

March Meeting

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for March 6

Hybrid Meeting: In person at Griffin School (5001 Evans Ave) and on Zoom
Meeting Topic: Hyde Park High Street Project

- Updates:
 - Membership Software
 - I-35 Letter
 - 2023 Homes Tour
 - Bunny Parade
- Presentation: Hyde Park High Street Project (Proposed development of parking lot behind Hyde Park Grill and Quack's Bakery)
- Discussion: Austin City Council initiation of Amendment to City Code Title 25 (disaggregation of substandard lots and lots that qualify for small-lot amnesty)
- Announcements

Not an HPNA member?
You're welcome to join anyway!

Join Zoom Meeting at 7 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4738130850?pwd=V3hlKzhLVGxhVlRNQVciVlRlVThVZcZlZlYU109>

Meeting ID: 473 813 0850

Passcode: 728004

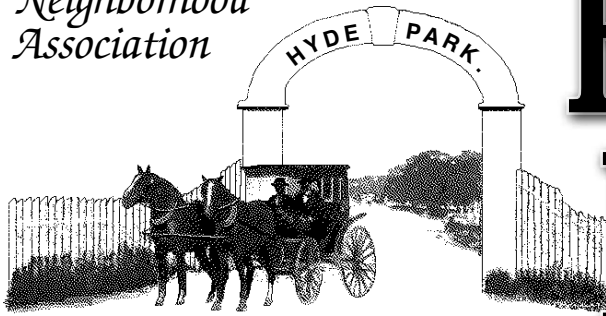
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The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

March 2023 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 49, No. 03

The Proposed Hyde Park High Street Project

Partners Jesse Lunsford and Ray Brimble own the parking lot at 43rd and Avenue H and are making plans for a new project there. They and architect Karen McGraw will present to the HPNA general meeting on March 6. The plans were also recently presented to the HPNA's Development Review and Steering Committees.

The site has been zoned for commercial use for decades and so the owners are only seeking HPNA support to amend some provisions of the NCCD as it applies exclusively to this property.

1. Provide entitlements like those on adjacent nearby commercial properties

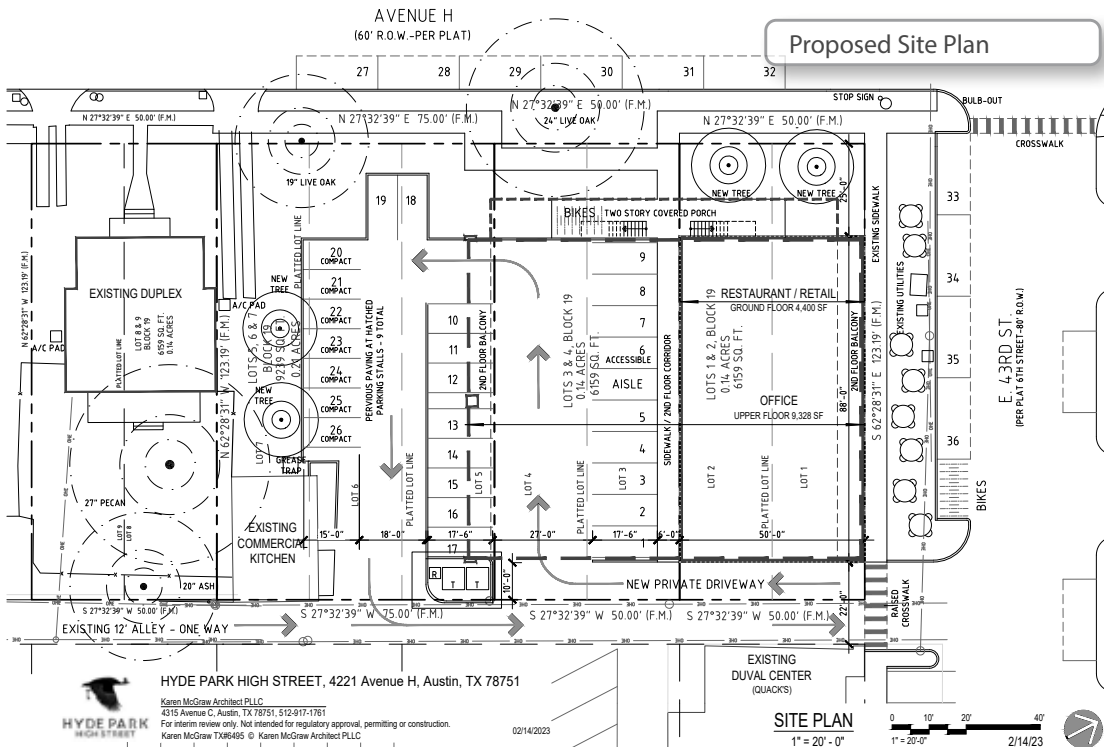
2. Optimize the project design
3. Create more parking than would otherwise be possible
4. Align the building with Quack's along 43rd Street
5. Eliminate the curb cut on Avenue H (and help address the localized flooding there)

6. Make retail and restaurant permitted uses for a small neighborhood cafe (with no late hours or amplified sound)

7. Allow paid parking until construction commences (with the possibility for some free parking for the closest neighbors and their guests if so desired)

All are invited and welcome to hear the presentation at the general meeting on March 6.

