

October Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 7, 2013

Where: Trinity United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Note: HPNA general meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for October 7

- Announcements
- Presentation by Willie Cecil from Capital Metro to introduce transportation plans and solicit input from the neighborhood about future plans
- Election of HPNA officers and Steering Committee members

See You There!

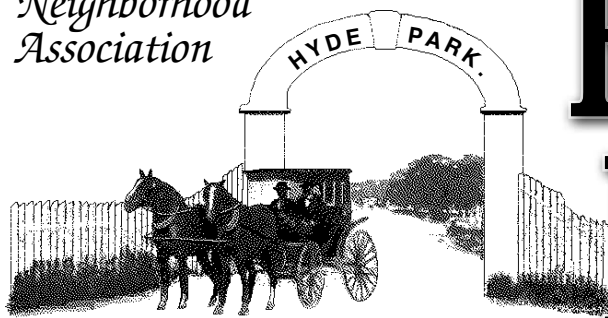
Thank You, Mr. President

At the Fire Station Festival, there will be a transition to a new HPNA leadership team. But now is the time to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of outgoing president John Williams, as well as those of Ashley Schweickart, who served as co-president until she moved back to Seattle in July. What should first be acknowledged is the hundreds of hours they spent in trying to do what was best for Hyde Park and its residents. They worked tirelessly, and with heart.

Some of the specific accomplishments of their term in office include the installation and dedication of the Huffstickler Green; the Egg Scramble in Shipe Park on the Saturday of Easter weekend, the initiation of which might well

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*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

October 2013 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 39, No. 10

In Gratitude: The 39th Fire Station Festival on October 20

It began with a casual conversation many years ago, the impact of which is still felt today and will be for many years to come.

All she wanted to do was register her child's bicycle at the fire station. What she received was news that ignited a cause worthy of a rallying cry and fight. "It's good," she was told, "that you came today because Fire Station #9 is being shut down in the next week or two. The East Avenue Fire Station is already closed."

It was Dorothy Richter the firefighter who was speaking. And as Hyde Parkers know, Dorothy is smart and tenacious, with a strong desire to right what she sees as a wrong. It was wrong to close Fire Station #9. She organized neighbors to take a stand. Picture the scene. Children on tricycles and push carts. Signs shouting "Councilman, councilman save our fire station!" TV crews. Neighbors joining the fight. Dorothy never giving up. City meetings. A cause requiring the creation of a strong partnership between neighbors and the fire station to win this fight for Hyde Park families and Fire Station #9.

Thirty-nine years later, Fire Station #9 not only remains open; its firefighters are neighbors.

Last year over 500 people gathered to celebrate this successful partnership of Hyde Park and the



The parade is always a lively, colorful part of the festival

fire station. The parade reminds us of the first children on tricycles. Signs today could be "Save our Fire Station. Save our lives." Stories abound in Hyde Park about the life-saving intervention of the firefighters.

The camaraderie and activities at the fire station also commemorate the creation of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA), which was organized to serve as an effective advocate for the neighborhood. At this festival, we honor neighbors for their community service; and newly-elected HPNA leaders officially begin their terms of office. The firefighters

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From the President's Desk

Now that my term as president is coming to an end, I want to share some of my thoughts about upcoming issues that face HPNA, as well as the neighborhood in general. First off, however, I need to thank Ashley Schweickart for all that she did for our neighborhood and for helping me tremendously as my co-president for the majority of our term before she moved this summer. Ashley was a huge asset to the neighborhood and served in her volunteer roles over the years quite effectively and with much dedication, and it was my pleasure to have served with her this past year. I'd also like to thank specifically Lisa Harris, our most recent past president, who helped us greatly during our term. In reality, I have so many people to thank that I couldn't possibly list them all in this letter.

