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





### **Minutes of Dawson Neighborhood Association, February 13, 2023**

Held at South Austin Neighborhood Center

Julie Woods, President, called the meeting to order. Julie provided a Zoom meeting option, but no one attended via Zoom.

1. Minutes approved.
2. Ice storm Mara recovery resources were discussed and distributed.
3. Julie reported on recent events of the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC). DNA members can join "ANC Talk" email group, and view their website or Facebook page. ANC is now a 501c3. Becky was nominated and voted in as a DNA representative to ANC in addition to Julie being a sector representative.
4. Allendale neighborhood recently adopted the resolution that DNA sent to City Council last year to ask for better rules for public participation in council meetings.
5. The mosaic project at South Austin Neighborhood Center stalled during Covid due to inability to meet with neighbors and students of Dawson Elementary. DNA hopes to re-start the project in collaboration with the mosaic artist.
6. Andrew asked about credits for DNA volunteerism in Gillis Park so that DNA can partner with PARD for park improvements.
7. Julia Brookins discussed the possibility of the city purchasing a strip of land on Lightsey to help create a North/South walkway through the neighborhood. Julie and Becky agreed to contact our new City Council representative, José Velásquez about the possibility.
8. Meeting adjourned.

### **Minutes of Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, February 13, 2023**

Martin Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order

1. Approval of February meeting minutes.
2. Austin City Planner, Maureen Meredith, reached out to DNA/DNPCT for informational update. She is a Senior Planner at the Inclusive Planning Division Housing and Planning Department where the NPCTs are now a part since the beginning of the year. She is not the contact for us though. Marty talked to her about our recent problems and past situations and she said we should contact the city outreach liaison for advice. We will still receive notices from them through our registered city DNPCT contact and she wants to send notices to members registered on our contact list. I told her that we are still recovering from Covid, the loss of our Yahoo listserve, (now a groups.io but with less members) and just starting to meet again in person. Also that we are upgrading our website and have mentions of meeting date/times and the email contact on our Website which is how we stay in touch and notify besides NextDoor. Also there was a mention of our DNPCT bylaws which have not been updated from 2011 to comply with their template changes. The last bylaws revision is on the DNA website.
3. Mention of Austin Marathon next week, February 19th, uses our main borders for their path. Expect delays to leave area until around 11am which is about where the 4 mile marker and they will follow soon after to clear as they do every year.
4. Pedestrian Pathway from Lightsey to Alpine Circle: Julia has been meeting with the city Urban Trails Program and they said they would need adoption from the city and funding. The designation of Heritage structures was briefly mentioned.
5. New businesses in neighborhood is Kellys Pub on Oltorf.
6. City permit notice for 2308 1/2 Oak Crest was received
7. Meeting adjourned.