

President's Report April 2007

by Bill Bednar

I am honored that the Nominating Committee requested me to serve as your president again, and if elected I will look forward to another year of working together with you for the betterment of our neighborhood. One of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee in February was to establish and track goals for the coming year, which I think is an excellent idea. Here are some that the Nominating Committee recommended:

Establish annual fund-raising event
Establish membership committee and chair
Adopt provision for President-elect position

Here are some further ideas:

Neighborhood Planning Team

Training sessions to acquaint NPT and neighborhood with NCCD

Peace and Quiet!!!

Improve communication with UT and City police leadership
Refrigerator magnet with how and who to call about noise
Packets to students
Link to NUNA on Longhorn Housing website
Identify landlords
Letters
Tenant Code of Conduct
Standardized noise/nuisance clauses in leases

Finance

Retire debt to Rick Iverson
Develop annual budget and budget process

Membership

Develop master list of NUNA residents
Conduct annual membership drive and dues collection

I'm sure you will have many more and different suggestions than these. Please come to the membership meeting April 2 to discuss and adopt NUNA goals for 2007-2008. If you need to reach me, Bill Bednar 476-1135 or cell 587 3504.

Next Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, April 2, 2007

7 pm

First English Lutheran Church
3001 Whitis St.

Agenda:

- Presentation by Chris Dial "NUNA Residential Parking"
- Election of Officers
- Discussion of NUNA goals for 2007-2008
- Committee Reports

Proposed Slate of NUNA Officers for 2007-2008

President: **Bill Bednar**
Vice President: **Mary Ingle**
Secretary: **Doug Plummer**
Treasurer: **Charles Hibbetts**
Northwest Quadrant leader: **June Hawley**
Northeast Quadrant leader: **Jeff Perry**
Southwest Quadrant leader: **Mark Feist**
Southeast Quadrant leader: **Jason Davis**

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION TODAY

It is the time to renew or establish your membership with NUNA. We need your support. Please join NUNA today with a check for \$10 per individual or \$20 per family. This money helps pay for the newsletter, for the annual usage fees of the church and AGE building, and for other memberships and expenses our organization encounters. We also have an overdue debt to a neighbor from 2004 for \$1700. Please help NUNA pay back this neighbor. Also, you must be a current member in order to vote at the next meeting.

Adams / Hemphill Park Update

By Mark W. Feist

Lately, we have been wrestling with the “3-headed City dragon” concerning the commitments made on infrastructure improvements within our park. One of the biggest challenges we face in our revitalization efforts is that we must work with 3 separate, City departments to address our concerns. The first City Department- Street & Bridge- is obviously responsible for the streets, bridges and curb issues. Street and Bridge crews will be repairing curbs on 33rd Street and the curbs around the park. These repairs will come in 2 phases. The first phase should begin in the next few months; it will consist of repairs to 33rd street and to repair the damage on the NE corner of the park caused by the replacement of the water main. The second phase will be maintenance repairs to the eroding curbs around the park. The funds for the second phase will be drawn from the bond program money which will be spent over the next 6 years. NUNA is on the list of projects, but it is unknown when the work will begin in the area. After much encouragement by the neighborhood, this department has also agreed to repave all of 33rd Street instead of only half of it! Over the past few months, we have had the City engineers inspect the condition of the Hemphill bridges. Alarmed at their condition, the engineers have fast tracked this work. We have been told that the bridge foundation repairs will be done within the next 2 years because of the seriousness of their condition. The second City Department is the Parks Department (PARD). PARD will approve any plantings or additions to the park such as landscaping, park benches, trash cans, etc. Finally, the third City Department is Watershed Protection which will deal with drainage issues and the creek bed. Watershed Protection agreed to send a maintenance crew on March 20 to cut the trees and brush out of the creek bed and to remove the trash. We would like to have this kind of maintenance commitment from them on a regular basis.

As chair, my personal priorities have been focused on the overall park repair and revitalization emphasizing the rebuilding of the curbs, the repairs to the bridges, and the maintenance of the creek bed. From the neighborhood responses I have received, many are interested in the landscaping and the beautification of this project. Since there are many great ideas out there, there is a need for someone to act as the coordinator or point person for landscaping. Ideally, finding a professional landscape architect to receive and review all the ideas would be ideal; we need to find someone who would then be able to create a long-range plan from all this information. If anyone knows a landscape architect who would be willing to work gratis on this project, please forward the name to the chair of this committee. It will be necessary to have a coordinator/landscape architect on board before the next meeting can be scheduled. Any help here would be appreciated.

