

NUNA President's Report

By Laurence Miller

Two months as president and I am totally confused! Seriously, just the acronyms alone could do one in. I have contacted a tutor to walk me through the NCCD and she is confused so we are going to get someone to help clarify things for the tutor. AND the personalities!!! Wow! Message to the nominating committee – I know who you are, I know where you live and I am going to get even!

The North University Neighborhood, the best neighborhood in Austin (Hyde Park eat your heart out!) is made up of three richly interesting neighborhoods, each with their own character and challenges. NUNA's job is to preserve these wonderful 'hoods while embracing the future. We are what we are today because of a group of fierce neighborhood leaders who have toiled on our behalf. Thank you. Thank each one of you for your many and important contributions. There is more to be done and we need your help. We need a new generation of neighbors to participate, learn and lead. We need more participation from Buddington and Grooms. It is in every home owner's best interest to be active in NUNA. It is in every landlord's best interest to become active in NUNA. It is in every business owner's best interest to become active in NUNA. The challenges are ever increasing and ever more complex.

We need your help. We need your expertise. E-mail me at nunaaustin@gmail.com. There is work to be done!

Next NUNA Neighborhood Meeting

June 14, 2010, 5:30 to 7:00 P.M.

First English Lutheran Church
3001 Whitis

Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of April Minutes

3. Reports

Aldridge Place Historic Districts - Bill Bednar

Austin Neighborhoods Council - Bill Bednar

CANPAC - Robert Morris/Mary Ingle

Membership - Kimberly Renner

Neighborhood Planning Team - Scott Morris

Trudy's - Kimberly Renner & Steve Tomlinson

Parks - Mark Feist & Doug Plummer

Parking - Chris Dial, Scott Morris & Doug Plummer

Treasurer - Jan Moyle

Quadrant Leader's Reports

Other Reports

4. Items Recommended for Action

3500 Speedway - Proposed 2-family project

408 E 33rd Historic - Zoning review, opposing demolition.

Triangle Rehab Hospital - Recommendation

5. Old Business

Listserv & website – a brief discussion

6. New Business

7. Adjourn

Red, White, Blue - on Parade

Carole LeClair reminds us that its time to get our Stars and Stripes out! Come celebrate our nation's birthday in proper style. Decorate your favorite mode of transportation (feet,



NUNA residents walk around Hemphill park during last year's July 4th parade.

stroller, scooter, bike or vehicle) to join in the fun. Meet at the corner of 32nd and Hemphill Park at 10am sharp on Sunday, July 4th. Our very own firefighters from Station #3 will be there to lead the parade. After showing all those other neighborhoods what patriotic looks like, hang out around the park bench for some refreshments and games (with prizes!)



It's hard to believe but this will be the 8th year for our parade. While it has grown over the years, it's still the same parade and carnival. This event is very much a volunteer effort. If you would like to help, please give Carole a call or an email at caleclair@gmail.com. Too shy, then here's a list of things you can do.

1. Bring watermelon, coffee, drinks or breakfast treats to share with the crowd.
2. Volunteer to run one of the carnival games. I can supply prizes and games
3. If you are really adventurous, bring your own carnival game to set up.

From the SE Quadrant

NUNA's southeast quadrant had no representation on the Executive Committee until

this year, when Regan Gammon approached long-time NUNA resident Richard (Dick) Holland to urge his involvement. Dick has lived in the same house on Moore Blvd. since 1977. He's watched NUNA change from a time when "Tom Green was the most beautiful street in Austin", to now, when, as he put it, the SE Quadrant is "not a single-family-house kind of neighborhood."

Like many NUNA residents, Dick is interesting, articulate, witty, and educated. He spent his career in academia, as a curator of the Southwestern Writers Collection. Even though he's retired, Dick still teaches at UT where his wife Cynthia is a law professor. Also, during "retirement" Dick wrote and edited a collection of essays about UT, "The Texas Book", published by UT Press to rave reviews. His comments about NUNA, and life, are insightful. The changes in his quadrant have irreparably altered the sense of life there, where apartments surround the few remaining homes. Yet, as Dick says, he raised his children in his house; they went to Lee elementary. Moore Blvd. is his family's home.

