

Dawson Neighborhood News

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

Sept/Oct 2024

Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan

— Julie Woods, DNA President

In 2012, the city of Austin published Imagine Austin, a city-wide plan for future development, focusing on preserving the characteristics that make Austin an exciting and unique city while improving the quality of life and livability for all residents. The document, encompassing more than 250 pages plus appendices, sought to create a clear-eyed vision of how to improve Austin, and find solutions for a persistent pattern of segregation, along both racial and economic lines, while allowing for well-managed growth.

The text of this plan is available here:
<https://www.speakupaustin.org/imagineaustin#tab-51954>

Dawson neighbors had previously participated a neighborhood-level planning process that started in 1997, in which neighborhood groups worked collaboratively with city staff to create their neighborhood plans. At that time, each participating neighborhood created a Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, which was responsible for working with the city and other stakeholders to try to manage development in a way that harmonized with the neighborhood plans. Neighborhood groups throughout Austin finalized their neighborhood plans over a period of twenty years, including the Dawson Neighborhood Plan in 1998:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/page/neighborhood-plans-and-resources>

The Imagine Austin project team is now working on an update of the plan, after more than a decade of rapid change, which saw challenges like the 2008 financial crisis, COVID, and a dramatic increase in housing costs nationwide. There has also been a decrease in constructive exchanges between residents, neighborhoods, builders and city staffers. Regular training sessions for plan team members ceased in 2018. CodeNEXT attempted to clarify existing building ordinances while implementing policy changes but didn't follow state law requiring that landowners be notified of zoning changes.

Since then, the Austin City Council has passed ordinances (H.O.M.E., H.O.M.E.2, and DB90), which did not organize and clarify the land use ordinances (as CodeNEXT sought to do) but do allow for increases in residential density in an effort to increasing available housing. DB90, which stands for Density Bonus 90, allows for residential buildings to reach 90 feet in height provided that a certain percentage of units are affordable (or a fee in lieu is paid to a city fund for affordable housing). The full text of the DB90 ordinance has not yet been made available to the public, though some of those permits have been approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. You can read more about DB90 and share your feedback here: <https://www.speakupaustin.org/x5140>

Thanks to Our Sponsor



Next Meeting

Monday, Oct 14, 6:30
Cosmic Coffee, 121 Pickle Rd.

Agenda

Neighborhood Association

1. Approval of minutes
2. Questions and discussion with Leah Bojo regarding S. 1st Street variance
3. It's My Park Day and other park news
4. Nominations for officers
5. Reminder: celebration of life of Peter Davis, October 20 in New Orleans

Plan Contact Team

1. Approve August 2023 DNPCT meeting notes
2. Nominate Members to DNPCT
3. City sent notice of STR (short term rental) to CT (property in Galindo)
4. APF IMPD November 2 at Gillis Park notice
5. Gillis Park needs ideas
 - ◇ East Bouldin Creek/Pond clearing
 - ◇ Curve of creek to culvert has large tree debris and limbs in channel
6. APD Quarterly David Sector Meeting 9.24.24

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Dawson Neighborhood List Serve: Groups.io

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

Find Us On Facebook

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

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

Register for It's My Park Day at Gillis Park November 2nd

Open Volunteer Registration is now open and will end on the morning of the event, November 2nd. Please sign up at the site below. You will also need to fill out a liability waiver on the site to volunteer. We are looking for 30 volunteers.

Visit this site for more information and to volunteer:

<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/483904-Gillis-Park-mulch-and-clean-up>

The Fall It's My Park Day is Saturday, November 2, 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 southern side of the park with 12 cubic yards of compost mulch provided by the city and do a cleanup sweep of trash in Gillis Park and along the creek nearby.

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

Dress for the weather as it will get hotter towards noon time. Bring your own water.

Celebration of Life for Peter Davis (from Sandy McMillan)

Update on Peter's Celebration of Life at the Peristyle in New Orleans City Park: Time is 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. or until everyone leaves

We will start with a sage burning ceremony in Peter's sacred space in City Park. If you would like to participate in the burning of sage ceremony, meet at 11 a.m. on the morning of Oct 20th at the cypress grove in city park along Marconi just south of where Navarre hits the Tad Gormley parking lot. We will then have an unofficial second line from there to the peristyle (the park doesn't allow brass bands). Otherwise, come to the peristyle anytime after 11 (someone will be there while the sage burning is happening). If you have a Peter story or 2 to share or musical instruments for break out music, please bring them! Bring whatever you feel honors this special human being

We will have food, such as homemade jambalaya, spanakopita, fruit trays, charcuterie and other finger foods as well as ice tea and water. Not necessary, but if you would like to bring

food or drinks, feel free to do so. We will bring as many festival chairs as we can but if you have a chair please bring it.

If you feel moved to honor Peter in a concrete manner, in lieu of flowers, consider donating to either <https://animalrescueneworleans.org> or <https://www.nolatreeproject.org/sponsor>

Minutes of Dawson Neighborhood Association August 12, 2024

6:30 at Cosmic Coffee...after a big rain

Julie Woods, President, called the meeting to order.

Printed minutes were too wet to read.

1. Update on H.O.M.E initiative after phase 2 approval by City Council was provided. The final amendments were still pending.
2. Update on South Central Waterfront Development was provided.
3. Several people, including Amy, attended to discuss potential upgrades to Gillis Park which was adopted by DNA several years ago. Julie Woods made a motion to make a Gillis Park committee and the motion was passed unanimously.
4. Brittany from Waymo, autonomous ride-hailing, informed the group that they were mapping the Dawson Neighborhood and other Central Austin neighborhoods for driverless rides to be available in late 2024.
5. Abandoned buildings on Congress were discussed, e.g., dance studio, El Gallo.
6. Julia shared that she had called 311 to have fallen trees at the end of Lessin Ln removed.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes of Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, August 12, 2024

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

This was a short meeting at the Twin Oaks Library.

1. Approved June meeting minutes
2. Proposed Amendment to Land Code: Plan to create new zoning code to preserve and create creative/performance venues. Case #C20-2023-026.
3. Gillis Pool Open now.
4. Bldg that was Old Crow Bar in reconstruction, still moving forward.
5. House for sale on Wilson broken was into and Car broken into and gun stolen, both reported to APD. Several houses in area have had mail stolen and dumped on the street.
6. Johnson grass at Alpine Pond was sprayed with some killing agent, sidewalk and berm weeds again cut down, and path weeds partially cleaned. Some tree/bush cutting done and limbs left.
7. City Planning and Permit wants an update to the city ByLaws we use and members register in an excel format. I wrote her to provide the document. Julie Woods has also been in contact with them.

Meeting adjourned