I want to thank Roger Binkley for his commitment and effort in helping to “tame the dragon” by contacting the City Departments for infrastructure improvements. I would also like to extend thanks to Jack Brannon for organizing the “Idea Park Tour” on that beautiful Saturday morning

2006-2007 NUNA OFFICERS

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SE Quadrant Representative	Jason Davis jdavis@cs.utexas.edu	
Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative	Mary Ingle	
NPT (NUNA Planning Team) Chair	Mary Ingle	
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Bill Bednar, Pat Campbell, Don Carnes, Mary Ingle, Rick Iverson, Carol Journeay, Cindy Keever, Mary Lehman, Mary Gay Maxwell, Terry McGinty, Jan and Jim Moyle, Marianne Mulrey, Doug Plummer, and Joe Sosa.

for those of us who attended and very much enjoyed it. I also hope others will get involved in the beautification/landscaping efforts once we start that portion of the project.

Do not despair about how long it seems to take to complete a park project. You can do something right now – or at least next month. It's My Park! Day, is approaching on April 14 from 8 am to 1 pm. Please sign up in advance: www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html

It will demonstrate the love we have for our park in an official way. The official number of registrants will help us in our application for grant money for commercial trash cans and another bench. Put on your sneakers and join your neighbors on April 14th to help cleanup our beloved park.



It's My Park! Day
Saturday, April 14th - 8:00 am- 1:00 pm

Please come to cleanup our beloved Adams Hemphill Park.

Registration is necessary with the Austin Parks Foundation (APF). The APF is a wonderful nonprofit organization created to help those who love their parks. They organize events like this one; they have private grant money available for improvement projects (which we will be applying for) and are a conduit of cooperation between the citizens and the impoverished Park's Department. Please sign up with APF even if you can not make the cleanup to prove the neighborhood interest we have in our park. This demonstration of interest will help with our grant application.

http://democracyinaction.org/dia/organizations/APF/event/distributedEvent.jsp?event_KEY=22470

I look forward to seeing you Saturday, April 14th from 8:00 to 1:00. Refreshments and supplies will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Mark W. Feist, 512-419-7248.



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NPT Report

By Mary Ingle

Since there was no pressing agenda in February, the NPT held a March meeting. There was a presentation by some representatives from the Kirby Hall School for their proposed expansion of their school. This group is looking for support from the neighborhood early in the planning process so that their plans might be compatible with the NCCD. Because of this compatibility issue, some waivers concerning curb cuts may need to be granted by the City, as well as, a change in zoning for a piece of property located at 400 W 29th, which is currently MF 3.

Previously in the Fall of 2005, Kirby Hall had plans to renovate and expand an old apartment building at 400 W 29th Street. They met with the NPT to present their plans several times. Those plans contained some challenges concerning the setbacks which were problematic to the NPT and also to the adjacent landowner, John Barclay. Sensitive to all these concerns, Kirby Hall listened and thought it best to abandon these plans for a better but different set of plans drawn up by 2 volunteer architects (parents of Kirby Hall students!), Thomas Nichols and Kennedy Columbo. Instead of a separate structure, the new expansion plan allows for an addition to the east of the existing historic building with a basketball/auditorium/stage on the bottom floor; on the upper floor would be music and practice rooms with an exterior deck facing the park. This current for expansion seems much more esthetically compatible with the existing historic building, Kirby Hall School, not to mention also adherent to setback requirements in the NCCD.

In the meantime, the apartment building on the adjacent lot at 400 W 29th Street has been torn down. The current plan for that vacant lot is to turn that area into a much needed, landscaped parking area for the school. This change in land use would require a change in zoning and a conditional overlay. It would also require the neighborhood to file a plan amendment with some waivers for curb cuts on 29th Street. Carl McClendon, formerly with the City Department of Watershed Protection is shepherding this project through the planning process; he has promised to keep the neighborhood posted on the progress of the school's plans for expansion. Ever so committed to quality, Kirby Hall's expansion is a thoughtful, modest proposal. Kirby Hall is a good NUNA neighbor to have!

