

The Way We Were:

Why NUNA Invented Residential Permit Parking

"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it." ...George Santayana.

Because we're such a vibrant, changing neighborhood, and parking is an issue that's receiving greater attention now, let's remember NUNA as it was - and see what we learned. The year was 1996. What does NUNA look like? Streets are lined, bumper-to-bumper, with UT commuter parked cars, reducing traffic to a single lane. Cars meeting in the remaining lane can't pass. Children and adults on bicycles have to share the middle of the street with moving cars. Children on foot or bike dart between cars parked on the curb into the path of oncoming traffic. Fire trucks and EMS vehicles can't get to homes quickly, and "hook-and-ladder" trucks can't even turn corners because of streets reduced to one lane by parked cars. Garbage and recycling collection is disrupted because bumper-to-bumper traffic blocks access to the curb. Collection, delivery, and repair trucks completely stop traffic in the street by blocking the only available lane. Finally, streets crammed to the maximum with parked cars, some left for days at a time, are simply unattractive. City officials agree that intense parking over time corrodes property values.

This scenario is not hypothetical or alarmist. It was a well documented reality in 1996. What's interesting is what NUNA members did. They didn't turn to the City for a solution - they took matters into their own hands and

Next NUNA Neighborhood Meeting

February 1, 2010, 7:00 P.M.
First English Lutheran Church
3001 Whitis

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements
3. Program - Parking Benefits Districts
4. Reports
5. Action Items
 - a. Publish Nominating Committee Report
 - b. Appoint Sparky Park Committee
 - c. Consider NCCD amendment to make group residential use a conditional use in non-residential areas of NUNA .
 - d. Consider NUNA position re Pay Station Parking Projects
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Adjourn

crafted the Residential Parking Program (RPP) that was adopted by the City and soon spread to other neighborhoods. NUNA formed a Parking Committee with Chris Dial, Regan Gammon, Cindy Kever, Suzanne Pringle, and Ike Templin. Chris volunteered to be the NUNA Parking Coordinator, and remains so to this day. As Chris says, "I love our neighborhood and want to contribute my time to help keep the 'Hood a wonderful place to live." She appreciates how important parking is to our quality of life.

The Parking Committee conceptualized the idea of the RPP, thought the details through, and wrote up a compelling argument for its adoption. Then, the Committee circulated a

(continued)

Resident Parking Invented...

continued

petition to all involved NUNA neighbors to determine their support for the RPP. Finally, streets were surveyed house-by-house to determine if the required 80% of property owners supported residential parking on their block.

The Austin American Statesmen heard of the initiative and highlighted NUNA's parking dilemma, quoting NUNA officers Robert Morris and Suzanne and Ross Pringle (April 16, 1996) and outlining experiences of children put at risk by cars on narrow streets, residents unable to park in their own drive-ways because of student cars, and the concerns of City Traffic Engineers. NUNA asked the City to support a neighborhood self-administered Residential Parking Program (RPP) to control commuter parking, which was passed by the Austin City Council in May 1996. As always when such an effort is successful, NUNA members turned out in force at meetings of city boards and the City Council to tell the story of a better way to manage parking problems. Our RPP pilot program began in January of 1997. The RPP became a permanent program with the City in 1998. Perhaps what is most notable

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is that the RPP is self-administered by NUNA. Neighborhood volunteers run it. Perhaps that's why it works so well? The NUNA streets that currently use our RPP are: W 32nd, W33rd (to the Park), W 35th, Lipscomb, Laurel Lane, Moore Blvd, Hemphill Park, Wheeler, and Tom Green. If you are interested in instituting the RPP in your area, call Chris Dial (472-0173) for information.

Take home lessons? NUNA is again faced with parking opportunities and issues (see the President's Report and an article in this issue). We have the talent and expertise to arrive at constructive solutions. Maybe it's time for a broad and thoughtful look at our neighborhood parking objectives?

From the NUNA President

Since December, much time and effort in CANPAC and NUNA has been devoted to study of the University Area Partners' negotiations with the city for a "parking benefit district." University

(continued)

From the NUNA President... continued

Area Partners is an association of businesses located generally along Guadalupe St. and in the West Campus area. The plan would basically replace about 400 free parking places in the West University area with pay-station parking. Part of the revenue would be dedicated to sidewalks and other right-of-way amenities in West University. The details are in this issue's article on the subject, which I urge you to read for several reasons. First, there is potential adverse impact because of overflow student parkers in the surrounding neighborhoods, which already have an excess of University-related parkers. Second, the proposed UAP district would, as planned, include a small portion of NUNA. Third, volunteers in NUNA have been at work since September exploring the pros and cons of having our own parking benefit district in NUNA. In addition to the article, there will be a presentation at the February membership meeting to keep everyone up to date. And no, nobody is proposing to put parking meters around Hemphill Park, if I may be permitted to squash that rumor yet one more time!

