

NORTH UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Austin: The Loud Music Capital of the World

By Bob Kaler

At our General Membership Meeting on May11, 2012 the members of the North University Neighborhood Association agreed to seek an association with East Woods, Hancock and Hyde Park to address the endemic problem of sound trespass from the clubs in the Waller Creek Basin, such as Stubbs at 8th and Red River and The Blind Pig at 317 E. 6th. The proposed Presidents Forum is now established and the first meeting is being coordinated by our President, Laurence Miller. Lin Team (East Woods), Mike Hirsch (Hancock) and Lisa Harris (Hyde Park) acknowledged the problem and agree that our coalition has the best chance of affecting real change in the Live Music Venue Permitting Policy. Lin Team suggested that we consider bringing The Downtown Neighborhood Association in the group and to that end I have contacted Michael McGill, who will assist in that process.

The President Forum will need to address the following issues:

Draft a policy statement that calls for an end to all music trespass into our neighborhoods and homes from the bars and clubs in the Downtown Entertainment District.

Require the sound ordinance be revised to recognize the problem of long distance trespass by bass and other low-frequency sounds, not just the 85 decibel limits that currently fail to protect our homes. Any revisions of the sound ordinance should address both outdoor and rooftop venues differently than indoor. Indoor venues must be required to upgrade wall windows, doors and roof construction to contain ALL sound, especially low-frequency wave lengths.

Require that the Music Commission police the Downtown Entertainment District, to assure that revised policies are enforced and offending venues are sanctioned. (According to the police, NO down town bar or club has been fined for violation of the sound ordinance.) Individuals and neighborhood associations should not be required to do the Commission's work.

Require that the affected neighborhood associations be allowed to participate in all public hearings concerning new music venues or music venue permits in their areas. End the permitting of such by staff without a public hearing.

Develop a strategy to effectively lobby the Mayor and Council to assure that this serious quality of life issue is addressed and that they direct the staff to use science, not politics as a new sound ordinance is developed and adopted, an ordinance that protects the peace for thousands of citizens, not the profits of a handful of bar and club owners.

The efforts of many have led to this and I want to recognize at least two and thank them for their unsung work for us all. Thank you Mary Gay Maxwell and Mary Ingle for your untiring effort preserve our quiet neighborhood.

New Meeting Time!

Next NUNA General Membership Meeting

> Monday June 4, 2012 6:30 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church

NUNA Neighborhood Notes

About the Newsletter

For the last two years Maria Orozova, owner of the Mod Studio and resident of NUNA, has been our newsletter designer providing us with a clear beautiful copy each issue. She has generously donated time and energy to this task, a huge commitment to our neighborhood. I want to express our thanks and appreciation to Maria and her staff for such lovely work. She is taking what we hope will be just a leave of absence until the fall.

Maria's departure left a big gap for us and I sent out an SOS to the list-serve. Jeremy Benedik, (son of Kathryn Kotrla &

Next NUNA General Membership Meeting

First English Lutheran Church Monday June 4, 2012 | 6:30pm

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Guests:

Jill Mayford from Austin Water

III. Reports:

CANPAC - Mary Ingle

Development Review - Steven Tomlinson

Membership - Kimberly Renner

Newsletter - Judy Willcott

Parks - Mark Feist and Doug Plummer

Parking - Eugene Sepulveda

Treasurer - Laurence Miller for Jan Moyle

Quadrant Leaders' Reports - Dick Holland, Mike

Riley, Kimberly Renner and Rick Iverson

IV. Items Recommended for Action:

Change of Membership Dues

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

VII. Adjourn

Robert Morris) answered my call. Jeremy who is presently a student at Emory University and used to help his mother when she edited NUNA News, has some experience. He kindly agreed to help with this issue and we are very grateful to him. Thank you Jeremy!

Theater Coming to Sparky Park

Mark your calendars. October 4 - 20, 2012, 8 pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings. The Exchange Artists will present <u>The Man Who Planted Trees</u> by Jean Giono, a play about the positive impact humans can have on the environment.

Don't miss it.