The NPT has also begun to discuss the Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) option for our area. **VMU**, a conditional overlay based on UNO (University Neighborhood Overlay), would **only** apply to **commercial properties** on 2 streets in NUNA: Guadalupe and 38th west of Speedway. VMU would allow extra density by loosening building FAR (floor area ratio), would require some units to be reserved for affordable housing, and would have lessened on site parking requirements. In the VMU document it states that **NCCDs would supersede any VMU development**. With this in mind, it is unlikely, after all the careful planning which NUNA did during the Central Austin planning process in 2004 along side of UNO and the rest of

the CANPAC area, that we would choose to opt into VMU for our area. NUNA has a NCCD ordinance. The NCCD takes precedence over VMU anyway; what would be the point of opting in for VMU? This item will be discussed further by the CANPAC group and will be decided by this planning area (CANPAC). Papers are required to be filed by each neighborhood and each neighborhood planning area by June 5, 2007 for opting in or opting out of the VMU option.

The NPT also discussed the current Phi Delt situation. Even though NUNA's Plan Amendment passed in January 2007 prohibiting Club or Lodge in the Residential District, the Phi Delta Theta properties on Duval and 31st Streets would retain their property right to build a club or lodge (since they purchased the land before the Plan Amendment passed the City Council), if they so chose to do so. Several members of the planning team have met with legal representation for this fraternity and with a couple of their Board members of their housing corporation. In the last meeting, a board member agreed to look at some properties in West Campus potentially for a trade of property or to look just for a potential buyer for the tract. The NPT is hopeful that these options will work out for the fraternity and is committed to continue working with the fraternity for a neighborhood friendly solution.

The NUNA Planning Team (NPT) meets the second Wednesday of each month to discuss any issues of concern related to new construction, requests for variances or changes in zoning. The frequency of these meetings depends on the amount of activity in NUNA and the need to meet. If you want to make a presentation to the planning team, please contact the chair, Mary Ingle, at 320-8449 so that you might have a spot on the upcoming agenda. 