There continues to be interest in establishing historic districts in Grooms, Buddington, and Aldridge Place, although as is usual in neighborhood matters, opinions are divided. Realistically speaking, Aldridge Place appears to have the best prospect of mustering the 51% vote necessary to submit an application. There are many advantages to historic district status, not the least of which are the increase and retention of home values experienced nationwide in such districts.

Whether you are a supporter or a doubter, you are welcome in the working group, which is the place to have beneficial influence. Both Buddington and Grooms have active working groups, but we are in need of some more volunteers in Aldridge Place. Please contact Roger Borgelt if you are interested, 469-7474. We look forward in February and March to completing a set of design standards and publicizing them to Aldridge Place residents for

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further evaluation and support. The goal is to put together a concept for the Aldridge Place Historic District that is sensible and compatible with the wishes of residents. Come help!

Remember that our membership meeting will be at First English Lutheran at 7:00 PM on February 1, 2010. See you there!

Peace,

-- Bill Bednar

Nomination of NUNA Officers on Fast Track

The NUNA Officer Nominating Committee, chaired by Regan Gammon, met three times to complete its task by the February meeting. During the first meeting, members agreed on two key principles.

First, that NUNA, as a vibrant Central Austin neighborhood, needs leaders with savvy, experience, and the ability to navigate complex situations with subtlety. Secondly, the Committee emphasized that new faces in leadership roles were needed. Most of the Committee's time was spent naming terrific people in the 'Hood with critically needed talent and expertise, and wondering how to encourage folks to be involved in even limited ways with the Neighborhood Association as their time permits. A potential slate of new officers will be published before the February General Membership meeting. Voting takes place during the April meeting, when additional officer nominations are also taken from the floor. Nominating Committee members are: Regan Gammon, Carol Journeay, Mary Gay Maxwell, Chris Dial, Kimberly Renner, and Kathryn Kotrla.



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Pay Station Parking – Let's Do It Our Way!

A discussion of adding more pay station parking (PSP) in Central Austin has begun between local businesses, City staff and elected officials. Neighborhood Associations have recently joined the in, and CANPAC was briefed about the topic by City staff on January 20th. In the Eastwoods Neighborhood, some pay station parking has already appeared without the input of the neighborhood, so there's a widespread sense of urgency in getting a "seat at the table" before decisions about parking in other areas, including NUNA, are made. To begin to understand the issue and its importance, please come to the NUNA General Membership Meeting on Monday evening. Our program will focus on parking plans in and around NUNA that could impact our quality of life. The City of Austin has a plan to replace all coin operated parking meters with the PSP that you see on Guadalupe, and now on the West side of Eastwoods Park. Many 2-hour parking sites around UT are being turned into PSP spots because parking compliance is easier to enforce with pay stations than with coin meters. NUNA Officers Scott Morris and Doug Plummer have been in discussions with the City for some months about parking in NUNA. Scott and Doug will present their information during our Program, and answer your questions.

(continued)

A Walk in Adam's Park

Every park has its day, and Saturday, February 20th is Adam's Park's Day to receive the attention it deserves. Please come and join your neighbors for a 2-hour Adams Park Trash Pickup. Meet at the Adam's Park sign at the entrance. Trash bags will be provided. The task may be trash, but the companionship is pure gold. See you there! Saturday February 20th, 10:00-12:00.

Pay Station Parking... continued

As Bill Bednar points out, there are only so many parking spaces in a usable radius around UT. Hence, NUNA is inextricably linked with the other CANPAC neighborhoods, along with the University Area Partners (UAP--the businesses on and West of Guadalupe). Parking decisions in neighboring areas can move drivers (and their cars) into NUNA. Local businesses (UAP) may want parking for their clients while neighborhoods might oppose customer parking; i.e., there may be inherently conflicting agendas. The issue for NUNA, then, is to understand and adapt to complex changes occurring throughout Central Austin. Given the stakeholders involved in parking issues, including multiple Central Austin neighborhoods, students, local businesses, and the City, NUNA is challenged to work collaboratively while asserting our unique objectives and developing a proposal through which our objectives are achieved and sustained.