Report on Work on 34th Street

The 34th Street Reconstruction Project is underway and the City of Austin's contractor has made great progress. The project extends from Shoal Creek Boulevard to West Avenue and includes: replacing water, wastewater, and storm drain lines under the roadway, full depth road reconstruction, sidewalk improvements, addition of a bicycle lane, and a new cross walk just west of Medical Parkway.

Current Status

The contractor has completed installation of water utilities from Shoal Creek Boulevard to Medical Parkway and has installed a new storm drain at Shoal Creek. Additionally, they have completed the boring under Lamar and are currently installing water utilities under Lamar.

34th Street is detoured from Medical Parkway to Owen Avenue. We anticipate using different detours in this area over the next few months. However, as we are able, we will open sections to traffic. Once this phase of construction is complete they will begin paving the roadway.

Schedule

The project began June of 2011. The rainy spring has slowed the contractor a bit, but they are still on schedule to complete the project by late summer 2012.

The project team sends out regular email updates to citizens who are interested in keeping up with the project status. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send your name and email address to JRichey@cdandp.com.

If you have any questions related to this project and the work being done by the City's contractor please contact the Construction Inspector and/or Project Manager.

City of Austin Project Manager

Rohini Kumarage (512) 974-7127

Rohini.Kumarage@austintexas.gov

City of Austin Construction Inspector

Alberto Ramirez (512) 974-8788

Alberto.Ramirez@austintexas.gov

Minutes: NUNA General Membership Meeting

April 11, 2012

The following people were present: Laurence Miller, Judy Willcott, Bob Kaler, Mary Ingle, Larry Newmann, Kimberly Renner, Rick Iverson, Joan Burnham, Vicki Ford and Madeline Maxwell.

Laurence Miller called the meeting to order and asked for volunteers to represent NUNA at the Austin Neighborhood Council. We have not had a representative since Bill Bednar's term expired.

Mary Ingle made a report from CANPAC, the planning team for Central Austin's Neighborhood Plan. She mentioned her term expires in June 2012, and a motion was immediately made to renew her term, which passed unanimously. Mary said CANPAC is concerned about the 34th Street/West Avenue proposed medical complexes in the Heritage Neighborhood. The developers are requesting more entitlements, asking for GO (General Office) zoning on 3 corners of West Avenue up from LO (local office); developers for "medical purposes" have great influence with the City and usually prevail. The old Austin Diagnostic Clinic property on 34th Street has been less than 50% leased since 1997, making it difficult to get financing for an actual, real life development project, but the chances would be greater to do so with the greater entitlements, such as with an increased zoning category (GO). The current LO zoning provides much larger development than is on the ground now on the 3 corners (SE, SW, NW) of West Avenue; one can see a new, large project with the old zoning (LO) on the NE

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Dick Holland/Cynthia Bryant

rh02@txstate.edu

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

Development Review Committee (DRC)

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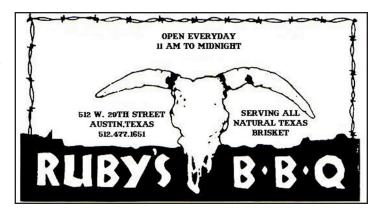
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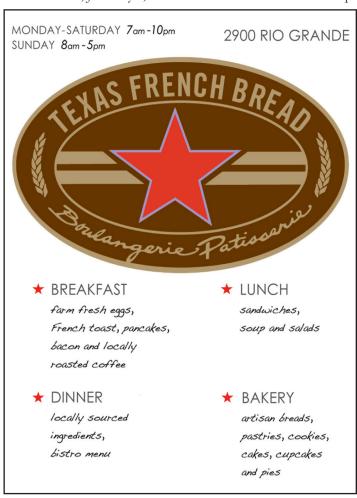


corner of West Avenue for comparison and scale.

NUNA, a member neighborhood of CANPAC, is pursuing a remedy for the houses at 201 E 34th ST and 3307 Helms Streets which occupy a single lot and are (legally) non-complying. The neighborhood supports the owner's proposed changes to make the houses freestanding, but that will entail a change in the NCCD to also accommodate specific occupancy limits for those properties only. City Legal and planning staff are shy to support language for occupancy limits for specific properties, but this situation is unique. NUNA's next challenge will be to work with the Planning Commission to see if the language could be incorporated into the proposed changes/Plan Amendment for these properties. If this is not possible, a private restrictive covenant concerning the proposed occupancy limits will need to be drawn up before the case reaches the City Council.