Dick says he's not interested in personality differences that may strain NUNA. He's interested *continued....*

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S/E Quadrant cont....

in real, common topics that impact our quality of life, like zoning and parking. Even though Dick states "I don't think I'm the type of person to do this [to be Quadrant representative]", we'll benefit from his experience and voice in the NUNA.

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 Permits-----never mind.

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Vice President	Steve Tomlinson	steven@abporter.org	
Secretary	Elizabeth Cole/Dennis Cole		474-8816
Treasurer	Jan Moyle	jmoyle@austin.rr.com	496-9304
NW Quadrant Representative	Rick Iverson		451-1011
SW Quadrant Representative	Kimberly and Dan Renner	krenner@austin.rr.com	
NE Quadrant Representative	Mike Riley	micriley@microsoft.com	
SE Quadrant Representative	Dick Holland/Cynthia Bryant	rh02@txstate.edu	
Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative	Bill Bednar	wcbednar@bednarlaw.com	494-1177
Neighborhood Planning Team (NPT) Chair	Scott Morris	scott@austinencode.com	371-7961
Webmaster	Will Donovan	will@willdonovan.com	
Internet Server Host	Pallas Art Web Design		
Parking Permits (Area 1)	Chris Dial	chrisdial202@gmail.com	472-0173

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Faith in Action!

That's Faith in Action Caregivers-West Austin (FIAC). FIAC is a 25 year old not-for profit organization housed in the Tarrytown United Methodist Church, 2601 Exposition. The catchment area for FIAC's services extend East to I-35, and in Central Austin, north to 45th St. i.e., NUNA!

The Director of FIAC contacted the NUNA Newsletter to ask us to share the good news about their efforts. While visiting with the FIAC Executive Director, Jean Barrett Teel, we learned about the terrific service they provide to Seniors (folks 60 and over) who live independently in a home or apartment.

FIAC relies on its 187 volunteers to help Austin Seniors maintain life in the community, instead of assisted living or residential care. Seniors can be virtually trapped when they lose the ability to drive, or are isolated without family available to run errands, take them to appointments, grocery shopping, or even do small home and yard repairs. That's where FIAC steps in. In 2009, FIAC provided services to 334 older adult clients, and 88% of those services were meeting simple transportation needs.



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Some seniors need to be taken on a trip to the hairdresser or to a store. Others need to pick up medications or be accompanied to physician appointments. FIAC provides a sensitive assessment of the Senior's needs—the individual's physical and functional status are assessed to match them with a Volunteer who will be a good fit. Some transportation services are curb-to-curb: the Senior is waiting outside to be picked up at their home, and is dropped off at their destinationsidewalk. This type of service works for volunteers who have young children---they can provide service while their kids are in the car with them. More involved service can be door-to-door. The most involved service is door-through-door, where a Volunteer accompanies their Senior into an appointment, e.g. the waiting room of a physi-

cian's office.

Driving is not the only way to serve. Seniors also need small home and yard repairs, so "handy-men or women" are welcome to fix minor household problems. If you want to volunteer from the comfort of your home, some Seniors welcome a check-in phone call from "social interacters." When Jean Barrett Teel has a simple request - look at your neighbors. If you see a Senior who needs a service, connect them with FIAC. Orientation to FIAC only takes 1.5-2 hours, and FIAC is respectful of volunteers' time. Volunteers are needed especially during summer months. To become a client, a volunteer or a donor, call 512/472-6339, or e-mail wa@fiacaregivers.org.

Dining Around NUNA

NUNA resident Maureen O'Connor noted that a new restaurant named *Pad Thai* opened next to *Five Guys* on Guadalupe. Maureen enjoyed her experience there, and suggested that other NUNA-ites might like it too. It's quiet, casual, and has a standard Thai menu—not just the dish called pad thai. The Editors visited Pad Thai on two occasions—the first time there was an Asian lady in the kitchen, and our two dishes (seafood soup and special noodles) were incredible. On our second outing there appeared to be

continued....

