

President's Report February 2007

by Bill Bednar

The most pressing item on the agenda for February's membership meeting is to appoint a nominating committee for incoming officers. Actually, we were supposed to do this for the December meeting, but I didn't look at the bylaws in time, and so we are two months behind. If we appoint the committee in February, receive a slate at the March meeting of the Executive Committee, publish it in the newsletter and on the web, and hold the election in April, we will be back on schedule. The Executive Committee will recommend a nominating committee at the February meeting.

In this connection, please consider donating some of your time to NUNA! There are great and good things on behalf of the neighborhood that have gone wanting for lack of people to do them. Mark Feist is doing a fine job of getting together a work group for the improvement of Hemphill-Adams Park, but he needs more help. Jason Davis needs help with traffic concerns. The time has come to appoint a Sparky Park Committee; since construction of the park will begin soon, this committee will deal with issues related to the site such as securing matching grant funds for the renovation of the substation building. The Neighborhood Planning Team needs fresh faces and ideas. One area that has received little attention is Peace and Quiet. I know there are plenty of you out there who would like more of it in the neighborhood. I've managed to get a letter off to the City about Stubb's and the noise ordinance, but there is much more that a determined bunch of NUNA neighbors could accomplish. I'd love to find somebody who will follow up on my letter to the owner of the property at 3423 Guadalupe to clean up the trash and construction debris. That person need to be a pest who will deluge the owner and the City with phone calls, letters of complaint, petitions, etc. until something gets done. (By the way, Zen is not the culprit. I went by and talked to the management. They just lease the ground floor, and they have tried to get the owner to clean up too, but unsuccessfully.) We need a fund-raiser to pay Rick Iverson back. We need a membership drive. And the list of stuff goes on. I'm going to follow Mark Feist's lead and publish this report on the NUNA Yahoo Group as well as in the newsletter in the hope of attracting more of you to get involved.

Meanwhile, we have had a significant victory in getting our NCCD plan amended to prohibit club or

(Continued on next page...)

Next Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2007

7 pm

First English Lutheran Church
3001 Whitis St.

Agenda:

Reports:

President - Bill Bednar

Treasurer - Charles Hibbetts

Committee Reports

- Presentation about Sparky Park by Ricardo Soliz from PARD
- Appointment of a nominating committee
- Update on Phi Delt properties on Duval- next step
- Approve the NPT recommendation about proposed duplex at 3404 Cedar

DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES!

This is the time of the year to renew or establish your membership with NUNA. We need your support and your money! 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 for \$2100.

Please help NUNA. We will be collecting dues at the next membership meeting on February 5. If you are unable to attend, please send your dues today to

Charles Hibbetts
110 W 33rd Street
Austin, 78705.

Thank you so much for your support. As with all volunteer organizations, every penny counts, and we need your support! Don't wait a minute longer; join today!

...Presidents Report February 2007

(Continued from previous page...)

fraternal lodges in our residential district (the residential district already outlaws group residential which includes fraternity residences). This amendment became effective in January with emergency passage and covers the entire residential district of NUNA except for the property on Duval which is still owned by the Phi Deltas; this property still needs to be negotiated. Many thanks again to our core stalwarts (Mary Gay Maxwell, Mary Ingle, June Hawley, and Rick Iverson) who pushed this through. The next step is for the NUNA membership to approve measures that will either enable the fraternity to find other more suitable property or, failing that, grant us a restrictive covenant that would impose the club or lodge prohibition on future owners. I hope to have some specific recommendations by the February or April meeting. Please see the earlier newsletters for more background and detail.

One final plea from our treasurer, Charles Hibbetts, "get your dues in because we're almost broke." Mail a check for \$10 per person or \$20 per family to him today:

Charles Hibbetts, NUNA Treasurer
110 West 33rd Street
Austin, TX 78705

That's all for now. We have a lot of work to do as a neighborhood!