- Karen McGraw



HYDE PARK HIGH STREET, 4221 Avenue H, Austin, TX 78751

Karen McGraw Architect PLLC
4315 Avenue C, Austin, TX 78751, 512-917-1761
For interim review only. Not intended for regulatory approval, permitting or construction.
Karen McGraw TX084695 © Karen McGraw Architect PLLC

02/14/2023

SITE PLAN
1" = 20'-0"

0 10' 20' 40'
1" = 20'-0" 2/14/23



First, I want to thank Karen Saadeh, HPNA's membership director, who is stepping down after many years of volunteering to keep our membership lists up to date and helping neighbors pay their dues on time. Karen was usually seen at the membership table as you entered HPNA's General Meetings. Karen was also a reliable volunteer at many other Hyde Park events. Karen, thank you for your devotion to Hyde Park.

This month's General Meeting will focus on the Hyde Park High Street Project, to be built at 43rd Street and Avenue H. The project envisions a new two-story building facing 43rd street, next to Quack's. The building's first floor will house a cafe and retail store. The second floor will have offices. A new entrance and exit will be built on what is currently an alley, between Quack's and the proposed new building. The parking lot's current entrance, facing Avenue H, will be removed. Some trees in

the parking lot will also be removed. Parking will be primarily dedicated to the new building's tenants and the customers of the Hyde Park Grill. For the next two years, while the project awaits city approval, the current plan is to charge for parking in the lot.

Many neighbors will no doubt have questions about the project, including the project's effect on parking in the neighborhood. The project's developers have expressed a desire to have a constructive dialogue with neighbors on all aspects of the project. For more details about the Hyde Park High Street Project, please read Karen McGraw's article in this issue.

Also at the March meeting we will discuss the Austin City Council's expected action initiating an amendment to the city's Land Development Code (LDC) related to "disaggregation of substandard lots and lots that qualify for small-lot amnesty." The amendment's stated intent is to increase the number of housing units in Austin. While the new LDC language

envisioned by the amendment has yet to be drafted, the proposed zoning changes could potentially allow a developer to go into a neighborhood where there are small lots, tear down a house sitting on multiple small lots, break up those lots, and then develop each lot individually. Under one possible scenario, the new zoning rules could potentially allow a developer to replace two houses straddling three small lots with three or more houses.

At the moment, it is not clear how many small lots in Hyde Park could be affected by the proposed change to the LDC. However, like the proposed development to the parking lot next to Quack's, any change in land use in Hyde Park will affect neighbors living near where the change takes place and could have a long term impact on the whole neighborhood. So if you are interested in these issues or any other issue that we will be discussing at our March meeting, please join us at the meeting or send me an email and let me know your thoughts.

I am writing this letter just a few weeks after Austin suffered through another major ice storm. Some folks in Hyde Park lost power and faced extensive damage to their trees and property. During this time neighbors stepped forward to assist their neighbors who needed help. This always happens when Hyde Park faces a climate emergency. Thank you to all of you who helped your neighbors survive the storm.

— *Kevin Heyburn*
HPNA President



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765
www.austinhdepark.org

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• Paul Smith

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• Katie Turner • Brendan Wittstruck • Chris Wooster •

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Pecan Press

The *Pecan Press* is published monthly by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas. Advertising deadline: 15th of the month preceding publication.

Editorial deadline: 10th of the month preceding publication.

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HPNA Membership Now Online

Join HPNA Today, Online

You can now apply online for HPNA membership through www.austinhdepark.org/contact/. Members are required to create an HPNA account using GlueUp, an online tool with which HPNA will maintain its membership database.

Create your account, then pay your dues. Dues are \$5.00 per year, per individual. Pay by credit card (or check), get renewal notices by email, and be eligible to vote on HPNA resolutions. When you create your account, you can opt to automatically renew your membership yearly. You'll receive reminders later in the year before this process begins and you can cancel your renewal if desired.

Renew your Membership, Online

Members needing to renew for 2023 will be receiving – or might have already received – emailed notices to renew your HPNA membership online. Follow the link in the email, review your information, then pay your renewal fees.

Need Help?

The process is fairly easy, but if you have any questions on the GlueUp tool or our new membership tools, contact chriswooster@gmail.com.

– Chris Wooster

Monthly Calendar March

- 4 — It's My Park Day
- 6 — HPNA General Meeting
- 9 — DRC Meeting
- 10 — Recycling Pickup
- 13 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 17 — Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 19 — Fellowship of Friends Kickoff in Shipe Park
- 21 — Helping Hand Home Grand Opening
- 24 — Recycling Pickup
- 25 — Elisabet Ney Nature Day

April

- 8 — Bunny Parade!