Parking was briefly discussed. The neighborhood opposes any parking meters around Hemphill Park. Laurence mentioned that our new parking chief is Eugene Sepulveda and we are grateful to him for assuming these responsibilities.

Our treasurer, Jan Moyle, is still on leave and will return in Sep-



tember. Laurence in the meantime is keeping track of our cash and submitted a report with the revenues and expenditures. It was mentioned that all of the revenues from the Residential Parking Program go back to the City.

Quadrant Leader Rick Iverson reported that 37th Street is becoming more livable as a result of better renters, some new owners.

The current crime alert in our neighborhood was discussed. The police are aware and concerned and have increased foot patrols in our neighborhood. The need to report any suspicious thing to 911 was emphasized.

There also was a brief discussion about the homeless people in our neighborhood and about what if anything can be done to help them.

Bob Kaler led a discussion about noise in our neighborhood. Bob reported that there were no results from meeting with the police and the Music Commission members. The City is clearly committed to music and not interested in complaints from the neighborhoods. Several neighborhoods are joining forces to present the idea of noise trespassing to City officials. The problem is that the outdoor music venues are not measured. The 85 decibel measured on the street does not take into account the way music travels and escalates at the rooftop level. The police are not interested in helping.

The following motion was made and seconded.

It was moved that NUNA keep up the pressure with the following:

- 1. A Presidents' Forum with Hyde Park, Hancock, East Woods and Nuna to establish a policy concerning noise trespass.
- 2. A joint letter from the four presidents to the City Council and Mayor stating our policy concerning noise trespassing.

The motion passed unanimously.

The final discussion was about the inconvenience of the day and time of the NUNA meetings. It was decided that both the Executive Committee and the General Membership meetings would be held on the first Monday of the month beginning in May.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Willcott

Adam's and Hemphill Park

By Mark Feist

Over the past 8 years we have accomplished some significant improvements to Adam's and Hemphill Parks. The City spent approximately \$400,000 on infrastructural improvements including completely rebuilding our historical bridges and curbs within Hemphill Park. In 2007 the neighborhood reclaimed Adam's Park by the combined effort of many neighborhood volunteers and several City departments. The perimeters of the park were cut back, vegetation within the creek was removed to create an expanded field of view, year around vagrant camps were moved, and rocks and debris were hauled away allowing the Parks Department the ability to keep the park clear to the perimeter. These improvements made it possible for neighbors to once again use and enjoy the Adam's Park without fear.

Another achievement is our annual It's My Park Day, a day each year when we come together to clean up our beloved parks. The participation and cooperation inw this event gave me a strong sense of community and unity within the neighborhood. I want to personally thank those of you who have shown up and worked together to help beautify our parks and enjoy a Trudy's breakfast taco together.

I have always thought that Adam's Park is our neighborhood diamond in the rough. It sits on our southern boundary with



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UT and the Presbyterian Seminary. The City is developing Waller Creek up to UT's southern boundary with the \$150 million Waller Creek Tunnel Project. When finished, it will be a pedestrian/development corridor similar in concept to San Antonio's River walk. The Waller Creek Design Competition is going on between 4 different architectural firms, all competing for the Master Plan. Once the plan is chosen by the City, UT has said it will develop their own plan for the redevelopment of their portion of Waller Creek to connect to the City project. With Adam's Park at UT's northern boundary we have an opportunity to create a Waller Creek Master Plan of our own. A pedestrian corridor running through downtown and UT connecting to NUNA at Adam's Park would not only be

Schedule of Upcoming NUNA Meetings

Executive Committee

502 West 33rd Street 6:00 p.m.

First Monday of the Month:

May 7

July 2

September 3

November 5

January 7

General Membership Meeting

First English Lutheran Church 6:30 p.m.