In the remainder of this, my last letter, I'd like to focus on the future, sharing with you significant issues I think will most likely need to be addressed by our community, if not next year, at least during the next several. I summarize them in bulleted form:

Development (which of course will always be an issue to be dealt with)

- Currently, the northern section of the neighborhood is the most targeted area for development. It is the opinion of many neighbors that these dorm duplexes are not good for our neighborhood, and keeping properties as true single-family residences is far preferable. How do we address this in the future? Do we attempt to turn several sections of north Hyde Park into a Local Historic District to prevent the demolition of single family residences? Do we work with City Council to try to prevent more of these dorm duplexes? Do we work with other neighborhoods to try to prevent this type of development through organizations such as the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC), or do we try to go it alone without working with other central Austin neighborhoods?
- It seems likely that the Austin State Hospital grounds will eventually be sold to developers. How will HPNA respond to increased development on that land? Will we support a large amount of infill, or will we fight any significant changes to that property?

- What is the continuing balance needed between preservation and new development?
- This is just the tip of the iceberg for development issues in Hyde Park, and more will continually come up. These issues are quite complex and HPNA

Pecan Press

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Editor

Michael Nill <editorpecanpress@gmail.com>

Poetry Editor

Charlotte Herzele <herzele@gmail.com>

Photo Editor

Lizzie Chen

Advisory Board

Lisa Harris

Kevin Heyburn

John Kerr

Grant Thomas (Editor Emeritus)

Production Manager/Advertising Director

Robert M. Farr 731-0617 <bobfarr@austin.rr.com>

Mail Ad Payments to:

Lynne Hohlfeld P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

Mail Ad Artwork to:

Robert M. Farr <bobfarr@austin.rr.com>

7500 Chelmsford Dr. Austin, TX 78736

Distribution Coordinator

Rimas Remeza • 4105 Ave. F • 371-3158

<rimasx@yahoo.com>

Area Coordinators

N of 45th/W of Duval • Syema Muzaffar

N of 45th/E of Duval • Jay Gerard & Carrie Laughlin 371-1546

S of 45th/W of Speedway • volunteer needed

S of 45th/E of Speedway • Martha Campbell..... 452-2815

Contributors Past and Present

Becker, Deaton Bednar, Steve Bratteng , George Bristol, Sharon Brown, Lewis Brownlow, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Kitty Clark, Betsy Clubine, Elsy Cogswell, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Pam Dozler, Cathy Echols, Mark Fishman, Merle Franke, Larry Freilich, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Barbara Gibson, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Lisa Harris, Anne Hebert, Ben Heimsath, Albert Huffstickler, Cynthia Janis, Paul Kamprath, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Susan Kirk, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Libby Malone, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Susan Moffat, John Paul Moore, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wanda Penn, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter, Kristen De La Rosa, Steve Sadowsky, Mark Sainsbury, Jessica Salinas, Mary Lou Serafine, Cathy Short, Sarah Sittin, Thad Sittin, Clay Smith, Niyanta Spelman, Julie Strong, Grant Thomas, Debbie Trammell, Rollo Treadway, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Lorre Weidlich, Adam Wilson, Hanna Wiseman Jacobs, Hermelinda Zamarripa..



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765 <http://www.austinhypark.org>

– HPNA Officers/Steering Committee –

President

• John Williams <jawilli@grandecom.net>

Co-Vice Presidents

• Mark Fishman <mlfishman@gmail.com>

• Kathy Lawrence (Acting)

Co-Secretaries • Claire de Young • Mike Pikulsi

Co-Treasurers • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

• I.J. Aarons <ijaarons@aol.com>

• Lynne Hohlfeld <lhohlfeldcpa@yahoo.com>

Additional Steering Committee Members:

• Dorothy Richter • Lorre Weidlich • Eric Stumberg

• Kevin Heyburn • Kathy Lawrence • Paul Kamprath

• Annette Luksinger • Lisa Harris

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

AISD • Annette Luksinger

Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, <sky2wash@austin.rr.com>

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Ellen Williams,

<anc_rep@yahoo.com>

Beautification • Robin Burch <robinburch@gmail.com>

(903) 780-5275

Children's Programs • Elise Krentzel

Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F.