Membership Information

- Membership in HPNA is open to all residents 18 years or older residing within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of its boundaries.
- University students are free.
- All memberships expire on December 31st of each year.
- New members and members who lapse in dues for over six months are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.
- Membership dues can be paid in several ways: By signing up at an HPNA meeting or event, by mailing in the membership form, or by joining online using PayPal. To pay online, go to www.austinhdepark.org and click on the **Join Now** button. Dues paid online are \$6.

Submission Information

- Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at lweidlich@mail2sevens.com.
Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.
- Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at herzele@gmail.com.
All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes.

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Dues per Person

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/yr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior - \$1/yr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> Student - Free	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member	Amount _____

Mailing Address:
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 P.O. Box 49427
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Make checks payable to HPNA.

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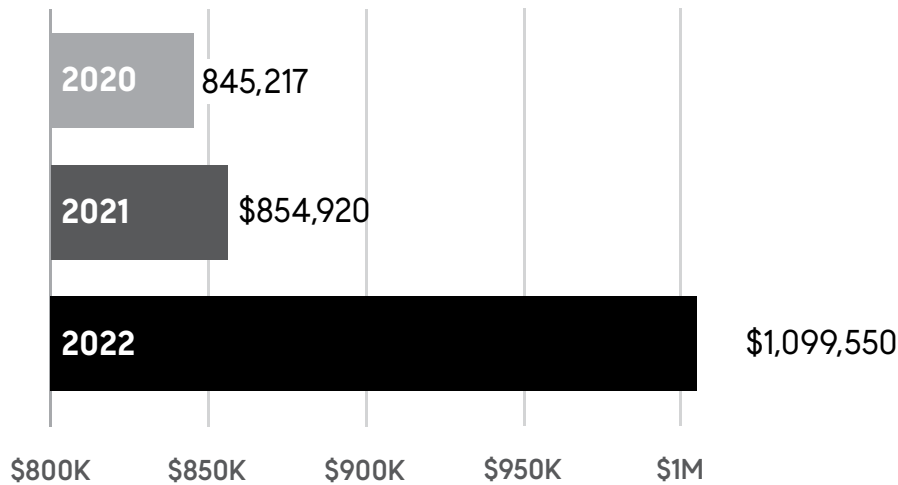
Central Austin Specialist

Sam Archer, Juice Real Estate Group
512.633.4650 | sam.archer@compass.com

As a Central Austin REALTOR and resident, I have keen insight into what makes this neighborhood special and how to communicate that value to buyers and sellers. I love this neighborhood and that connection makes a difference. Whether you are buying or selling, I will help you with incomparable professional experience and personal commitment that goes beyond the transaction.



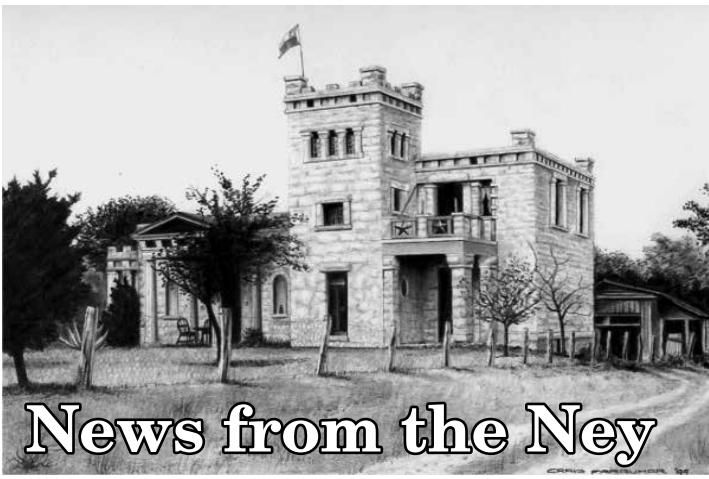
Average Sales Price: 2020—2022



For more detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker Associate.

All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family homes

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It is with lots of enthusiasm that we announce our new season of spring programs at the Elisabet Ney Museum! We have some old favorites to share and new programs in our sights as well. Please mark your calendars for three signature events and come activate the Ney this spring.

This year the Museum and the Friends of Shipe Park will team up to salute our neighborhood green spaces

during Austin Parks Foundation's It's My Park Day on March 4. Expect to meet new members of your community, dive into the landscape, and beautify our park and museum grounds. All tools and materials will be provided; come enjoy the outdoors and your community.

On March 25, we will celebrate the glory of spring at our annual Elisabet Ney Nature Day. Walk the wildflower-filled grounds, learn about the bird population moving through Central Texas, and enjoy a host of artists, non-profit organizations, hands-on spring garden demonstrations, and festivities focusing on our beloved natural environment. Enjoy some seasonal refreshments and bring your families as all are welcome.

This year will mark our 9th annual Ney Day, an event that shares the legacy of Elisabet Ney and celebrates female-identifying people in the arts, sciences, and civic culture. The Ney grounds will be filled with artist-led projects, demonstrations, music, and tons of community. Find your way to the Ney for this celebration of all things Ney on April 22.