First Monday of the Month:

June 4

August 6

October 8

December 3

Development Review Committee

First English Lutheran Church 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Last Wednesday of the Month:

June 27

July 25

August 29

October 3

November 7



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an asset for the City, but would enhance the quality of life within our own enclave. With the parking restrictions already in place and the fact that this will be a pedestrian corridor, I believe there would be little effect on traffic while connecting our neighborhood in a very positive way with the most vibrant parts of the City.

Finally, it is time for me to step down as NUNA's Park Representative. My travel schedule and family responsibilities have stretched me too thin to give the attention to the parks which they need. With the central pedestrian corridor being developed, and the immediate need of supplemental irrigation to help our heritage trees weather another dry summer, it is a very exciting and important time for our parks.

I believe the Park Representative position is the best one in the neighborhood because it is fulfilling, rewarding, and the importance of caring for the parks is something about which we all agree. We need someone to take the lead position and I will be happy to work in a secondary role and help in any way I can. Thank you all for the support over the years.

Please contact me at mwfeist@gmail.com if you have any interest or questions.

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At Home with Bruce and Kelly: Two Austin Music Icons Dish on Why They Love Our Neighborhood

By Clayton Maxwell

Austin music icons Bruce Robison and Kelly Willis feel very lucky to call North University home. In what follows, the couple chats about why they love it, what it's like raising four kids in the neighborhood, and their unofficial role of keeping a few discarded toys in the yard.

Clayton: How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

Kelly: Well, we lived on 43rd Street for ten years then moved to Hemphill Park/Aldridge Place about six years ago. We moved in and then I got pregnant with Joe, so however old he is plus nine months. But I've pretty much lived around here since the mid-90s-- it's just my hood now and I can't imagine living anywhere else.

Clayton: What do you like about it?

Bruce: When we met, Kelly was living over in Clarksville, and then we lived together in Travis Heights for a little while. So we've always lived in these old Austin bungalow-ey kinds of





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places; I guess that's kind of what we like. But once we moved to this area, well, there are too many things about it to even mention—we love what's around, what the people are like, how close it is to everything.

Kelly: We love that you can walk to places for lunch, stores; it's so close to the school.

Clayton: How does Aldridge Place feel different than these other neighborhoods?

Kelly: I love that the park is right there. All of our kids have learned how to ride their bikes there. And then we have these sidewalks, which a lot of neighborhoods don't have. It kind of lends just a little more safety for the kids. And that park, our kids have learned to climb trees there. We used to play in that creek a lot. We don't as much anymore. When they were all really little we would just go down there and dump them out and let them mess around in there.

Clayton: Yes, my kids love to play in it, too...I wonder about it.

Kelly: Well. Carole Le Clair said that no one's ever gotten sick, so... If she let's her kids in it, well, I figure, she's such a super mom, I'll let my kids in it.

Clayton: Yes, I'll do pretty much whatever Carole does.

Kelly: And then if they get sick, I'll call her. "Carole, what do I do?"

Bruce: Yes, well, there's a distinct community over here, a lot more than other places. It's stronger. They do things down in the park. We know so many people from these few streets and there's a real community around that, as you know. And all the people obviously love it so much, being here. It feels really wonderland-ey to me, and I think the kids feel the same way, too.

Clayton: Well, I'd feel so lucky to grow up in this neighborhood. I don't know where y'all grew up, but the suburbs of Victoria, Texas were nothing like this.

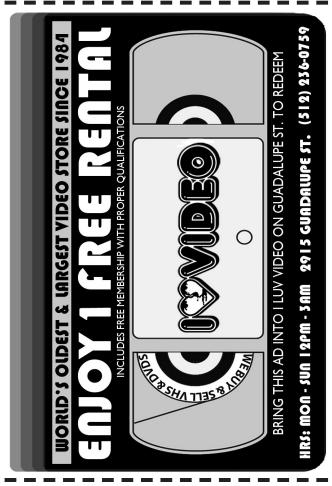
Kelly: Yes, we walk to Toy Joy or Milto's; I could never do that where I come from.

Clayton: Y'all do a lot for the school, too. You perform for Lee Live and you, Kelly, are the grade level coordinator for Kindergarten. Do you feel really invested in Lee?

