



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



President's Letter

Michael Riley

Our going-rate for dog walks.

It seems like we've had our two weeks of Winter, and I'm already thinking about Spring. In the meantime, however, we are in the midst of some re-landscaping at our house – plants, beds, fence, etc. Some of this will make Spring more exciting, but for the time being this also means that the whole family is spending more time walking our temporarily yard-less dog.

I learned a little more this last weekend about the going rate for walking our dog, and learned a lot more about why I care...

One maple-frosted donut.

It was Sunday morning and I opted to bribe my 11 year-old son to walk the dog. Over the last few years, Charlie and I have gotten in the habit of occasionally walking over to Ken's Donuts and I figured we could get the dog out of the house, get us out of the house, and coat this in a little frosting to ensure all parties were happy.

So we set off toward Ken's. The dog's tail was wagging, Charlie had his football with him, and I had some coffee. Something for each of us.

As we walked, we got an advertisement-worthy tour of NUNA. Neighbors were out walking, talking, gardening, kids were playing, people and animals just seemed to be out enjoying the morning. Folks had that wonderful relaxed and friendly demeanor that we all sometimes have and relish. The sun was shining and the air made me forget August. It was glorious. It was one of those mornings.

Ken's was quiet, and Charlie picked out his favorite: maple-frosted. We started our walk home and stopped for a while to

throw the football in Hemphill Park. Folks walked their dogs around the park, people sat and read, and the gentleness of Sunday continued.

About an hour had passed by the time we arrived home, and I think it was one of my favorite hours of the week: quiet, outside, some sugar, some coffee, and no electronics.

So I learned that one maple-frosted donut will probably buy a dog walk. I also learned that getting out, seeing neighbors, and spending time around our neighborhood may benefit me more than the dog.

For myself, this was a great reminder that one of the things I love about NUNA is that it makes it easy to get out and walk/bike/scooter to places I want to be: donuts at Kens, dinner at Texas French Bread, drinks and food at Hopfields, groceries at Wheatsville, and all of the other great, local businesses and places that are in and around NUNA.

We all choose to live in NUNA, and every now and then it is wonderful to get a reminder of why we do live here. We're a small neighborhood of great neighbors and businesses! Enjoy them!

See everyone in February and around the neighborhood.

Thanks for listening.

-Michael

Next NUNA General Membership Meeting

Monday

February 4, 2013

6:30 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church

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Monday, February 4, 2013
6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Guests:** Officer Griffin, NUNA District Rep from APD, to discuss transients, working effectively with APD, and neighborhood concern
- III. Reports:**
 - CANPAC - Mary Ingle
 - Newsletter - Clayton Maxwell/Julie Willis/
Michael Riley
 - Parks - Bill Bednar/Julie Willis
 - Treasurer - Jan Moyle
 - Quadrant Leaders' Reports - Dick Holland, Mary Ingle, Rick Iverson and Laurie Marchant
 - Other reports: Doug Plummer to discuss Parking Benefit District
- IV. Items for Action:** Discuss new slate of officers (to be elected this Spring, as per by-laws)
- V. Old Business:**
- VI. New Business:** NUNA 2013 - Spring/Summer Neighborhood Events—what do we want to do?
- VII. Adjourn**

Minutes of the NUNA General Membership Meeting 12/3/2012

Michael Riley calls the meeting to order at 6:34.

Agenda changes: APD will not be attending this evening because of Blue Santa drive.

One correction on the minutes: "Bob Kaler said that Mary

Ingle and Lin Team and Mike Riley went..." Laurence moves to approve as amended. Clayton Maxwell seconds. Approved unanimously.

Jill Mayfield jill.mayfield@austintexas.gov and colleagues from the City of Austin have joined us to inform us about upcoming improvement on green water lines.

Pam Bell requested that we add questions about noise from UT games to the agenda.

COA Presentation on Green Lines:

The purpose of the project is to replace and upgrade aging waterlines.

Sharon Hamilton distributes a map of a region called Polygon 337 (including the eastern part of NUNA) to show lines set for replacement.

Water will be turned off for hours at a time.

Streets will experience lane closures for periods of time.

In some areas the City will also replace wastewater lines.

The City is advertising the job now, will take bids in January. Work will begin in April.

They've provided contact numbers for the City staff overseeing the project. COA inspector is also a point of contact.

They will have a meet-the-contractor meeting just before construction begins.

The project will not address storm lines or sidewalks so no right-of-way remediation is involved.

Janice Friesen from Robertson Hill Neighborhood visited to tell us about her consulting business helping people do things on their computers. Her site imnotageek.com has free tips.

Mary Ingle was absent so no CANPAC report.