Bill Bednar
476-1135
587-3504 cell



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Hemphill Park Needs Your Help

By Mark Feist

To start off 2007, I am appealing to those in the neighborhood that have an interest in improving the state of Adams-Hemphill Park. The park has been in steady decline with very little infrastructural or beautification improvements done to it since its conception. The erosion has taken its toll on the curbs & bridges to the point of creating safety issues. Roger Binkley and I had a meeting with an engineer with Street and Bridges this week to bring to the attention the state of disrepair and erosion that has occurred around our bridges. We stated that we want to save the structures because of their historical significance and to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood. The engineer agreed that saving the bridges could be done and should be done. He said building new ones would not blend with the fabric of the neighborhood and that foundation repairs need to be done before we have a catastrophic failure. He was concerned of the erosion around the bridges and is trying to bump us up on the list to have the foundations repaired before we lose them completely. We came away from the meeting that repairs would be done in accordance to neighborhood esthetics and within 2 budget years. He said he would do his best to get the 32nd street bridge in this year's budget because of it's present state if at all possible. We will be working with him to see exactly how the repairs will be done and will be keeping all up-to-date the progress.

There are several different areas that we need to address separately. Having different areas of interest will allow us to break the project down into a manageable size and allow everyone to participate in an area they are truly interested in. To start, I think we can safely say these are the basics:

- 1) Infrastructural: Addressing eroding curbs, creek bed, bridges, and surrounding structures.
- 2) Landscaping: Coordinate a plan to enhance the beauty of the park while keeping its functionality in the open areas.
- 3) Adams Park: Address issues pertaining to safety. Upgrading the swing set & play gym and provide a walk for children to safely cross 30th to access the playground.

I think that separating the park in parcels would also make it more manageable when we start working on these areas: 33rd to 32nd, 32nd to Wheeler, Wheeler to 30th, and Adams Park.

Please respond by providing your contact information and indicate which area you would be interested in working on. Once I get the list of people who would be interested in participating, and in what area, I will contact you to schedule a meeting with that particular group. I look forward to working with all that are interested.

Mark W. Feist
404 West 33rd Street
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Traffic Committee Update

by Jason Davis

Since outlining the objectives of NUNA's traffic committee in last month's newsletter, several of you have contacted me with ideas, and others of you have expressed similar concerns regarding traffic. We are on the waiting list for a traffic study for our neighborhood roads. The city informed me that we should expect this study to happen around April or May of this year. Unfortunately, this estimate may be a bit optimistic. According to an article in the January 19th edition of the Austin Chronicle, there are 168 neighborhoods waiting for traffic calming devices, and there are no funds in the city budget to cover any of these requests. We are currently contacting city officials to see what can be done about this situation and are also looking into alternate means of alleviating traffic problems within the neighborhood.

If you would like to help out with these neighborhood traffic efforts, please contact me:
jdavis@cs.utexas.edu



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A Sparky Park Update

By Mary Ingle

The long awaited construction of Sparky Park is slated to begin in March 2007 which is just around the corner! Ricardo Soliz, the Division Manager of Planning from the Parks Department, will make a short presentation about the park plans at the next NUNA membership meeting on February 5. This should be an informative session; there will also be time for any questions concerning the construction. In conjunction with this presentation, there will also be an opportunity for neighbors to participate on a committee which will deal with various issues connected with the park.

One thing which may impede the initial construction of the park is the relocation of the cell phone companies on one tower and the relocation of all their equipment around a single pole. Unfortunately, the process of relocation has not started yet. Right around Christmas 2006, the final agreement between Austin Energy and the 2 cell phone companies, Sprint and T-Mobile, was signed; this process had been stalled out ever since the beginning of 2006 due to some internal bureaucratic disputes at Austin Energy. After the signed agreement, the 2 companies were to have been amalgamated on one pole closest to the Grooms Street; however, that old pole was determined by several engineers to be unsuitably unstable for the transition. The solution for this problem was to order another more stable pole from Austin Energy; the cost of this pole will be split between the two cell phone companies. A timely replacement is wished for since construction of the park may not begin until the cell phone tower and equipment situation is resolved. As one can see, there have been **many obstacles** to overcome before the construction of this rather small pocket park may commence.



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