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Dining Around cont.

a different chef. The green papaya salad was a spicy and refreshing adventure - the seafood soup was better the first time, but still delicious. The pad thai itself was terrific! We're heading back to try some of the curries in our quest for the perfect Austin Thai restaurant.

A Rose by Any Other Name - is Still Edible?

As we prepare for Texas' dormant growing season (Summer), let's hope we've gotten our summer yard plantings well established, before the heat keeps us inside. NUNA resident Daphny Ainslie invites NUNA gardeners to share ideas about growth opportunities in our neighborhood. It's been a spectacular spring to begin sculpting our exterior world. What casual passer-byers may not realize is --- landscapes can be selected to a) survive the brutality of Austin summers, b) enhance the neighborhood, and c) delight lurking gourmands.

Don't be shy about using sun-loving, heat resistant herbs to enhance yard and flower pot space. For example, rosemary is a wonderful plant, either in its upright or draping form, where it can cover a wall (see the northeast corner of 38th and Guadalupe). It does well in harsh conditions, and who doesn't love rosemary with chicken, pork, lamb, potatoes, with almost anything? Oregano, too, is a perennial that thrives in Austin, either in gardens or in pots, and also benefits from a nice blossom. Although basil is an annual, it's ideal to fill in a perennial landscape. And when you tire of making pesto, its leaves can be frozen until the next basil season. Plus, brushing against basil on a walkway releases a delightful whiff of natural aroma therapy.

Letter to the Editor

Several statements made in the February-March Newsletter article "History of Parking in NUNA" aren't quite as indisputable as presented.

While having students parked on the street may be irritating to you, it doesn't, in fact, likely have any negative impact to property values - many of the most valuable neighborhoods in the world are replete with on-street parking. Second, the impact of those parked cars as "free traffic calming" can't be understated - our street (with permit parking) has so few cars parked on it during the day that speeds are quite high compared with other streets in the neighborhood that are "choked with cars". This has a direct impact on pedestrian safety - pedestrians are safer on a street where cars have to slow down to park each other than on one where they don't.

Mike Dahmus
(Urban Transportation
Commission 2000-2005)

Thanks, Stephen!

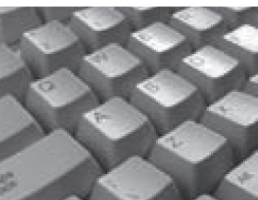
Stephen Wilkinson was recently identified as the person seen in the bed of Waller Creek painting the bridge - to cover up unsightly graffiti.

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To make sure our bridges stay pristine over time, Stephen provided the following information on the NUNA list-serve for use by neighbors.

The paint to match the color of that on the Aldridge Place bridges -- for covering graffiti is:

Sherwinn Williams A-100 Flat, color SW
7714 Oak Barrel.

Thanks so much, Stephen!

An Update on... Local Historic Districts

Grooms Addition: The news of the demise of the Grooms LHD Committee, reported in the last Newsletter was greatly exaggerated. With the advent of Spring and Easter, the Grooms LDH Committee reconvened after its "sudden death". Fortunately, all is well and the committee is proceeding forward! Required photos and building surveys have been completed; maps have been drawn by Bob Kaler. Carol Journey has been diligently researching diligently specific properties since a LHD requires that 25% of the properties within the district have a detailed history. Michael Riley has kindly volunteered to fill out electronic forms with property owner's names, addresses, and tax ID numbers. Mary Ingle has organized materials and meetings; Richard Holland and Lynn Marshall have provided much needed support along with Douglas Plummer. These efforts have been generously supported monetarily by Carol Butler, Carol Fredericks, and Michael Riley.

Since the whole Grooms Addition subdivision is not completely singlefamily residential anymore, the LHD committee pared down the scope of the district to a more manageable and cohesive collection of homes. This new configuration may be added to in the future. What we have learned from this work is that our area has lost an incredible number of structures; since 1890, 250 houses have been torn down. This is an alarming number of demolitions; this is also a major raison d'être for pursuing a LHD for the Grooms Addition.