March 4, 2023 – 9 am to 12 pm – It's My Park Day (with Friends of Shipe Park)

March 25, 2023 – 1 to 4 pm – Elisabet Ney Nature Day

April 22, 2023 – 1 to 4 pm – Ney Day Celebration

Around & About the Avenues

Helping Hand Home Grand Opening. The Helping Hand Home for Children will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of eight newly built homes for the children in its Residential Treatment Program. These have been in process for about three years and were enthusiastically supported by the HPNA. The ceremony will take place on Tuesday, March 21, at 11 am at 3802 Avenue B. There will be a brief program and tours. To learn more about Helping Hand Home or the ceremony, go to www.helpinghandhome.org or contact Vanessa Davila at VDavila@helpinghandhome.org.



Fellowship of Friends Kickoff at Shipe Park. The kickoff event for Fellowship of Friends will be held at Shipe Park on Sunday, March 19 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This event will feature a discussion circle led by the Rev. Susan Dellinger, a freelance ordained minister. Attendees will talk about friendship, what it means to them, what they are looking for in friendships, and the benefits and challenges of making friends as adults in a large city. There will also be music and informal conversation. Members of Meet Up can sign up online; however, registration is not required and all are welcome!



Oops Department. Due to an editing error, the It's My Park Day article in the February issue said the event would begin at 1 am instead of 10 am. We apologize for the error and hope nobody actually shows up at 1 am!



Julio's Cafe in the News. The popular Hyde Park Tex-Mex restaurant Julio's Cafe and its manager, Bobbie Salinas, were featured in a story on Austin's KVUE on a February 8 news broadcast (<https://www.kvue.com/article/money/austin-restaurants-power-outages/269-7a557938-71dd-4887-a7c1-064380910ec0>). In an interview Bobbie described how February's ice storm shut Julio's down for a week, and the cameras showed Julio's cooks in the kitchen getting ready for the restaurant's triumphant reopening. Julio's Cafe was also mentioned in the February 13 and 20, 2023 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine (<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/02/13/the-astonishing-transformation-of-austin>). In that issue Lawrence Wright, a long-time Austin resident and Pulitzer Prize winning author, reports on how Austin has changed over the past 40 years. Wright also writes about having lunch on the patio at Julio's, which he says is one of his "favorite lunchtime spots. Although you have to guard your food from the grackles."



Pecan Press Advertising Rates

(Effective September, 2015)

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HPNA General Meeting

Minutes: February 6, 2023

Meeting Topic: I-35 Expansion

President Kevin Heyburn started the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Speaker from Helping Hand Home for Children.

Vanessa Davila, Director of Strategy and Planning for Helping Hands Home for Children, gave a presentation covering the organization's mission, history, and most recent building renovations.

The organization was founded in 1893 by women in the Austin community as the city's first orphanage. In the 1930s it moved to land at 38th Street and Avenue B, which the Rotary Club had bought and donated to the organization.

Today, Helping Hand consists of two programs. The Foster Care and Adoption Program currently serves 118 children in 83 homes in Travis and surrounding counties. Since 2011 the program has facilitated 181 adoptions by recruiting, verifying, and training prospective parents. The Residential Treatment Program, at the 3802 Avenue B location, serves children from 4 to 13 years of age whose needs cannot be met in the foster home setting. Some of the children they support have been severely abused and/or are suffering from trauma. Vanessa noted that appropriate treatment for these children averages \$120,000 per child per year. About half of Helping Hand's funding comes from government sources, with the community providing the rest.

Eight new homes that are built around courtyards will each ultimately house five children; the ratio of 2½ children to one staff member is based on a model of caregivers establishing close connections with children. Vanessa explained that it will take one to two years to bring the facility to full staffing of 110. She showed photos of a living room, bedrooms (each designed for one child), den, and small kitchen. The complex includes a training room and multipurpose building; it also houses a charter school operated in partnership with the University of Texas. Approximately 50% of the children in the Treatment Program attend the charter school; the other half attend Lee Elementary.

Vanessa ended her presentation by inviting the public to a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the facility (3804 Avenue B) on Tuesday, March 21. She also mentioned volunteer opportunities involving a few hours a week and opportunities for adults who would like to become foster parents.

Membership Vote for HPNA Co-Secretary. Ann Duncan thanked the Steering Committee for nominating her as HPNA Co-Secretary, noting that she and her husband Phil Duncan have lived off and on in Hyde Park for several decades. She was unanimously elected to the position.

Membership Vote on a Resolution Detailing what Dollar Amounts of Spending May Be Authorized on Behalf of the Association by an Officer of the Association, which Dollar Amounts Require Steering Committee Approval, and which Dollar Amounts Must Be Voted on by the Membership. The resolution passed.

Update on Membership Software. Steering Committee Member Chris Wooster, who has been working

tirelessly with database software provider GlueUp, announced that he hopes to test the program the week of February 13. Members can expect to receive an email with instructions.

