

Dawson Neighborhood News

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

Jan/Feb 2024

It's My Park Day, Saturday March 2nd

— Martin Harris

Come join us Saturday, March 2nd, 2024 for It's My Park Day at Gillis Park

It's My Park Day is Austin Parks Foundation's biannual, community-led day of service occurring every Spring and Fall, where neighborhoods volunteer work in local parks and green spaces on projects such as litter cleanup, tree mulching, invasive species management, riparian zone restoration, trail management, and more. This is a great way to build the neighborhood community, foster local relationships, and connect with other park green space lovers. The Spring 2024 IMPD is Saturday, March 2nd, starting at 9am at our neighborhood park, Gillis Park on 2410 Durwood Ave at the corner of West Oltorf and South 1st.

We will mulch the trees on the North side with app.10 cubic yards of compost mulch provided by the city and do a cleanup sweep of trash in Gillis Park and along the creek nearby. We did this last Fall but mainly to the South side of the park. Trees by the pool and the north side by the pool and the restroom will be the attention this time.

Gloves, shovels, transport compost tubs and trash pick up tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own, if you can.

Open Volunteer Registration is now open, and will probably end on the morning of the event on March 2nd. Please sign up at the site below. You will also need to fill out a liability waiver on the site to volunteer, and we are asking for 20 people for this task.

Visit this site for more information and to volunteer:

<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/group/9012-Its-My-Park-Day-Spring>

Dawson Neighborhood Association became stewards of Gillis Park many years ago and it is again a good community building project that helps to bring our local community together, and with needed to care for our local park and green space.

Please join us for this event!

Austin Marathon, Feb 18

— Martin Harris

On February 18, The Austin Marathon will be running the perimeters of our neighborhood once again. The race starts at 7am just north of the river on Congress and heads up to Ben White and back down South 1st street. The race should out of our area fairly fast. South Congress and Ben White is at the 3 mile marker and 1st and West Oltorf is at the 4.5 mile marker.

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.

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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Next Meeting

Monday, Feb 12, 6:30
South Austin Neighborhood
Center, 2508 Durwood

Agenda

Neighborhood Association

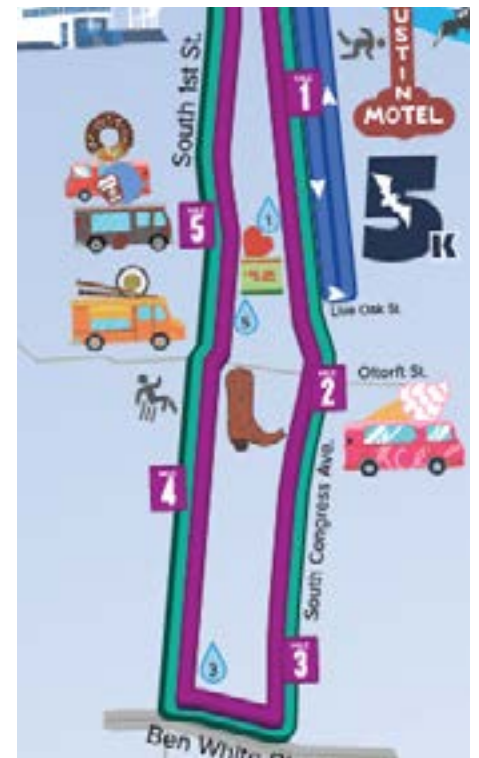
1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
2. Update on the HOME initiative
3. News in the neighborhood

Plan Contact Team

1. Approve December 2023 DNPCT meeting notes
2. Latest City Permits notices
3. New Businesses in area
4. Major fire at the Reyna construction site

Chili Cook Off, Feb 24

The 04 Lounge, at 3808 South Congress will have a Chili Cook Off on February 24th @ 2pm. Doors open @ Noon.



Marathon route around Dawson Neighborhood

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

HOME Initiative Update

— Julie Woods

The city of Austin has attempted to complete a long-overdue update to the zoning and building rules. As a part of that effort, the city council passed Phase 1 of their HOME proposal, which made three major changes in the current rules:

1. Allows three dwellings per lot
2. Loosens restrictions on Short Term Rentals and
3. Allows building houses larger than those allowed under the existing McMansion ordinance.

If you've been following this issue, you are probably aware that many Austinites had objections to specific aspects of this plan. As a result, here were a number of changes between the original proposal and the law passed on December 7; you can see the comparison here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/163vJXRnjEO4GcnPeb9FvsfxoU_KQsTfv/view

Phase 2 will further implement the goals in Phase 1 by making the following changes:

1. Reducing minimum lot sizes, with fewer limits on subdividing existing lots
2. Reducing compatibility limits, limits on impervious cover and building heights
3. Encouraging more dense housing along

transit corridors, up to half a mile from major thoroughfares. These changes have the potential to change our neighborhoods in ways that many of us aren't happy about:

- More cars parked on the streets make pedestrians unsafe where there are no sidewalks
- More paved ground increases runoff and thus flooding, not just next to creeks but also in areas where storm drains back up
- Trees will be removed, making the city hotter in a warming climate
- Existing smaller homes will be demolished, adding debris to landfills and eliminating affordable housing
- More short term rental properties means less affordable housing for residents

The city council's next action on the proposal is at the meeting on February 15, in which more of the details of Phase 2 will be under discussion: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2024/20240215-reg.htm#032>

You can read more about the details of this proposal in the last issue of our newsletter. We will do our best to keep you updated on the neighborhood email group, which you can join here:

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

New Draft Plan for Historic Preservation

— Julie Woods

The city of Austin hasn't updated a preservation plan since 1981, so we're happy to see that this new plan, the result of a couple years' work, has been released for public comment. Here is a description from the summary:

"Historic preservation in Austin actively engages communities in protecting and sharing important places and stories. Preservation uses the past to create a shared sense of belonging and to shape an equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and economically vital future for all."

You'll find links to the Executive Summary and an opportunity to share your thoughts here:

<https://www.publicinput.com/ATXpresplan#tab-30015>

There will be a community launch event on Tuesday, February 13, at Huston-Tillotson University's King Seabrook-Chapel at 6:30 to 8:00 pm (900 Chicon Street).

Thanks to neighbor Julia Brookins for her service on the working group and for keeping us up to date on their progress!

Minutes of Dawson Neighborhood Association December 11, 2023

Julie Woods, President, called the meeting to order.

Minutes approved.

1. Austin City Council District 3 representative, José Velásquez, was invited to this annual holiday potluck, but he did not respond.
2. New officers elected: Julie Woods, President; Eliot Kimber, Newsletter Editor; Rebecca (Becky) Sheller, Secretary. Vice President & Webmaster nominee. Andrew McCann withdrew his nomination. VP nominations are open for a February election.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes of Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, December 11, 2023

Martin Harris, Chair, Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, called meeting to order.

1. Approve last meeting's notes.
2. Vote to elect new board member, Julie Woods.
3. Meeting adjourned to start pay luck dinner.