459-8349

Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, <rsilberling@gmail.com>

452-1783

Crime & Safety • Carol Welder

Development Review • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com>

Finance • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com>

Graffiti Patrol • Lisa Harris <ljharris@yahoo.com>

420-0652

Homes Tour • Carolyn Grimes <cgrimes@cbunited.com>

Membership • Sharon Brown <dons Sharon4213@sbcglobal.net>

• Karen Saadeh <kdmatthis@gmail.com>

Neighborhood Outreach • Larry Gilg <lgilg@grandecom.net>

Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C 459-2261

Local Historic District • inactive

Parks & Public Space • Mark Fishman, <mlfishman@gmail.com>

656-5505

Social • Deaton Bednar, <deatonbednar@grandecom.net>

Transportation • VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C 206-0729

Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G 452-5117

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Thank You, Mr. President... ...cont'd from page 1

become an annual community tradition; successful transition of the Homes Tour from a June to November date and from two days to one; first-time ever expansion of the It's My Park Day to include the Ney grounds as well as Shipe Park; ongoing work with City Council and the leadership teams of surrounding neighborhoods regarding the dorm duplex issue; Local Historic District sign toppers; online registration for new memberships and renewals; and recruitment of a new *Pecan Press* editor.

Perhaps the most notable accomplishments lie in the realm of outreach. From the beginning, Ashley and John supported the creation of the Neighborhood Outreach Committee and its efforts to make HPNA a more inclusive organization. Indeed, one or the other of them attended virtually every one of its meetings. They supported the committee's work of instituting welcome packets for new residents and preparing a survey of residents. When a significant number of survey responses indicated discomfort with various aspects of HPNA, John and Ashley began the work of creating a more inclusive tone and broadening community involvement in HPNA. These will obviously need to be ongoing goals, but a mark of significant progress was quite visible at the September general meeting when the Nominating Committee (of which John is a member) spoke of the inspiring values behind the selection of the nominees for next year's HPNA leadership team, many of whom are new and reside north of 45th Street. (For more details on this, see "Selecting Nominees," page 12).

If, as this editor believes, the major overall criterion for judging the success of a leader is leaving an organization better than he or she found it, this criterion has, indeed, been amply filled. And so, once again, thank you, Mr. President.

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39th Annual Fire Station Festival

...cont'd from page 1

welcome us to their station, and children climb on the big red shiny fire truck. In short, the festival provides an opportunity to express gratitude for Hyde Park, for its history and for what it has become.



Children, and even adults, love to come in costume.

And so once again, this year on Sunday, October 20, neighbors and visitors will gather at Shipe Park at 3:30 in preparation for the parade. Festivities at the fire station will begin at 4:30 and end by 6:00.

This year's Fire Station Festival is shaping up to be the one of the best ever. The Festival Committee is planning enhanced and new activities for adults, teens, pre-teens and children. This is a festival for all ages. Among the new activities in discussion are more activities involving fire station personnel. You want to know the specifics? Ah, yes, but you will have to wait until festival day when you can experience them for yourselves.

After gathering in Shipe Park at 3:30, parade participants will be ready to march to the fire station at 4:00. They will be led by the local fire truck and the HPNA banner. Wear your Halloween costume. Decorate your bikes, strollers, wagons, pets, vehicles, movable objects and yourselves. Prizes will be awarded in these costume categories: scariest, funniest, most creative, best pet, best family, and special mention categories like best wheels.

You're not in the parade? Line the avenues to cheer it on. The parade route from Shipe Park is south on Avenue G, west on 41st, north on Avenue F and west on 43rd to the station. To see this parade invokes memories of your childhood when you experienced heart-swelling pride for your neighborhood, city, or country.