The PSP issue becomes more intriguing because the City has indicated that a portion of parking station revenue from NUNA could possibly be dedicated for use in NUNA--to improve walking, biking, and traffic infrastructure. Others observe that the City has not shown the capacity or the will to track funds for past neighborhood initiatives, and so PSP revenue could easily disappear into general City funds. "Trust but verify" seems the prudent approach in developing NUNA's position. CANPAC (the association of Central Austin neighborhoods) has been studying the parking issue and raising questions about the City's ability to track, account for, and disperse parking revenue funds to individual neighborhoods. Concerns have also been raised that there is not a defined, adequate process for citizen participation in decisions about parking in their neighborhoods.

Mary Ingle, who is CANPAC Co-Chair, and Robert Morris, NUNA's CANPAC representative will join Scott Morris and Doug Plummer at the General Meeting to discuss parking issues. Mary

understands how this situation is perceived by other neighborhoods and by some city leaders.

Please attend the General Membership Meeting and be heard on this issue. It's important that NUNA participate broadly and effectively in the decisions about parking in Central Austin, and that we have a say in guiding the use of any resulting revenue available to improve neighborhood infrastructure. This article doesn't do justice to the nuances of the issue.

Parking Recommendations... From the NUNA Executive Committee

At its meeting on January 11, the NUNA Executive Committee considered the impact of the city's pay-station parking program on NUNA and surrounding neighborhoods. University Area Partners has been negotiating with the city for a "parking benefit district" that would replace about 400 free parking places in West University with pay-station parking, with a portion of the revenues

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being dedicated to sidewalks and other right-of-way amenities. As planned, the UAP plan would include a small portion of NUNA.

The Executive Committee approved President Bill Bednar's letter to UAP requesting

that NUNA be included in the planning process and that NUNA territory not be included in their proposed parking benefit district.

(continued)

The Executive Committee recommended that the general membership of NUNA

1) Retain the integrity of our neighborhood planning area by removing any NUNA areas from the UAP district, and 2) Establish a NUNA Parking and Infrastructure committee to study and recommend to the executive committee and general membership a process to plan for NUNA's parking and infrastructure needs.

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Greater NUNA - Events and Information

Micah 6 Worship Service

On Sunday, February 21 at 1:30 p.m. at University Avenue Church of Christ, all 11 congregations will come together for the annual Micah 6 Combined Worship service. Anyone interested in learning more about Micah 6 or celebrating its mission is welcome to attend.

When the Siren Wails

Probably more than a few NUNA residents have noticed and been curious about a monthly siren that blasts through our neighborhood at apparently random times. Yes, it's an alarm siren. No, it's not cause for alarm. It's just a routine test that UT does on its siren alarm system, heard loudly and clearly though our neighborhood. Thanks to Margo Shaw for setting the record straight!

A Lee Elementary School Event

Lee Elementary invites you to attend a fun-filled evening of music, dancing, shopping and eating on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at La Zona Rosa. The evening will showcase the extraordinary talents of Lee parents and NUNA Neighbors Kelly Willis and



Bruce Robison. Lee hopes you'll come out and support this fantastic school and kick up your heels with NUNA friends and neighbors. Tickets are on sale this month. But them through the Lee Elementary website: http://lee-elementary.org/PTA/lee_live_2010.php. Any questions, e-mail Margo Shaw at mshaw@grandecom.net.

Notes from the December NUNA Meeting

Local Historic Districts - Bill Bednar provided information about Local Historic Districts (LHDs), the process by which neighborhoods can be named LHDs, and efforts underway in NUNA for potential LHD designation. As reported in the December-January NUNA Newsletter, NUNA's Grooms, Buddington and Aldridge Place subdivisions are moving forward on research for Historic Districts. There are costs incurred in the paperwork required to file for LHD designation, and the question arose about how to reimburse residents for expenses incurred on behalf of LHD work. Members authorized NUNA's Treasurer to administer separate funds for the various neighborhood historic district efforts that are underway. These funds will be raised through special solicitations to neighbors in the respective

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been ongoing discussion regarding the optimal way of reconciling the current NUNA bylaws with the bylaws of our realistically Neighborhood Planning Team (NPT). Within the NPT, committee members had voted to resolve the controversy by asking the NUNA General Membership to follow the existing NUNA bylaws, and in so doing view the NPT as a standing NUNA committee without its own separate bylaws and organizational structure. NUNA members agreed unanimously to accept the recommendation of NPT members that the NPT be constituted as a standing committee of the North University Neighborhood Association.

Support for the First English Lutheran Church and AGE - NUNA members authorized NUNA Treasurer Jan Moyle to donate \$200 to the First English Lutheran Church and \$100 to AGE for the very generous use of their meeting rooms.