Traffic Committee Update: Speed Limit Reductions Scheduled for NUNA

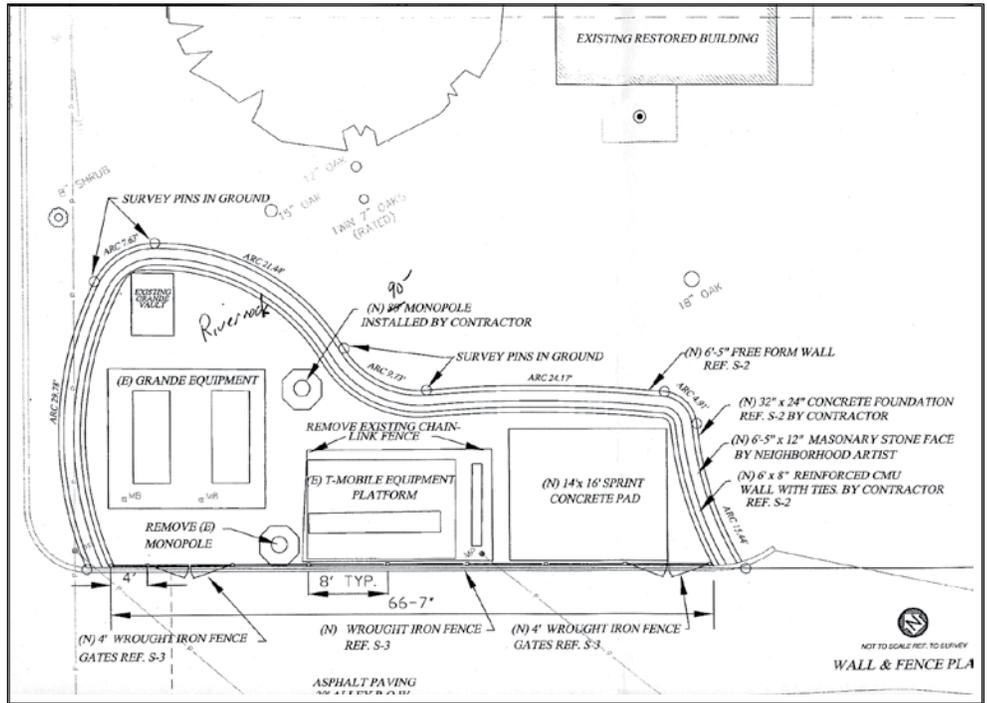
By Jason Davis

Nuna is scheduled for neighborhood-wide speed limit reduction to 25 mph. According to Gordon Derr, a City of Austin traffic engineer, NUNA can expect new traffic signs around June 2007. Once the new traffic signs are installed, the traffic committee plans to talk with APD to make sure the new speed limit is enforced. As reported by the Austin American Statesman last summer, APD's speeding tolerance for 25mph zones is 29 mph. We are hoping that aggressive enforcement will reduce both speeding and traffic volume throughout NUNA. In addition to the speed limit reduction, there has also been a preliminary meeting with Public Works about the missing "priority" sidewalks determined during the neighborhood planning process. It is unlikely, due to the lack of City funds, that this dream for sidewalks will ever become a reality; however, this was only a preliminary meeting with mention of other options for funding opportunities such as approaching Capital Metro with a proposal. Stay tuned for more pedestrian friendly details in the months to come! If you have any concerns about traffic issues in NUNA or wish to be on this committee, please contact the chair, Jason Davis. jvdavis@gmail.com 

Sparky Park Update

By Douglas Plummer

NUNA members of the Sparky Park Planning team met March 6 with representatives of Sprint and the Austin Parks Department (PARD) to review the status of the Sparky Park project. Those in attendance were Kristen Bryant and Scott Patterson of Sprint, NUNA members (Rick Iverson, Douglas Plummer, and Mary Ingle), and Austin PARD Project Manager, Tony Arnold. Patterson and Bryant of Sprint showed the engineering design for the revamped communications equipment site which includes the replacement tower site. This replacement tower will house both Sprint as well as the T-Mobile relays. The site will include the existing Grande cabinets in the front easement. An engineering design of the protective wall/art wall that will be built to block the view of the communications equipment was also reviewed. (See sketch above).



Preliminary estimates are that construction of the wall and the relocation of the replacement tower will start March 21 with completion of the communications site on April 16, 2007. The communications site ties into existing T-1 lines that run off of the old substation building; NUNA committee members agreed that a future effort should be initiated with AT&T to move those lines off of the historic building directly to the communications site.

Sprint indicated that they had sent four years of advanced rent payments (which will be used for the park) to Austin Energy as previously agreed; they also promised to follow-up with T-Mobile for the payment of their portion of monies. Arnold noted that the receipt of funds from Austin Energy (AE) is the last hurdle for hiring a landscaper or an architect/landscaper team and initiating the final design phase of Sparky Park by PARD. Arnold also stated his hope that the site would have so little impervious cover so that it might qualify for a site plan exemption; this would definitely speed up the approval process for the project in 7-10 days. If the site and the design exceeded the impervious cover limits, PARD would need to submit a full site plan which could impede the process as long as 6 months. After the meeting, AE confirmed that payment by both parties had been completed. AE was trying to transfer a payment voucher to PARD but was having difficulty due to the lack of a budget submittal to the City by PARD.



NUNA members also discussed the possibility of obtaining grants to refurbish the substation building which was just granted historic landmark status from the City Council on March 22; several contacts and sources of grant funds were identified. Those individuals wishing to help with Sparky Park are encouraged to contact the Chair of NUNA's Sparky Park project, Douglas Plummer, douglas_plummer@hotmail.com



ANC Update

By Mary Ingle

The most exciting, news worthy presentation at the February Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) meeting was made by John Donisi from the Heritage Society of Austin. Since Donisi was on the Task Force to create within Austin local historic districts, he reported that the Heritage Society had set up a fund of \$5,000 for a neighborhood in need of such a district. He noted that the Heritage Society is fully aware that when neighborhoods try to submit the paperwork for a local historic district status, the lengthy process takes not only time, but funding usually involving professional expertise. Hyde Park Neighborhood has recently hired Terri Meyers, a professional historic preservationist who lives in the Hancock Neighborhood to help with their application for local historic district status. If there is anyone in NUNA interested in working on a local historic district application, now there is some money available from the Heritage Society. Applications are being accepted now. For more details, contact John Donisi-jdonisi@drennergolden.com



Floodlines: Performance Art Piece Announcement

On Sunday, April 22 at 2 pm, Floodlines, a public art/ theater performance will happen in the area of Eastwoods Park, NUNA, and in Hyde Park. This public performance was created and directed by, Jaelyn Pryor, a PhD student at UT, who was deeply affected by 9/11. Based on a series of dreams and memories, this performance piece will explore the sense of loss and memory in a rehearsed but spontaneous, mystical manner. Come join the performance as it passes through these neighborhoods for an "out of the ordinary" performance experience!



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