Refreshments, music, activities for all ages await you at the fire station. Sponsorship by HPNA and Grande Communications, along with the following businesses, make the festival possible: Carolyn Grimes of Coldwell Bankers, Dolce Vita, Fresh Plus, Hyde Park Bar and Grill, Montessori Center, Quacks, Skylark Lounge, Toy Joy, Trinity United Methodist Church, Walgreens and Wheatsville Food Co-op.



The fire truck never fails to fascinate.

It is often said that the Fire Station Festival is the community-building event of the year in Hyde Park. Rain or shine, be a part of that community and celebrate with us on Sunday Oct. 20. Your presence is what makes the festival so enjoyable and memorable. Invite your friends to join you in the parade. Be a spectator to cheer on parade participants. And don't forget your \$5 to join or renew your membership in the neighborhood association, as well as your donations of gently used books for K-6 children at BeHive Austin.

For more information on the story of saving the Fire Station and the 39th Festival, visit <www.austinhidelpark.org/events/fsfestival/>. See you there.

— Deaton Bednar,
Chair, Fire Station Festival Committee



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Touring Hyde Park: Part Two

In anticipation of this year's Homes Tour on November 10, I shared in last month's *Pecan Press* a love letter to Hyde Park. It was, however, quite a different place when I moved to Austin in the summer of 1977. Then the neighborhood was sad and unfashionable; it was in decline. Students loved the huge, cheap Victorian homes that they could share with a dozen of their friends. Other old homes were abandoned or destroyed to make way for apartment buildings, commercial uses, and parking lots. But not all.

I wish I could say I was one of the urban pioneers who saw the potential for Hyde Park back then, but I cannot. I did, however, have a similar experience in Brooklyn in 1980. I could only afford to rent in a "changing neighborhood" where friends took the risk of purchasing dilapidated brownstones. We all experienced teasing when we told people where we lived. We knew, though, that we had found the best diamonds in the rough, with the most wonderful details covered in decades of awful paint.

It was in 1977 that a group of Hyde Park neighbors created the Historic Homes Rediscovery Tour. It was a walking tour established specifically to explain the architectural features of older homes, to show how historic properties could be restored and revived, and to encourage others to do the same. Thanks to those tours through the streets of Hyde Park and the efforts of many neighbors, more and more people were converted and hundreds of homes were transformed.

Today, we don't need to convince people to move into Hyde Park, but we still share our love of historic houses and our neighborhood. Six homes and their gardens will be featured in the 37th Historic Hyde Park Homes Tour on Sunday November 10. They include the landmark Oliphant House at 3900 Avenue C, the fabulous and green home at 4105 Avenue D, the transformed former B&B at 4311 Avenue F, the beautiful bungalow at 4010 Avenue G, the Tudor revival with a new garden at 3808 Avenue H, and the updated classic craftsman at 4004 Avenue H.

As in the first tour, neighbors educate guests about the architectural details and history, and docents receive FREE admission to view all of the tour homes. We can still use your help. To volunteer, contact Homes Tour Volunteer Coordinator John Williams at <jawilli@grandecom.net>, 512-350-1094, or contact me at <cgrimes@cbunited.com>, 512-426-3559 (cell/text).

— Carolyn Grimes
Chair, 2013 Hyde Park Homes Tour



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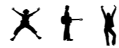
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Around & About the Avenues

Donate Children's Books: As part of the Fire Station Festival this year, Hyde Park is again supporting The BeHive, <www.behiveaustin.org>. At three locations in Austin, this organization offers low-income children free summer and afterschool programs that provide a safe haven and academic support and encourage good citizenship. Gently used K – 6 books are needed. You may bring them to Fresh Plus at 43rd and Duval from September 4 to the day of the festival on October 20. On the day of the festival, you can give them to the volunteer at the red wagon in Shipe Park during preparations for the parade (3:30 – 4:00), or drop them off at the fire station and look for the donation box there (4:30 – 6:00). If you have questions, please contact Anne-Marie Greiger at <anne_marie@grandecom.net>.