Michael Riley explained that a certain number of blocks are going RPP:

Duval to Tom Green on 33rd Street.

Tom Green 33rd to 34th and 34th to 35th.

Grooms from 33rd to 34th and 34th to 35th.

35th Street Duval to Tom Green.

Laurence Miller moved that NUNA voice support for neighbors on those blocks seeking RPP designation. Clayton Maxwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Michael Riley volunteers to find out more about a City Council Agenda item on parkland designation and a construction project in Hemphill Park. Where will the parking for this construction project be? Will it impact the trees?

Newsletter formatting costs have gone up — formerly free.

Clayton says that she's meeting with the people doing the layout to negotiate the price. We're currently covering this cost with ads.

Neighbors suggested that we might not need 1000 copies and a smaller print run would economize on costs.

Neighbors requested an insert in the newsletter to show a map of the area and the quadrants and to explain the role of quadrant leaders. Steven Tomlinson volunteered to write this for the February newsletter.

Mike Riley reported on progress on noise advocacy with COA.

Waller Creek Basin topography and temperature can transmit sound powerfully and randomly.

A group of four NA presidents met and drafted a letter that was subsequently approved by the NAs. They met with the assistant police chief to get it on record and have spoken at Austin Music Commission meetings.

Possible solution is changing way we measure sound. One method, called DBA, does not give much weight to bass. Another method, called DBC, does. Most cities use A because it is easier to measure and control. A couple of downtown bars have redirected their audio speakers at the request of hotels. Neighbors are wondering what we might do to get leverage with the bars.

Pam Bell called 911 on Thanksgiving to report extremely loud noise from UT game. Police remarked that they'd gotten a large volume of calls but did not take action.

Susan Pryor commended owners on improvements to buildings and grounds at 400 E 33rd.

Pam Bell moves that NUNA donate \$250 to First English Lutheran Church, where we hold our neighborhood meetings. Steven Tomlinson seconds. Passes unanimously.

Michael Riley adjourned the meeting at 7:34.

Parking Benefit District Discussion

Parking Benefit District Discussion

We want feedback from NUNA neighbors about a potential Parking Benefit District. The City of Austin wants to install parking meters along different (non-residential) streets in NUNA, or a Parking Benefit District. At our February 4th general meeting, there will be a quick discussion on the City's interest and offers for a PBD. Topics may include: street locations that could potentially move to metered parking, revenue sharing mechanisms, and how we would work with the city looking forward. Please come to the meeting to participate in the discussion.

2012-2013 NUNA OFFICERS

President Michael Riley - NunaAustin@gmail.com
Vice President Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org
Secretary Eileen Gill - eileenpgill@gmail.com
Treasurer Jan Moyle - moylejan@gmail.com

NW Quadrant Representative

Rick Iverson - Iver506@sbcglobal.net

SW Quadrant Representative

Laurie Marchant -

Laurie@alexandermarchant.com

NE Quadrant Representative

Mary Ingle - casamia22@att.net

SE Quadrant Representative

Dick Holland - rh02@txstate.edu

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative - vacant

CANPAC Representatives

Mary Ingle, Bill Bednar

(Laurence Miller as alternate)

Development Review Committee (DRC)

Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org

Parks Committee

Bill Bednar, Julie Willis

Internet Server Host

Pallasart Web Design

Parking Permits

Eugene Sepulveda - Eugene@abporter.org

Newsletter Design

The Mod Studio - www.themodstudio.com

Newsletter Distribution

Trish Tang, Debi Rivier-Harris, Don Carnes and Pat Campbell, Rick Iverson and Joe Sosa, Daphny Ainsley, Paul Kens, Carole LeClair, Vicki Ford, Alegria Hibbits, Homer Parsegian, Michael Riley, Clayton Maxwell (with Jim and Jan Moyle as permanent subs)

Newsletter Ads

Julie Willis - Julie_willis@outlook.com

Newsletter Editorial

Clayton Maxwell - nunanews@gmail.com

What is a NUNA Quadrant Leader and What do they do?!

By Mary Ingle

Long ago when I was approached to serve as the NE quadrant leader, I asked that same question.


Here's the short answer: Your quadrant leader is a nearby neighbor who can help NUNA work for you. Your quadrant leader can help you get an item on the agenda at the General Membership Meeting or find the right neighborhood officer or volunteer to ask about residential parking or the codes governing development in NUNA. They also help alert neighbors when NUNA needs to unite to get something done with the City. In addition, quadrant leaders keep an eye out for damaged streetlights, drainage issues, broken pipes and other items that need reporting to 3-1-1.