With most of the time consuming "paper work" completed for our Historic District application, the next hurdle will be design standards and guidelines. These standards will be available for

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input and discussion after Bob Kaler has used his architectural expertise towards their drafting; we will have a series of neighborhood gatherings and public meetings for all the Grooms Addition property owners (in the District) to review and approve or disapprove these design standards. We will need to find out whether the residents/property owners of the Grooms Addition would like to participate in this LHD; this will require canvassing and signatures from property owners. We do need more volunteers to help with outreach and historic research of properties (it is really fun work, if you like solving mysteries and digging up history!). Aldridge Place and Buddington LHD Committees are not reporting their progress at this time.

Officer Troy Says...

*Stranger, stranger, stranger, stranger
It's hot here at night, lonely, black and quiet
On a hot summer night
Don't be afraid of the world we made
On a hot summer night*

Billy Idol "Hot in the city"

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continued....

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Officer Troy cont....

Austin. It is definitely HOT in the city tonight... The song also states "Don't be afraid of the world we made on a hot summer night". We do not need to be afraid, but we need to be diligent and cautious of the "Stranger". It is unfortunate that over the course of the past few months throughout the city of Austin, burglary of residence is on the rise. I say unfortunate as most of the homes that are broken into are through an unlocked door or the door is simply kicked in. These things can be prevented with a few simple steps called "Hardening the Target".

First remember to keep your door locked even when you are home. If you have an alarm system keep it turned on even when you are in the house.

The other easy and quick fix is to install three inch screws into your door plate; this will give more strength to the door frame and make it more difficult to be kicked in. There are a myriad of things that a person can do to make their home more secure.

The Central West District Representatives can come to your home and perform a security survey (To schedule an appointment please call 974-5340) on your home and make suggestions on what you as a homeowner or tenant can do to better secure your property.

Summer is also the time for family and friends and for enjoying all the wonderful amenities Austin has to offer. So let's not cocoon! Let's get out and meet the neighbors, have a

block party on a sultry Summer night, work in the yard, spray the kids with the hose (always good for a laugh and fond memories), ride bikes, walk the dog. Enjoy life to the fullest" "Laissez Le Bon Temps Roulet." Let the good times roll. Enjoy the Hot Summer Nights - as we all know it is Hot in the City and our summers last until late November.

*For all the dreams and schemes,
 people are as they seem
 On a hot summer night
 Don't be no fun, don't forget you're young
 On a hot summer night*

Billy Idol "Hot in the City"

*Troy Schouest #5207 974-5829
 APD Central West District Representative*

Gears Turning for Sparky

During the past two months, the Sparky Park Committee (Doug Plummer and Mary Ingle) met with Patrick Corona and Rick Ramirez of Austin Parks Department to discuss further enhancements for Austin's Best Pocket Park—Sparky Park.

continued....



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Sparky Park cont...

The meeting led to a list of action items. First, the Sparky Park Committee will receive an "Adopt a Park" application for Sparky. A number of other items were agreed on regarding the Sparky Park building. The City will investigate securing the sprinkler system control box inside of a locked cabinet in the building. Doug and Mary will work with NUNA to develop list of requirements for the building, and the City will then estimate a potential budget for the project. When timely, Doug will request a formal letter of support from NUNA general membership for renovating the building.

The Sparky Park Committee will be asking for contributions and soliciting input from the neighborhood on the kinds of amenities that they would like to see in the building. Doug and

Mary are open to any ideas and suggestions about Sparky and its building. Send your ideas to: douglas_plummer@hotmail.com. For folks wanting to contribute financially to Sparky's enhancement, All checks should be made out to "Austin Parks Foundation" with "Sparky Park" written in the memo section.

Mail checks to Douglas Plummer; 301 East 35th St; Austin, Texas 78705. With the small treasure that is Sparky, it's exciting to know that its light may shine even brighter, thanks to the dedication of the Sparky Park Committee.