Notes from December NUNA Meeting... continued

districts. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Cottages on 30th St. - The General Membership discussed action on the cottages at 304 E 30th (see the article in the Dec.-Jan. Newsletter). NUNA members voted unanimously to oppose the demolition or removal of these cottages and to ask the City that they be consider for historic designation. (During January, a request for a demolition permit to remove the cottages was denied, temporarily, pending exploration by city staff of the historic nature of the structures.)

Officer Nominations - The General Membership voted on and accepted the members of the Nominating Committee for new NUNA Officers. Regan Gammon Chairs the Nominating Committee. Members include Carol Journeay, Chris Dial, Kimberly Renner, Mary Gay Maxwell, and Kathryn Kotrla.

The NUNA/NPT Relationship - There had

An Update on...

Local Historic Districts

Because NUNA is architecturally diverse, and historically grew through different subdivisions, the process of exploring the creation of Local Historic Districts (LHDs) will advance through separate efforts in Buddington,



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703 East 32nd Street - SOLD - This updated 1940 cottage has room to entertain – indoors and out -- spacious living, formal dining and family room plus study/office. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, detached garage and storage, large shady back yard. Six blocks to UT, 2 to St. David's, 2 to Lee Elementary, 2 to Eastwoods Park. **\$419,500**



801 East 32nd Street This 1959 ranch-style house on Waller Creek has been translated into a tropical garden with pool, spa and greenhouses. It has two bedrooms, three baths, two living rooms, a formal dining room, breakfast area, utility room, huge rear sunroom, 2496 sf of living space on the main level and a full basement. **\$539,000**



826 Harris Avenue - SOLD - Charm, character and convenience - all in this updated, energy efficient 1939 traditional home with formal living and dining, large kitchen & breakfast room, 1 bedrm & bath downstairs; 3 beds, playroom and bath up; 2-car gar. 8 blocks to UT, 1 to Lee Elementary **\$591,862**



3103 Harris Park Ave This 1930 Cottage, 5 blocks from UT, has four bedrooms and two baths in 1568sf of living space, plus a newly refurbished two-car garage with a 511sf upstairs apartment for a total of 2079sf. Freshly painted with decorator colors, inside and out, it has many windows -- that actually work! The lot is town-house-size, but Eastwoods Park is only a short block away. **Reduced to \$439,000.**



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Aldridge Place, and Grooms. Here's what's happening with LHD efforts in those subdivisions. (continued)

Local Historic Districts... continued

The Buddington Committee, led by Pam Bell (pamelajeanebell@gmail.com) met mid-January. Committee members assessed the number of Buddington residences that are rental property, and, realistically, the impact these may have on the support required for LHD designation. Members are thinking strategically about fashioning a LHD (minimal size = one block) to conserve NUNA homes and maintain historical neighborhood integrity.

In Aldridge Place, efforts are led by Bill Bednar and Roger Borgelt, two neighborhood leaders and busy attorneys. Bill and Roger

welcome other Aldridge Place residents to join them in their efforts. Call Roger on his cell, 870-7533, or e-mail at borgelt@pottsreilly.com.

The Grooms Committee, led by Carol Journey and Mary Ingle, will meet soon to review progress. They are documenting every

structure in Grooms, whether it is historically contributing or not. Photographs of the front and side of a structure have to be supplied for LHD designation, and many of these are completed. Whatever happens with the LHD in Grooms, the information gathered will be given to the History Center. In the meantime, folks in Grooms are thoroughly enjoying their window into Austin's history!

The NUNA News Welcomes El Greco

NUNA foodies will enjoy our new advertiser, El Greco. If you've not tried them, take a look at their advertisement in this issue, and see what's available so close to home. El Greco is the only Greek owned and chef operated Greek Restaurant in Austin. It's a family business—there's Chef Jake, his mom, and

his aunt. Everything they serve is handmade from scratch. Their gyros and lamb work for carnivores, and they have a large selection of vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free menu items. They also cater for business meetings. The Fearless Critic voted El Greco the Best Greek Restaurant, and they're just across Guadalupe. Recipes are ancestral and authentic Greek. They have Greek wines, too!

NUNA Dues: Just Do It

2010 NUNA Dues are due now! Dues are a low \$10 per person and are used to fund our Neighborhood Night Out, our July 4th Parade—the fun activities that bring us together as a neighborhood. It's easy to join NUNA. Send your Membership Dues check to Jan Moyle, 200 W 32nd St, Austin Texas, 78705. Come to a General Membership meeting and Kimberly Renner, Membership Chair, will take your money. Contact any officer listed in the Newsletter, and they'll engage you in the neighborhood association activities. Contribute to this talented, eclectic mix of NUNA-ites. And for residents who've paid with their Residential Parking Program Permits----- never mind.