The Hyde Park Contact Team: Its quarterly meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Residents, property owners and business owners in Hyde Park are invited and encouraged to participate. Agendas and reminders are posted on the Hyde Park listserv. The HPCT is charged with the implementation of and any changes to the city-adopted Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan.



Healthy Debate: In the July issue, in a farewell interview with the departing co-president, Ashley Schweickart noted in response to one of the questions that, given Austin's growth, Hyde Park cannot just continue to reject growth, but must come up with a plan pinpointing where growth makes the most sense. In the August issue, Larry Gilg followed up in a similar vein with a provocative piece on rethinking development in Hyde Park. In this issue, Karen McGraw, a knowledgeable and prominent participant in Hyde Park planning efforts over the years, argues to the contrary that current plan documents and guidelines do provide an adequate and balanced approach to infill and density. (See "Striking a Balance," page 14.) Thoughtful, respectful debate on such important issues is entirely appropriate for the pages of the *Pecan Press*. It is hoped that more perspectives will be forthcoming, but also that the discussion will move beyond these pages to more formal discussions among neighbors at HPNA-sponsored meetings. If any readers, like this editor, find zoning and density matters puzzling and difficult to evaluate, such open discussions on these and other challenging issues could be a way to broaden understanding and thus enable more neighbors to reach reasoned solutions and decisions.




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Fall Classes in Our Backyard: Trinity United Methodist Church (4001 Speedway), has scheduled three classes for adults at 7:00 p.m. in their Wednesday night "Wellsprings of Wisdom" series, beginning October 16 and ending November 13. First, "The Gospel According to Starbucks: Living with a Grande Passion"—a class about coffee, chat, and spirituality. Second, "Uppity Women of the Bible," which will focus on Ruth. And third, the Austin Classical Guitar Society will hold their second session of classes designed to introduce participants to the world of classical guitar while preparing them specifically to enjoy major international touring artists coming to Austin for the Austin Classical Guitar International Concert series. All neighbors are welcome. More information and online registration are available at <www.tumc.org/no-exceptions/wellsprings-of-wisdom>.

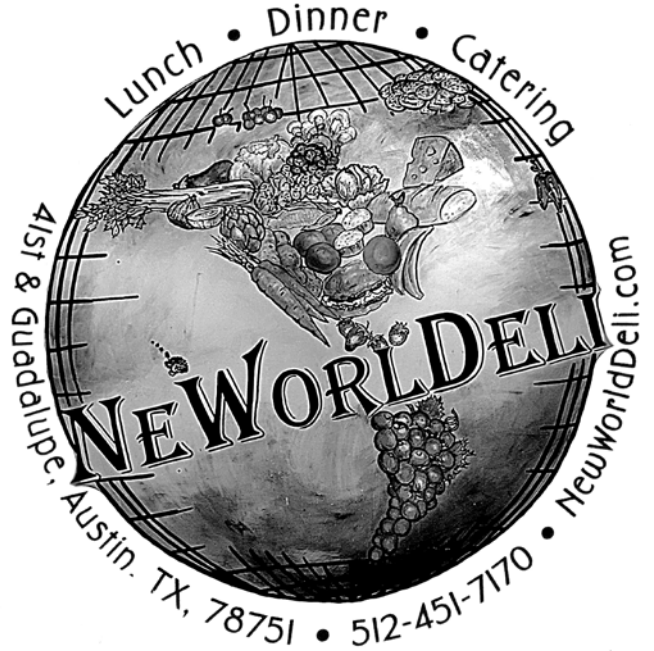


Welcome Aboard: As previously announced, with this issue, Lizzie Chen assumes her duties as the first ever photo editor of the *Pecan Press*. She will select, edit, and at times take photos for this publication. She will be taking pictures at the Fire Station Festival on Sunday October 20. If you see her there, please give her a warm greeting!