The pair of "axes" formed by Speedway (running north and south) and 32nd Street (running east and west) divide NUNA into four quadrants — NE, NW, SE and SW. Each quadrant's leader has one vote on the NUNA executive committee, which consists of the NUNA officers and the four quadrant leaders.

What else does a quadrant leader do? Here's a true story from the NE Quadrant. I imagined that with such a lofty title, some dire and complicated task must be involved — but the officer who recruited me said that the job involved reporting burned out streetlights to the City and other matters of concern such as inappropriate discarding of trash! That didn't seem overly taxing, so I said yes and started casing my quadrant for broken street lamps and trash piles. This was fairly boring since nothing ever turned up. But one evening I received a call from a neighbor in my quadrant who happened to be out of town on vacation. Her handyman had notified her that her truck and van (usually parked in front of her house) were missing — and as you can imagine, she was frantic and asked me if I would be willing to go find the vehicles! Even though this request seemed to stretch the quadrant leader's job description, I couldn't resist the chance to play "Nancy Drew" and set out with my trusty flashlight. Lo and behold, I did find these vehicles parked on a neighboring street. The City had moved them to accommodate street repairs. Unfortunately there had been no previous public notice of this work. (As a result, City Public Works now puts leaflets on cars and doors in advance of all new work!) Of course, my neighbor was elated and grateful.

If you're interested in getting more involved in the neighborhood association, quadrant leader is a great place to start — easy

Join the Discussion!
 Listserves are a great way to become more connected with your community. **The North University Yahoo Group** is a hands-on, public communications resource, helping neighbors inform, communicate, and build a stronger community. The list is inclusive, open to anyone who lives in the North University Neighborhood and to people who have a material interest here, such as operators of a business, non-profit, or civic process. One can subscribe by sending E-mail to: **nuna-residents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com** or by visiting the Yahoo! Groups site at: **groups.yahoo.com/group/nuna-residents**



@crimeatx is a crime watch Twitter feed that promotes crime prevention and public safety awareness in our area. It was established by the Central Austin CDC in January 2012 to help inform and prepare the returning student community in the immediate aftermath of the NYE attacks and murder of Esme Barrera. To sign up or learn more, visit **twitter.com/crimeatx** and tweet with the hashtag **#NORTHUNIVERSITY**.

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work with relatively little time commitment. I guess you could add that there's even potential for some rewarding adventure.

NUNA Volunteer Needed - ANC Representative

NUNA is looking for a willing volunteer to serve as the neighborhood's ANC (Austin Neighborhood Council) representative for 2013. The Austin Neighborhood Council is currently composed of 88 neighborhoods within the City of Austin. ANC provides a great opportunity to meet new people, learn about new ordinances and issues that might impact your neighborhood, and improve your knowledge of the City of Austin processes and departments. This job entails attendance at the monthly ANC general membership meetings, which fall on the 4th Wednesday of every month, and monthly ANC central sector breakfast meetings which convene the first Tuesday of most months. The monthly meetings have great informative programs about any number of topics. Depending on one's disposition, this volunteer position is actually enjoyable and f-u-n! If you are interested in this position, please contact NUNA President, Michael Riley at NunaAustin@gmail.com, or Mary Ingle, CANPAC representative at 320-8449.

Life East of Speedway and a Little Geography

By Dick Holland

Greeting my friends who live in Aldridge place, I sometimes ask them if they think I need to produce a visa to cross into their neighborhood from the mysterious place usually called The Grooms Addition. Usually they laugh uneasily, not quite realizing that those of us who live on "the wrong side of Speedway" have a vision of neighborhood geography and politics that in many ways differs from theirs. I usually laugh uneasily too, not quite sure how serious my pointed jest really is. But then uneasy is the way it seems to sometimes be between two of the four parts that make up the major divisions of NUNA.

Imagine a map of NUNA – it may be bigger than you think and it is definitely more complicated than I thought. 27th Street is the southern boundary of NUNA and of the Fruth subdivision, although the old Whitis subdivision would include the south side of 27th where All Saints Episcopal church is. On the north side of 27th are the FIJI House, Scottish Rite Dormitory, and the Presbyterian Seminary. Then we go north to 30th Street, bordered by Guadalupe on the West and University Ave. on the east. This includes the Kirby Hall School, The Spider House, CVS, Trudy's,

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5014 AVENUE F listed for \$319,500
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Adams Park, and the Fire Station. The Spider House faces Fruth, and Trudy's is on the corner of Fruth and 30th. Happily, NUNA also extends to the east side of Guadalupe from 38th down to 27th, so we can claim Ruby's, Milto's, Torchy's Tacos, Thai Kitchen, Changos, and Wheatsville.