Chris briefly described how the software will modernize the HPNA membership system. He stressed that it will help increase membership, a key goal.

Continued on page 11

Quotes From Movies

by der Brat

Q U O T E S F R O M M O V I E S
M G C A R S S O O P S I E H I L O
G I N G E R R S T U F F L U E Y
A S S I S T C E L L S T O P M L
M Y M T V E E B U D A E L S E E
B U R R E A D U F O T O S C N N
L M O U S R H D B A L L O O T T
I E A T I T T R C R A N E S A G
N I G H T S E I Z E T A N K R R
G D R A N G N U B E L L A N Y E
Y E O N G U P O N B U M P O N E
T P R I M E O D D S S P A T O N
U R B M A K E M Y D A Y L S O N
A A O D O R I N I T R A M U C H
E C L O S E U P G O T O M O O N
B U Y M E T H E D O L L E H E Y

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

1. Go ahead, punk: _?_ (4,2,3) _____
2. I'm shocked. Shocked to find that _?_ is going on in here. (8) _____
3. _?_, my dear Watson. (10) _____
4. May the _?_ be with you. (5) _____
5. _?_. Seize the day, boys. (5,4) _____
6. You're gonna need a _?_ (6,4) _____
7. _?_, we have a problem. (7) _____
8. A _?_, shaken, not stirred. (7) _____
9. The _?_ that dreams are made of. (5) _____
10. What we've got is failure to _?_. (11) _____
11. It was _?_ killed the beast. (6) _____
12. Kane: " _?_ " (7) _____
13. I'll have what she's _?_ (6) _____
14. You had me at _?_ (5) _____
15. I coulda had class. I coulda been a _?_. (9) _____
16. Mr. DeMille, I'm ready for my _?_. (5-2) _____
17. I love the smell of _?_ in the morning. (6) _____
18. They call me _?_! (6,5) _____
19. You can't handle the _?_. (5) _____
20. _?_ is people. (7,5) _____

Answers on page 9

Winter Storm Mara Visits Hyde Park



Quack's and Winter Storm Mara

Writer's Note: I interviewed Heather O'Connor from Quack's on February 8 about the February winter storm and its effects on Quack's.

Marsha: Please introduce yourself to the Pecan Press readership, and please explain what happened at Quack's during the February winter storm.

Heather: I'm Heather O'Connor, the Chief of Operations at Quack's at all of its locations.

We lost power on Wednesday, February 1, at 3 am, and had no idea how long it would be out. Thankfully, we got ahead of the ice warnings and shut down early so we didn't have any staff around. We finished off our production and our deliveries early so no one was on the road. By Wednesday afternoon we started

getting nervous because the temperatures were going to start warming up – which meant that our refrigerators were going to start warming up – and then come Thursday our temperatures had gotten to the point to where we were like “Okay, this is going to be bad, let's see what we can save.”

We started moving things around, saved what we could, and then by Thursday night everything else was a loss.

Friday morning we came in and the refrigerator we had used to house some of the products that we were trying to save also lost power, so we had a total loss of products, ingredients, half-way produced products, starters, milk, everything. We threw away probably 45 gallons of milk that we just couldn't keep cold enough and then we started making phone calls to Austin Energy: “When's the power coming back on?”

Then we got that text message at 10:30 at night that said that they “hoped to restore power by February 12” and honestly I laid in bed and cried. I messaged my staff through our messaging app and said, “Sorry guys, I don't know what to tell you, I'll keep you posted but it's kind of out of our hands.”

We had the power turned back on Friday afternoon at Captain Quackenbush's on Menchaca so we had staff picking up shifts down there, but there's not that many shifts to pick up because that store is fully staffed. Lady Quack's never lost power because it shares a grid with the hospital, but they don't have the ingredients we need because they make all the cakes and cupcakes. We do everything else at the Hyde Park Quack's.



We do the production for wholesale here. We do the production for Lady Quack's as well as Captain Quackenbush's, so even though both of those stores had power and they could open to the public we didn't have anything to sell.

Yesterday (February 7) at about 2 pm I got the phone call that the power was back on and I was like, “Yes! Now we can get in there and see where we're at.” We started cleaning and getting ready to go. We opened this morning (February 8) to the public with just coffee and some baked things. It takes several days for us to rebuild our stock because we're a scratch bakery.

We have teams of people coming in and working hard. We lost about \$150k in lost revenue between retail at all three locations and lost wholesale.

Photos by Kevin Heyburn

Unfortunately, we got two of our largest deliveries on Tuesday and then we lost power Wednesday morning so we lost probably 15 cases of eggs; 6 buckets of our liquid eggs; whole and liquid egg whites, which are very expensive right now; and all of our milk. So we probably lost about \$50k in ingredients and product, not to mention the tips that the baristas would have been making if we were open and the wages that our bakers, wrappers, packers, and drivers should have been making.