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HPNA Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2013

The September meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by John Williams, president.

Austin Police Officer Josh Matteauer made his presentation first. As the police representative for Hyde Park and the surrounding area between 38th Street and Koenig Lane, from MoPac to I-35, Officer Matteauer is able to provide information and statistics, as well as act on regular calls as a patrolman. He reported that from July to August, property crime decreased in Hyde Park and adjacent areas, with fewer bicycle thefts and burglaries of vehicles and residences. Officer Matteauer encouraged residents to go by the motto, "Take, Hide and Lock," every day at home and on the road. He reads the emails individuals send. Although he cannot monitor yahoo group messages, individuals could alert him by direct email if something pertinent is being said on a neighborhood listserv. His email address is <joshua.matteauer@austintexas.gov>; his office phone is 512-974-8124.

Carol Welder, chair of HPNA Crime and Safety, reminded the meeting that the law enforcement crime awareness and prevention program, National Night Out (NNO), will be held October 1. Any NNO block or group can complete application at the city website <www.austintexas.gov/departement/national-night-out>, or by calling 512-974-4900, by Sept. 13 to be on a list for a visit from public services such as police, fire, EMS and Code Enforcement. Registration is important for the full count of participation at both city and state levels. Hyde Park groups can have get-togethers, with HPNA providing funds for the purchase of ice cream. Further details can be found in the September issue of the *Pecan Press*.

The next order of business was a vote on the proposed changes to language in the Development Review Committee portion of the HPNA bylaws. The additional wording was printed in the August issue of the *Pecan Press*. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the language. During the discussion an amendment was offered, adjusting the sequence of meetings to ensure that a hearing of a notice for variance would first occur in the Design and Review Committee and then in the Steering Committee, and lastly at a general HPNA meeting. This amendment was accepted. However, a further amendment requesting that the Steering Committee use the Board of Adjustment criteria did not pass. The changes to the bylaws were overwhelmingly approved by voting members.

Finally, the Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for the coming year. Adam Wilson

Continued on page 18




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Selecting Nominees for a New HPNA Leadership Team

Transparency, democracy, and good governance. An ethic of disagreeing respectfully, a willingness to compromise and a desire to seek consensus. Being welcoming to and inclusive of all people in our neighborhood. These are the values that guided the efforts of the Nominating Committee to build a slate of nominees for the coming year's HPNA leadership team.

The 2013 Nominating Committee is thus proud to submit the following slate of nominees:

Co-Presidents: Kevin Heyburn and Lorre Weidlich

Co-Vice Presidents: Kathy Lawrence and Mark Fishman

Co-Secretaries: Adrian Skinner and Artie Gold

Co-Treasurers: I.J. Aarons and Steve Baker

At-Large Members of the Steering Committee:

Betsy Clubine, Ellie Hanlon, Heidi Bojes, Jessica Charbeneau, and Pam Whittington

We are also thrilled to have Dorothy Richter (member for life), Eric Stumberg (middle of existing term), and John Williams (past president seat) returning to the Steering Committee!

This is a group of people who are passionate about building community in Hyde Park and skilled in leadership, governance, and collaboration. It includes people who will bring new energy and perspectives to the association, but it also has the strength and leadership of people with decades of experience in HPNA governance. (Specifically, the group includes eight people who are new to HPNA leadership along with eight returning members.) And the slate increases representation from north of 45th Street – it has six people who live in this northern section of Hyde Park, where development is becoming more of an issue.

One of the primary reasons Hyde Park is such a wonderful place to live is that it has so many people who are engaged in the work of sustaining the character of the neighborhood and building a strong sense of community here. We are excited about the leadership potential and experience of the group we have selected, and we believe it is well suited to lead the neighborhood in the coming year.

We have deep gratitude for these nominees for their generosity and dedication on behalf of the neighborhood. And all our neighbors, we thank them for their thoughtful consideration of our slate of nominees for officers and members of the Steering Committee. Please plan to attend the October general meeting to vote on these nominations.