Improvements are Coming to Rio Grande Street

The City of Austin continues preparing for the Rio Grande Street Reconstruction Project
continued...

Rio Grande Improvements cont....

which is scheduled to begin in early fall 2010. Rio Grande cont...The City has begun the process of selecting a contractor and anticipates going before City Council for approval on July 29, 2010. The project will consist of upgrades to the water, wastewater, and storm drain lines located within Rio Grande Street as well as full reconstruction of the roadway. Reconstruction of the roadway will include replacement of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, bus pads, and driveways in the City right-of-way. The project will also include the addition of streetlights, trees, bicycle racks, and park benches. These improvements will incorporate the guidelines of the University Neighborhood Overlay Plan. Construction hours will be seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Activity will be suspended during special events such as move-in and move-out weekends for student housing in the area and UT home football games.

The project team will continue to work with area businesses, residents, and property owners as they approach the construction start date. The project team will be contacting neighborhood associations, businesses, and student housing facilities to answer any questions and keep communication open. A project website is now available at www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicwork/s/rio_grande.htm and will be updated throughout the project. Contact the project manager with any questions or concerns:

Jessica Salinas, Project Manager,
(512) 974-7646
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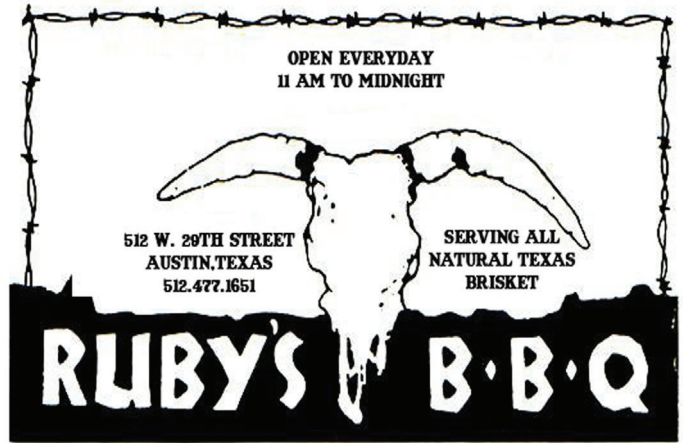
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A Home's Inner (and Outer) Beauty

The NUNA Newsletter welcomes a new advertiser and NUNA resident, Steve Ascheman of *Common Sense Home Staging*. NUNA-ites love their homes, and their homes are a reflection of their lifestyles and interests. When the time comes to sell and move on, homes that are too "specific" will lack broad appeal, prolonging their time on the market and preventing sellers from receiving top dollar. That's where home staging comes in. When asked about staging advice, Steve offered the following.

"A common misconception is that home staging is just decorating or rearranging furniture. Professional home staging involves the evaluation and preparation of the entire property before putting it on the market. That includes such things as curb appeal, the general condition of the exterior and interior of the home, the functionality of indoor and outdoor living spaces, and addressing the items that will have the broadest appeal to buyers. Having lived in the Tarrytown neighborhood for over 16 years prior becoming a NUNA resident, I have a deep respect for the older homes in Austin. While understanding that today's buyers are looking for up-to-date features

in homes, it's actually relatively easy for sellers of older homes to make some common sense updates which go a long way toward making those older homes appeal to a greater number of buyers, and allowing the sellers to receive a contract at a much faster rate."

"For instance, the top three items that



buyers are looking for inside the home are: 1) freshly painted walls, 2) up-to-date flooring, and 3) organized storage space. Before sellers rush out and buy that paint and flooring though, I still highly recommend that they hire a professional to sit down with them and figure out what color paint, and what type of flooring will appeal to the most buyers. Outdated plumbing fixtures are another area where some real improvements can be made, without breaking the bank."



In his spare time, Steve enjoys traveling, music, group rides around Austin with other Vespa scooter owners, and supporting local theater and business. His favorite Austin restaurants include Trudy's, Hyde Park Bar & Grill, Asti, El Greco, Mandola's Italian Market, just to name a few.