The most important thing right now for us is ensuring that our staff members have the funds that they need in order to live and thrive, so we have a virtual tip jar set up right now through Venmo (@CaptainQuacks). We're asking people to donate tips to the baristas, and we're divvying up between all three of the Quack's locations.

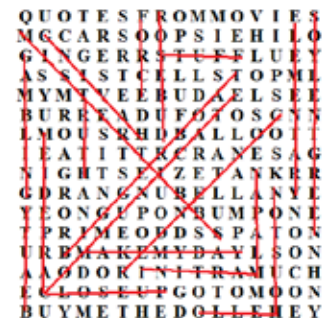


Marsha: Thank you so much for the interview, Heather. Quack's is an integral part of Hyde Park and adjoining neighborhoods and is always donating baked goods and services to neighborhood functions.

– Marsha Riti

Word Find Answers from page 7

- 1) MAKE MY DAY; 2) GAMBLING;
- 3) ELEMENTARY; 4) FORCE;
- 5) CARPE DIEM; 6) BIGGER BOAT;
- 7) HOUSTON; 8) MARTINI; 9) STUFF;
- 10) COMMUNICATE; 11) BEAUTY;
- 12) ROSEBUD; 13) HAVING;
- 14) HELLO; 15) CONTENDER;
- 16) CLOSE UP; 17) NAPALM;
- 18) MISTER TIBBS; 19) TRUTH;
- 20) SOYLENT GREEN





5108 Woodview Ave. • \$2,495,000
4 beds + office • 3.5 baths • 3,660 sq. ft

SOLD



505 E 40th St. • \$1,650,000
5 beds • 4 baths • 2 half baths • 3323 sq. ft.

SOLD



5514 Evans Ave. • \$1,190,000
Duplex • 6 beds • 4 baths • 2,516 sq. ft



604 E 42nd St. • \$995,000
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,515 sq. ft.



9707 Vista View Dr. • \$855,000
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,980 sq. ft.

SOLD



4521 Speedway • \$795,000
3 beds • 2 bath • 1,224 sq. ft.

SOLD



3008 East 16th St. • \$795,000
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,592 sq. ft.

SOLD



4410 Hank Avenue. • \$795,000
2 beds • 2.5 baths • 1,616 sq. ft.

SOLD



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REAL ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS

Austin Board of Realtors, MLS data shown is for Austin area addresses December, 2022



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ON THE MARKET
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ACTIVE HOMES
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AVERAGE
INVENTORY
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PENDING
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February Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 7

Kevin recognized Karen Saadeh for her many years of hard work on the Membership Committee. He also welcomed Katherine Mydra as a new Membership and Check-In Committee member.

Membership Vote on Proposed Resolution in Response to I-35 Expansion. Brendan Wittstruck referred members to the cover article in the February *Pecan Press* summarizing the status and stage of the TxDOT I-35 expansion plan. The article included the text of a proposed letter to TxDOT, submitted for membership approval, that Brendan, Duncan Meisel, and Kathy Jackson, all members of the North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC), drafted. The letter, approved by the HPNA Steering Committee, conveys HPNA's feedback. Specifically, it makes recommendations based on the Department's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), released last month. Brendan reiterated that public comment on TxDOT's plan (Modified Alternative 3) ends on March 7; he strongly encouraged members to send personal comments and feedback directly: <https://my35capex.com/draft-eis/>.

Brendan also mentioned that the Town Hall intended to discuss the project, postponed because of the ice storm, will be rescheduled.

Addie Walker of Reconnect Austin explained that her organization has been advocating that I-35 be buried from Lady Bird Lake to Airport Blvd. She cited two major problems with the current TxDOT expansion plan: It will greatly increase overall traffic; and – with lanes increasing from 12 to a proposed 20 – it will further divide Austin. She also noted that the 7,000-page DEIS estimates that 100 people, mostly on the East Side, will be displaced under the current plan. Reconnect Austin is also encouraging TxDOT decision makers to consider requiring truck traffic to

use Highway 130; Addie noted that TxDOT has lowered tolls as an experiment. She underscored Brendan's message that individuals should both submit feedback and resubmit feedback already sent because, for the first time, TxDOT is legally required to respond to public comments.

Reconnect Austin is also pushing for more crossing opportunities, more highway cover, and frontage roads designed more like city roads. The organization opposes the proposed construction of tunnels for pedestrian crossings at Riverside and Airport.

Jim Walker, Chair of Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, spoke next. Jim, who has engaged with I-35 projects for two decades, noted that Cherrywood is likely to feel the greatest impact of the expansion plan. Cherrywood, which has consistently taken a pragmatic approach, is now drafting a fifth letter. (The latest and prior letters are posted at cherrywood.org under Resources.)

The TxDOT plan has funding of \$4.9 billion and significant political momentum. However, the fact that several neighborhoods are uniting "is huge," according to Jim. Noting that major infrastructure projects do get refined, even at late stages, Jim said designers could add a cap (also known as a north-central deck) starting from Dean Keeton Street. He too encouraged individuals to send their opinions directly to TxDOT.