Officer Troy Says...

*"Beloved, gaze in thine own heart,
The holy tree is blooming there."*

The Tree Of Life -- W. B. Yeats

The rip tide of the seasons is upon us, like two opposing currents meeting in the ocean, so is February and March. This is the time when Winter's breath gives way to the re-birth of Spring and the world is born anew, full of promise and wonderment.

An electric charge is in the air, the bloom begins as we breathe deep the fragrance of life. Oscillating winds blow frigidly from the North kissed with wisps of a warm breeze from the south, the promise of the seasons, rain scented in the ozone, the sun shines breaking through the cloud banks, from the long slumber eyes begin to open, hearts and hearths warm, smiles breach the placid surface it is the moment: "Carpe Diem", "Kaizen". "Seize the Day" "Continue to improve",

Ode to Spring and her promise of fulfillment, this is the time that we can take the season's message and incorporate her into our own lives. Now is the time that we move toward the re-birth of our neighborhoods, now is the time we get out into our front yards and with Spring's warmth and light we greet our neighbors and together we till the soil and sow the seeds of the tree of our life, our lives, our neighborhood and our city. Together we are the Spring and the catalyst of the re-birth toward positive promise fulfillment in our hearts and the hearts of our neighbors.

From the Central West District Representatives, we wish you all the full promise of the season - be safe and create a Wonder-Filled day for your self and those around you.

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Carpe Diem and Kaizen!

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APD Central West District Representatives

Our Neighbor...

First English Lutheran Church

First English Lutheran Church (FELC) is our neighbor, and a giving one at that. They open their doors to our General Membership meeting, and make their space available for other Neighborhood Association needs. To return their generosity, we asked what they might need from us. They shared their involvement in Micah 6 of Austin. FELC is one of 11 University-area congregations who collectively oversee Micah 6. Micah 6 is a food pantry and social service referral operation housed at University

Presbyterian Church. The mission of Micah 6 of Austin is to work together to identify and meet the needs of the homeless and the impoverished in (continued)

the University of Texas campus area. Gretchen Olson offered more insight, "Two years ago we were serving about 235 families each week. By this fall, a record 500 families sought assistance during a single week. Many of the new families are coping with long-term unemployment and never thought they'd seek assistance from a food pantry. But that's why we're here -- because one basket of free groceries means a family might just be able to pay the rent or get a needed prescription or keep their phone on. It's about helping our neighbors maintain some stability when rough times come their way.

Because of FELC, it's easy for NUNA residents to feed the hungry in Central Austin. Canned goods, nonperishable food items and plastic grocery or newspaper bags (for sacking) can be donated to the pantry by dropping them off at FELC. Also, baby food, diapers (adult & child), small bottles of shampoo, toothpaste and CAN OPENERS are very appreciated. About a third of Micah 6 pantry shoppers are homeless, so can openers are a huge help for those who don't have kitchens.

To learn more about Micah 6 and volunteer or donation opportunities, visit their website: micah6austin.org. And, remember, if you want to donate, bring your items to FELC and stay for the NUNA General Membership meeting Monday, February 1. Thanks to our friends at FELC for sharing this information about the work they're doing for Central Austin!

Citizen Safety Forums

A Citizen Led Safety Forum was held on Saturday, January 23rd 2010 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the North Village Branch Library on Steck Ave. The forum was hosted by Laura DiCarlo, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for Allandale, Mary Arnett, Friends of North Shoal Creek, and Jack Darby, Developer of the *Krimelabb Database*.

These forums are designed to develop a network of citizens and neighborhood leaders all over Austin who are interested in safety issues. Participants hope to learn from each other, find out how each neighborhood is addressing crime issues, and to find out about experiences

with APD in other neighborhood. Folks from Cherrywood, University Hills, North Shoal Creek, Gracy Woods, Brentwood and Crestview have participated and more neighborhood involvement



is sought. Participants hope to also talk about setting up a city-wide network of neighborhoods and use our collective voice to be heard on important issues. If you would like to participate in

Your Neighborhood Store
*Local & Organic Produce *Natural Foods
*Deli *Hot Bar & Salad Bar *Baked Treats
*Natural Meats *Vegan Food *Bulk
Everyone Welcome! *Friendly Service!



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