– *Adam Wilson, John Williams, and Kathy Lawrence*
The 2013 HPNA Nominating Committee



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Striking a Balance: Hyde Park Plans Get It Right

In its July issue, *The Pecan Press* published a piece by Larry Gilg in which he advised neighbors to “pull our heads out of the sand and begin to discuss how we can accommodate a higher density of population in Hyde Park while maintaining the quality of life that is supported by the built environment.”

In fact, Hyde Parkers did just that when hundreds of us put tremendous efforts into the City of Austin Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan (adopted 2000), the Neighborhood Conservation Combining Districts (adopted 2002 and 2005, respectively) and the Hyde Park Historic District (adopted 2010). These documents carefully incorporate preservation and conservation, while allowing for substantial new development as well.

Contrary to Mr. Gilg’s assertion that these plans “[make] no provision for infill or new development” and represent a “no-growth” or “anti-growth” strategy, the current plans provide many opportunities for greater density and infill. In fact, Hyde Park is already more dense than the new, mixed-use Mueller development; and our current plans allow for hundreds of additional units that have yet to be built.

Like many of us who have lived here since the 1970s, Mr. Gilg witnessed the onslaught of demolitions, inappropriate development and loss of housing stock to parking lots that originally spurred Hyde Park residents to work to preserve the beauty and livability of this wonderful place. In fact, he spearheaded the first neighborhood planning effort for Hyde Park in 1985, and was present during the subsequent planning effort from 1990-2005 that resulted in the adopted Neighborhood Plan and its subsequent implementation via the Neighborhood Conservation Combining Districts (NCCDs).

In the course of the thousands of volunteer hours that went into the neighborhood planning effort, there were many discussions about how to allow appropriate new development while respecting the historic buildings and character of the neighborhood. As a result, zoning was crafted for new development and infill in a number of places. The NCCDs specifically allow for new density on Avenue A north of 45th, along West 38th, on Guadalupe where mixed-use development is allowed, on the post office site, on the 5-acre tract at 45th and Duval (Oak Park Apartments) and in other locations.

It’s important to understand that the City of Austin defines neighborhood planning as an “infill

Continued on page 16

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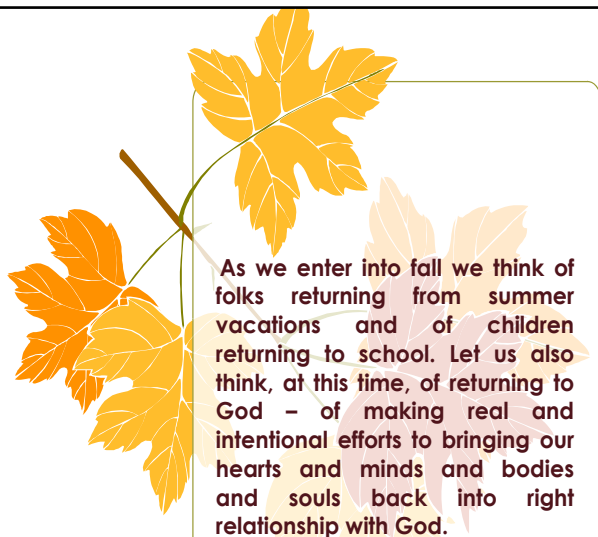


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Striking a Balance...

...cont'd from page 14

program" and nothing else – no protection, preservation or conservation – just infill. To balance the goals of densification and preservation, Hyde Park did much of its own work on these plans, in concert with city staff, and raised funds to pay experts for the NCCD kickoff and to help survey, research and draft the Historic District.