Aldridge Place itself is the smallest development in NUNA: Speedway on the east, Guadalupe on the west, 34th on the north, and certainly the north side of Laurel Lane and perhaps both sides. There was a development called University Heights that was sold off the Grooms Addition and it includes University Avenue until it joins Speedway, 31st Street west of Speedway, and Cedar Street. The principal structure here is First English Lutheran Church that faces the end of Whitis Street. I am happy to include both sides of Laurel as part of Aldridge Place, but if you look at old maps, an argument could be made for the south side being included in University Heights. I'm sure you Laurel Lane folks (including the Newsletter editor) will set me straight on this!

The undisputed part of Aldridge Place is 32nd and 33rd between Speedway and Guadalupe. This also includes Wheeler and the south side of 34th Street. A striking feature of the development is that the houses on the north side of 33rd Street have lots that go all the way through to 34th.

Aldridge Place was developed in 1912 by Lewis Hancock as a

"restricted residence addition." The deed restrictions required a minimum sale price, prohibited rental units, and "forbid the sale to Negroes" (a common deed restriction all over Austin at the time.) An ad in the Statesman stated that the restrictions, the character of the buildings, and the cost would insure attractive and high class homes and "the companionship of refined neighbors." Aldridge Place for the most part has remained protected from outside development.

The Albert Buddington house is a block north of Aldridge, dating from the 1860s and is the oldest remaining structure in NUNA. The house is the cornerstone of the fascinating compound owned by Rick and Nancy Iverson on 34th between Guadalupe and Fruth. (For an excellent history of the compound, read Judy Willcott's Neighborhood History at www.nunaaustin.org). The Buddington subdivision was platted in 1896 and is a straightforward rectangle that extends from 34th to 38th and from Guadalupe to Speedway. Its other notable features are the Confederate Womens Home at 3710 Cedar Street and the section of 37th Street that lights up for Christmas.

Col. Horatio Grooms and his family arrived in Austin in 1846, soon after Texas joined the Union. At first they lived with Texas's second president, Mirabeau B. Lamar, who owned 68 acres north of UT's 40 acres. Log cabins on this land were subject to deadly Comanche attack until the early 1870s.

Judge Alfred Grooms's homestead (thought to be at the top of the hill above 31st St.) was platted as the Grooms Addition in 1890.

The Grooms Addition is to this day the largest portion of NUNA, stretching from San Jacinto on the south to 38th on the north, and from Duval on the east to Speedway on the west. Everything is east of Speedway.

Grooms is the neighborhood of two five-way stops, guaranteed to confuse even veteran Austin drivers. The first is the intersection of San Jacinto, Speedway, and 30th, just in front of the Crown and Anchor. Even more confusing is the intersection where University and Speedway join together to become Speedway going north and 31st appears out of nowhere going west. An even bigger anomaly is when Speedway jogs to the left at 31st for two blocks. If you go straight at the intersection of Speedway and 31st, you are suddenly on a cryptic little street named Walling.

On San Jacinto, where the Crown and Anchor sits at one end and Posse East at the other, there used to be the splendid Tower Drug Store, home of the \$1.29 greasy breakfast special of two fried eggs, bacon, white bread toast, and bad coffee. Unless memory fails, even college students could get a charge account. A good neighborhood "geezer test" would be memories of hanging out at the Tower.

Here are two other east of Speedway stories that I was part of – one about a monkey and one about a very rare book. A

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neighborhood gentleman with a monkey used to clothe him in a Pamper diaper, presumably for hygienic reasons, and the monkey loved to hang out of the window of the gentleman's truck, riding shotgun. My children lived for the moments the truck would drive down the street, the monkey's tail waving in the breeze outside the confines of the Pamper.

The aforementioned rare book was sold by the book dealer and NUNA resident Dorothy Sloan to Southwest Texas State University where I was Special Collections Librarian for ten years. The book was Cabeza de Vaca's *Relacion Y Comentarios*, (1555) considered the first book that describes Texas. Dorothy had the book in her modest house on Walling St. when I picked it up to take it to San Marcos. High end book transactions were a little more casual back then.

The old main building at UT (otherwise known as Old Main) was razed in 1934, and the saved materials were made available to builders. The brick from Old Main has a beautiful 19th-century mellowness to it, and can now be seen in the house at 309 Moore Blvd. and what looks like a big house next door on the corner, that was built as a downstairs/upstairs duplex by an "old maid" Home Economics professor in 1935.