Kelly: Yes, I love Lee. We had no idea what a great school it was. We just happened to love this neighborhood and moved in, so that's the one our kids went into. And we realized how special it was after we got in there and understood what a huge influence and job it is for the teachers in that school...their role in your child's life—how huge that is. I am really grateful, so we try to do what we can.

Clayton: I know, it's the kind of place where you want to participate. Smart kids, smart teachers... it's amazing.

Kelly: I like how blended it is, too. It's good there are people from different economic levels and the kids from the Helping Hands Home. It's teaching our kids about the real world and

















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understanding what other people's lives are like. I think it's really a unique environment.

Bruce: Yes, if everybody had that, we probably wouldn't have all the problems we have in this world. That school is amazing—how invested people are.

Clayton: Are there any memories of this neighborhood that stand out?

Bruce: The holidays are really cool. Now we take for granted the pack of kids at Halloween-- man, that just looks like so much fun. It's just perfect—and what Kimberly has done with the luminaries down at the park for Christmas, and Carole at Halloween. And now we count on the Fourth of July--that's just what we do. The kids decorate their bikes; it's just such a big deal. Oh, and the Clean Up the Park Day—we work on avoiding that—it's a big part of our year, planning around it so we don't have to be there.

Clayton: You're funny.

Kelly: Well, it does often seem to coincide with the day we play Lee Live.

Bruce: Yea, and Mark Fiest, he's kind of the pope of that down there. And everything that Kimberly does. There are so many people involved, you know, that it really does have a vibe in that way.

Kelly: We think it's our job in the neighborhood to keep lots of junk and toys in the yard-- to keep it a little funkier. Sometimes it feels really high class.

Bruce: Yes, so people don't ever get above themselves. So they can say, well the Robisons over there... it's kind of a Ma and



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Pa Kettle kind of thing.

Kelly: Yes, we hope that our musician status makes that ok. With the four kids, you know, it gets to be—"Well that sock has been there in the yard for a month now, right there on the corner."

Clayton: Any working parents with kids, I'll forgive them a sock in their yard--lots of socks.

Bruce: Our really cool tenant in the back is an actor; he's in a TV series they are shooting here called "The Lying Game.' He also plays David Wallace on "The Office.' His name is Andy Buckley and he's really a great guy--he lives in L.A. but comes here when they are shooting "The Lying Game', which starts up again in July and he'll be back.

Kelly: I wanted to mention that when we bought the house, the owners who sold it to us had to choose between us and this other couple who was a little more conservative. And they chose us because they thought we would fit the neighborhood because we are musicians. And then they threw a little gettogether party to introduce us to everybody—here in the back yard—before we moved in.

Bruce: I'd never seen anything like that. I think everybody here feels like it's really a privilege to live here. I know I do. Both in the way that it is and the people who live here.

Clayton: What do you know about the house?

Bruce: It's called the Gates House-- the Gates family didn't build it but they lived here for 50 years. They had it for generations. And it was a band house for a while. I met this guy who lived here-- he was in the Big Boys, this seminal Austin punk

band that was very popular. He lived up in the attic when the band was here-- the house had holes in the wall and lots of junk in it. And crazy old cars in the back....

Clayton: You guys have an album, 'The Cheater's Game,' coming out soon?

Kelly: Yes, in January, which is kind of torturous cause it's done. But we have to wait until January. We are starting a residency at Antone's in June that will go all through the summer-we'll be there every Tuesday. And it's nice cause it's early—I'm not sure what time it starts, but it's the kind of deal where you can be home by 10:30 instead of starting at 10:30. Nobody who is interested in us wants to go out to hear music that starts at 11.

Bruce: Oh, also, could you mention that I have a giant wooden "It's A Boy" stork for any of the parents having babies in the neighborhood? Ross Pringle stuck it in our yard when Joe was born—I think he was relieved to finally be getting rid of it. I'd like to pass it on.



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NUNA, Handcock & Hyde Park Real Estate Update

Neighborhood Stats for April and May 2012

HOMES SOLD 19 **HOMES ACTIVE** 22 **HOMES SOLD**

DAYS ON MARKET

Hiah 176 days Low 2 days Avg 32 days

LIST PRICE

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