Though the city's infill tools are not technically part of our NCCD, I believe our plans achieve similar goals, albeit with more care. For example, Hyde Park has specifically retained a great deal of commercial zoning because neighbors like being able to walk to local businesses. We purposely did not switch our commercial zoning to mixed use (MU) as the city recommended because, contrary to popular belief, MU zoning does not preserve or require any ground floor commercial use, including retail, restaurants or other businesses. *In fact, under MU zoning, apartments could potentially replace all our existing Hyde Park businesses.*

Similarly, when we began the neighborhood planning process, we knew from our survey that at least 100 single-family lots south of 45th were already eligible for a second dwelling unit. While the city's infill tool would have allowed a second unit on every lot, even very undersized ones, we purposely maintained the minimum lot size for second dwellings in order to limit excessive cars and traffic, preserve trees and be respectful of neighboring properties. (To see what infill looks like without these protections, go to the Northfield neighborhood north of 51st Street. It has experienced many teardowns, huge two-family developments, and an exodus of families now replaced with a very transient population. Last year, Northfield residents belatedly made revisions to their own plan to try to save what is left of their neighborhood.)

While the interior of Hyde Park has no large tracts of vacant land for massive new developments, neighborhood leaders have consistently supported large infill projects nearby, including the Triangle Apartments, the Gables at Central Market, Waller Creekside and others. (The original Triangle plan was for a strip mall with no residential units at all until Hyde Park and other nearby neighborhoods insisted on incorporating multi-family housing.) Similarly, our Guadalupe Corridor plan allows heights of 50 feet or greater south of 40th Street, which can accommodate many additional apartment units. There are also many nearby tracts on North Lamar and Burnet Road that are sufficiently deep to allow both for dense development and appropriate transitioning to adjacent neighborhoods.

Even in regard to smaller lots, there are few, if any, vacant tracts in Hyde Park unless an older home is to be demolished. How many more teardowns would

Continued on page 18

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Striking a Balance...

...cont'd from page 16

it take before our historic neighborhood is no more? Even a modest bungalow in Hyde Park can carry a great value. Not everyone needs a large home to live a good life.

Rethinking neighborhood planning certainly has merit, but focusing solely on increased infill is short-sighted at best. I believe our community interests can be better balanced without bowing to density simply for density's sake.

Our neighborhood is valuable, livable and already over-taxed. Even if we cover every square inch with towering apartment buildings, this will not reduce our taxes, enlarge Shipe Park, or bring us any more benefits than we already enjoy.

Austin has much land for infill, but once the beautiful central city neighborhoods are gone, they cannot be replaced. Like many Hyde Park residents, I believe in the value of our neighborhood. Our current plans strike a healthy balance, allowing for sensible substantial growth while preserving what we all love about this place we call home.

– Karen McGraw AIA
Chairman, Hyde Park Neighborhood
Plan Contact Team

September Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 10

introduced nominees who gave brief bios. The election will be held at the general meeting in October. (See page 12 for a list of nominees.)

Announcements were made. New members were recognized and welcomed. Membership applications will be accepted at the Fire Station Festival on October 20. The membership committee is asking assistance from volunteers during that event. Also, the PayPal system is being repaired to facilitate memberships made over the internet. Mark Fishman is taking email requests for the Local Historic District street sign toppers, available for any Hyde Park intersection. Also, neighbors are asked to send notes of thanks to council members for their attention to the parks section of the recently adopted City of Austin budget. Doris Coward, a voter registrar, encouraged everyone to make sure their voter cards have a current and correct address. Neighbors can assist with registration of the whole neighborhood for upcoming elections by completing the deputy registrar hour-long course at the Travis County Tax Office (5501 Airport Blvd.). Details can be found at www.co.travis.texas.us/tax_assessor under the voter registration section.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

– Mike Pikulski and Clare deYoung
HPNA Co-Secretaries

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4104 AVENUE G

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Listed at \$399,000



608 EAST 41st ST.

Charming 1930s home on corner lot overlooking Hancock Golf Course. Approximately 2,300 SF with 4BR, 3BA, 2LIV. Screened porch, fenced yard, carport.

Listed at \$525,000



4006-1/2 AVENUE B

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