A beautiful part of the Grooms Addition was destroyed in the late 70s and early 80s when Tom Green south of 32nd was razed and the big house at the top of Grooms Street and 32nd was sold

by the Presbyterian Seminary. Both of these blocks very quickly became apartments (later condos of course) and a lot of the charm of the neighborhood vanished. I don't think the Grooms Addition ever recovered. In the meantime, Aldridge Place has remained intact because of its iron-clad deed restrictions.

Not to be paranoid or anything, but NUNA folks should never forget the presence and power of our grand neighbor to the south, the University. You only have to keep in mind how quickly two city streets, San Jacinto and Speedway, became part of the university, one only available by parking permit, and now the other not available at all. Everyone complains about Austin's growth as they try to drive downtown on Guadalupe Street. I say we shouldn't forget that two of the main north/south city streets that we used all of the time to get downtown were suddenly taken from us. One feels that the City of Austin must have been at a dis-

tinct disadvantage in any negotiations that occurred with UT and that a mere neighborhood association had no input whatsoever.

Dharma—Authentic Neighborhood Yoga

I found something out today that strikes me as surprisingly cool—our neighborhood yoga studio, Dharma Yoga, where I've been practicing for about a year, is the site of the original Half-Price Books on Guadalupe. Without knowing it, I've been savoring little bits of yogic bliss in the same room where I used to browse for books in college. That's some good recycling. I made this little discovery while talking with Keith Kachtick, one of the owners of Dharma, at the studio. In what follows, I talk with Keith about what makes this neighborhood yoga studio such a great place to call om.

Clayton Maxwell: What makes Dharma different from other yoga studios in town?

Keith Kachtick: At last count there were about 40 studios in central Texas, in the greater Austin area. And although Austin's thought of as being a very progressive yoga place, there are very few studios that actually teach authentic yoga. Most yoga tends to be kind of asana (postures) jazzercise in front of mirrors, in heated studios, and its more about preening in front of the mirror as opposed to doing something that is the opposite-- making you more selfless, less ego-driven. So the fact that we embrace



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what traditional Indian yoga is first and foremost about—a practice that’s spiritual—and then combine it with Buddhism... I mean there are very few places in the country that actually do that, combine Tibetan Buddhism and Zen with traditional Indian yoga.

CM: Do you think that someone unfamiliar with Buddhism or Zen will still find it accessible?

KK: Definitely. The good thing about Buddhism is that you can practice Buddhism and be Christian or be agnostic or be Jewish or be anything. It’s not necessarily a religious practice. It’s a very customizable practice.

So it’s great for people who’ve practiced yoga for years and its great for people who have never done yoga before. Think of



what a wonderful entry into the world of truth seeking to practice at Dharma yoga.

CM: How long have you been in this location?

KK: We opened Dharma in 2005 over at 41st street, but we quickly outgrew there and so then we moved to this space, which was the original Half-Price Bookstore. So I used to hang out here when I was in college.

CM: Oh, this was that Half-Price Books? I used to hang out here all the time. And I didn’t know you went to college here..

KK: Yes, I was a Plan 2 major back in the Seventies. So coming back here 30 years later is really kind of interesting, to come full circle back to this space.

CM: Ok, so what if I’ve never practiced yoga before. What can I expect when I walk into in the door as far as what I will actually do?

KK: If you’ve never done yoga before you’d want to take a look at our website. We have 26 classes a week which range from very gentle restorative and gentle Hatha classes to very vigorous vinyasa classes. You just show up about ten minutes before class, no need to pre-register. And one thing we really stress at this studio is that given the choice between listening to the teacher or listening to your body, you should listen to your body. If your body says, ‘Hey, I need to take a break,’ or ‘Hey, I need to modify this, it’s not feeling right,’ that’s the practice. That’s an authentic

practice, to really stay mindful to what your body is up to on any particular day. Be mindful about it.

CM: If I’m interested in meditation, are there specific classes that really focus on it?

KK: Well, it’s all meditation. Traditional, cross-legged, seated-with-your-eyes-closed-meditation is something we try to do in every class. The gentle hatha classes and the Dharma Yoga classes, which are actually listed on the schedule as “Dharma Yoga,” will have more seated meditation. We have some weekly meditation classes that are six-weeks series and they are nothing but seated meditation and Dharma. So yes, our classes are a great introduction to seated meditation as well. For many, many centuries, yoga practice was first and foremost a physical warm-up for seated meditation. We really try to embrace the spirit of that and do as much meditation as we can.

CM: Well, I know your 8am meditation instructor, Kelly—she’s a mom at Lee Elementary.

KK: And a lot of people who practice here live within walking or biking distance from the studio. At any given time half the class is over at Wheatsville grocery shopping. Yes, we really think of this as a neighborhood studio.



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