Kevin then read a friendly amendment from Karen McGraw. The amendment stated that the Department's first order of business should have been to study the impact of traffic diversion to less-traveled roads (i.e., 130), and it should have focused on reducing the impact on neighborhoods. The amendment proposes that the DEIS be revisited in light of these possibilities.

Although the City of Austin has very limited options with respect to federal projects, it was mentioned that City Council is starting to get more involved. Council Member José Vela is spearheading an effort to increase community involvement. An agenda item for the February 23 meeting will go to Council.

Continued on page 14

Easter Bunny Parade

Everybody hop on over to the Ney on April 8 at 3 pm for Hyde Park's annual Easter Bunny Parade benefiting our very own Hope Food Pantry!

The Hope Food Pantry, located in Trinity Church, provided groceries to 4602 households experiencing food insecurity during 2022. Volunteers spent over 6400 hours delivering, sorting, stocking, preparing, and distributing approximately 207,090 pounds – an equivalent of 172,575 meals – of produce and non-perishable grocery items. Let's show our support by donating canned and non-perishable food items along the route of the Easter Bunny Parade – south down Avenue H, west on 40th Street to Avenue G, north along Avenue G, ending at Shipe Park.

Once again, the SPJST will be generously donating, decorating, and driving the parade float. SPJST - helping Texans since 1897!

Hyde Park
Bunny Parade Route

Shipe Park End Elisabet Ney Museum Start

Avenue G Avenue H

40th Street

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April 8 — 3 p.m.

Benefiting the Hope Food Pantry
non-perishable food donations collected along the route

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Minutes: 2/4/23

Attendees: Barbara Gibson, David Connor, Joe Bedell, Karen McGraw, Karen Saadeh, Lorre Weidlich, Mity Myhr, Pat Ferguson, Reid Long, Susan Moffat, Todd Pruner, Wanda Penn, Pam Pruitt, Janet Zeitler, Janet Beinke, Oded Fehr, Melissa Martinez

Call to Order. Chair Barbara Gibson called the meeting of the HPNPCT to order at 3 pm. A quorum was present.

Presentation. Emily Payne gave a presentation of the City's goals in commissioning a historical survey and report. Susan Moffat gave an overview of the new state law regarding Local Historic Districts. Emily then gave an explanation of the methodology used to conduct the survey and then provided an in depth look at the survey results and gave recommendations for areas within the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan area. Important points covered were the following:

- **City Planning Challenges** – The city currently has three open positions in the planning department due to recent staff departures.
- **LHD Requirements** – A minimum of 50% of properties must be contributing structures to apply for an LHD. Within an area proposed for LHD, all property owners must support or the new state law requires a super-majority vote of City Council and the Landmark Commission to approve the proposed LHD. This means that creating a large new LHD might be extremely difficult. Smaller LHDs might be easier to achieve (as small as one side of the street on a single block) due to this constraint.
- **Recommendations** – Emily recommended starting with educational outreach regarding the benefits of an LHD (there is a LHD FAQ available here: <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=236833>) and then starting small with low hanging fruit where pockets of support are strongest. Gauging support at existing neighborhood events (like the Fire Station Festival) might be best. If pockets of support are assured within a defined area (even if small), then moving quickly to apply for LHD is recommended.
- **Challenges** – Getting an LHD approved requires volunteers willing to put in a lot of time to make it happen. There is also an application fee, which can be covered by HPNA. Garnering support might also be a challenge because some property owners might feel an LHD might restrict what can be done with their property. The new state law triggers super-majority votes at the city if all property owners within a proposed LHD area are not behind it.
- **Next Steps** – The team agreed that the LHD topic should be discussed at a spring HPNA meeting. Educational outreach to the neighborhood should be prioritized and support measured as possible to determine if there are one or more areas in North Hyde Park that might be able to garner enough support to apply for LHD designation. This will require volunteers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

– Submitted by
Todd Pruner, HPNPCT
Secretary

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Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston



Frustrating Recycling and Composting

Frustrating Recycling

Recycling is difficult because there are many items labeled “recycle” that are not recyclable in Austin. Confusion and frustration abound.

Many of us look for the recycling symbol to decide whether or not to put an item into the blue bin. However, the iconic symbol of the chasing arrows, or even the word “recyclable,” doesn’t always mean an item can be recycled in all markets. Some examples of items labeled “recycle” that are not recyclable in Austin are as follows:

- Toothpaste tubes - layers of material that cannot be separated to be recycled
- K-pods – too small for the recycling sorting equipment to handle
- Amazon mailers (brown ones labeled “recycle this mailer just like a box”) - layers of material that cannot be separated to be recycled

We have two recycling facilities in Austin: Balcones Resources and Texas Disposal Systems. Recycling is a for-profit business. In order for the facility to continue to operate, it has to have reliable markets to buy the products to be recycled. We are very lucky that, in Austin, we have strong markets. However, that doesn’t mean that every item marked “recycle” can be recycled in our markets. Adam Vehik, CEO of Balcones Resources, shared the following links that discuss this problem and what some states are doing to address this issue:

- How to know if something is recyclable - <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/verify/how-to-know-if-something-is-recyclable-earth-day/65-82dbc3a1-dce8-4c98-a8e4-ae593958a59c>
- California prohibits use of chasing arrows - <https://www.bdlaw.com/publications/california-prohibits-use-of-chasing-arrows-on-non-recyclable-items/>
- Oregon follows suit - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/recycling-symbol-false-advertising-california-oregon-new-york/>

How to Know if Something is Recyclable in Austin - Three Ways

1. What Do I Do With - <https://www.austintexas.gov/whatdo>

Type in the name of an item you want to recycle; this website will tell you how to recycle or dispose of it. This is an amazing website. In this crazy world of recycling guidelines and policies, this is a wonderful recycling tool.

2. Lettuce Recycle - My goal in writing this column is to educate my readers about the ever-changing world of recycling.

3. Email me at recycling@hpbwana.org. I receive questions every week about recycling and answer them immediately.

Frustrating Composting

All plastic bags, dinnerware, utensils, straws, and takeout containers must be labeled “BPI certified compostable” to be accepted for Austin’s curbside composting. Our compost company is Organics by Gosh. They use only three things to make their compost - heat, air, and time (120 days). They are completely organic; no chemicals are used to make their compost.

What Does BPI Certified Mean?

BPI certification means that an item labeled “BPI certified compostable” meets the standards to be composted in a commercial facility and break down into compost in a timely fashion and have pure, high-quality compost as an end result. There is no assurance that products without this certification are reliably compostable.



Here is what is frustrating: many people might assume that products made with agave, sugar cane, cornstarch, or other plant-based materials will compost. In reality, these products do not compost organically and completely in 120 days.

Zero Waste Block Leader Youth Program

The Zero Waste Block Leader program has been going strong in Austin for several years. Amy Boggan, with Austin Resource Recovery, has a vision to develop a youth program because there needs to be more diversity in the block leader program. The youth program would help bridge the age gap.

She created a formation committee made up entirely of high school students interested in zero waste. This committee will develop a new program that Austin Resource Recovery will create and manage.

Amy wants to encourage the young people to support zero waste and to do it in a way that meets their vision. The members of this group will develop ways to help Austin meet its goal of Zero Waste by 2040.

On a personal note: Kudos to Amy Boggan for starting this program. I have been a recycling block leader for 30 years and I am still passionate about recycling, reuse, and, in general, saving our planet. However, we need the youth of our world to pick up the gauntlet to continue to save our precious earth.

Please Remember - When in Doubt, Throw it Out!

Recycling and composting contamination is a huge problem. If you have exhausted all reuse possibilities and are still unsure, put the item into the trash can.

Nothing Smaller than a Credit Card in the Blue Bin

Remember the City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips for creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to recycling@hpbwana.org.

Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Minutes: 1/23/23

Attendees: Susan Moffat, Todd Pruner, Barbara Gibson, Karen McGraw, Betsy Clubine, Michael Horowitz, Reid Long, Lorre Weidlich, Joe Bedell, Nick Van Bavel, Karen Saadeh, Ellie Hanlon, Maury Sullivan, Andy Homer, Susan Marshall, Pat Ferguson

Call to Order. Chair Barbara Gibson called the meeting of the HPNPCT to order at 7 pm. A quorum was present.

Election of Officers. Betsy Clubine moved to approve the following slate of officers, seconded by Karen McGraw.

Barbara Gibson - Chair

Susan Moffat - Vice Chair

Todd Pruner - Secretary

Eligible attendees voted unanimously to elect these officers.

Other Business. Contact team members discussed the upcoming special called meeting, scheduled for Saturday, February 4, to hear a presentation about the city's recent historical survey of Hyde Park. The discussion might include the possibility of creating a Local Historic District north of 45th Street and adding eligible properties to the existing Local Historic District south of 45th Street. Barbara Gibson will contact Thad Avery, a property owner on Guadalupe, who has previously expressed interest in having his property included in the existing Local Historic District. Karen McGraw suggested leaving flyers for other business owners who might be interested in this discussion.

Adjourn. There being no further business, the HPNPCT adjourned its meeting at 7:12 pm.

– Submitted by
Todd Pruner, HPNPCT Secretary



February Minutes... ...cont'd from page 11

Kevin noted that the HPNA resolution will be sent to City Council and all entities that are involved in the I-35 expansion project. The letter that included Karen's amendment. The resolution letter passed.

Announcements. Betsy Clubine reminded members of the annual It's My Park Day, held this year on March 4 starting at 10 am. Signup information will be available soon.

Kevin reminded membership that he hoped to invite speakers such as Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Mayor Kirk Watson, Council Member Zo Qadri, Commissioner Brigid Shea, and Travis County Judge Andy Brown to future HPNA meetings.

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

– Minutes submitted by
Katie Vignery, HPNA Co-Secretary



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