



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



NUNA July 4th Parade and Celebration The 9th Annual! Another Success!

By Carole LeClair

Can you believe this is the 9th year of our parade? It all kicked off at 10 a.m. with a big red fire truck from our own Fire Station #3 leading the way around the park. What followed was a wonderful assortment of strollers, scooters, bikes and walkers. Afterward, almost everyone stayed to enjoy treats, flag painting, face painting, and cooling off in the water slide. Most important it was a great time to catch up with friends and neighbors.

Here's the event by the numbers:

1 fire truck, 1 giant water slide, 40 kids, 50 adults, 6 dogs, 6 watermelons, 4 gallons of lemonade, 108 doughnuts and 1 piñata

All those numbers add up to lots of fun. We have several people to thank for making this all such a fantastic event. Fire Station #3 for the leading the parade and Bill Bednar for making sure they were there. Kimberley and Dan Renner for face painting and doughnuts, Julia and Patrick Willis for watermelons, Mark Feist and Chris Coffin for water and ice, Margo Shaw for juice, Robert and Laurie Marchant for doughnuts, Kim and Grace Coffin for colored hair spray, Michael and Shannon Shellbert and Zack Simpson providing water for our slide, Eugene Sepulveda and Steven Tomlinson for the piñata. I know I have missed several other helpers who brought breakfast goodies, so thank you as well. Thanks also to those who contributed to the cost of the water slide. Our little 4th of July is not terribly fancy but it does bring us all together to celebrate our nation's holiday and remind us that we are lucky to live in such a wonderful country and neighborhood!



NEW MEETING TIME!

Next NUNA General Membership Meeting

Monday

August 20, 2012

6:30 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church

NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

First English Lutheran Church

Monday, August 20, 2012 | 6:30 pm

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Report from Nominating Committee

Regan Gammon

Election of New Officers

III. Reports:

CANPAC - Mary Ingle

Development Review - Steven Tomlinson

Newsletter - Judy Willcott

Parks - Bill Bednar 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 for Action:

V. Old Business:

VI. New Business:

VII. Adjourn

Neighborhood Notes

General Membership Meeting

August 20, 2012

The General Membership meeting which was originally scheduled for August 6 has been changed to **August 20** due to the large number of people who are out of town. The election of new NUNA officers is first on the agenda, so be sure and come to the August meeting !

Sparky Park Theater

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, **October 4-20, 2012 at 8 p.m.** the Exchange Artists will present *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono at Sparky Park. The production will last one hour. Both Rachel Wiese, the company's founder, and Katherine Craft, the project's playwright, live close to Sparky Park and feel it is a hidden gem in Austin.

The Man Who Planted Trees is the perfect tale to stage in this space. It is a beautiful allegorical tale of each individual's responsibility to be a steward of our natural resources. Its message is about the positive impact humans can have on the environment.

The Exchange Artists is a theater group based in Austin whose previous productions include a World Theater Day Celebration in 2010 that surprised audiences all over the city with twelve guerilla theater performances. They also produced *The Story Seekers*, an original script, on the grounds of the Elisabet Ney Museum in April, 2011. An archive of their work including photos, video, and critical reviews can be found at www.exchangeartists.org.

Minutes: NUNA General Membership Meeting

June 4, 2012

First English Lutheran Church

Vice President Steven Tomlinson called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Bob Kaler and seconded by Valerie Bauhofer to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Tomlinson then introduced two guests from the City of Austin Water Utility, Michael Russ and Jill Mayfield. They presented the city plan to relocate the wastewater main on Hemphill Park between 32nd and 29th Street. The old line runs under the sidewalks and is very shallow. The new line will run down the middle of the street on the east side of the park until just past the Wheeler bridge and then tunnel under the creek and continue down the west side of the park until it ties in with the larger line about halfway to 29th Street. The project will take approximately 120 days to complete beginning in December or January. Tomlinson thanked the guests for the presentation and they left.

Tomlinson reported on the recent work of the Development

Review Committee. A positive compromise was reached on the property at 499 East 33rd in that the owner agreed to eliminate a third bedroom and convert the space into a carport or garage. The second item was to reiterate NUNA support for the work being done by Valerie Bauhofer and Clark Patterson on their property subject to agreed on restrictions.

Kimberly Renner, Membership Chair, reported the recommendation of the Executive Committee that dues be raised from \$10 per person/\$20 per couple to \$15 per person/ \$25 per couple. The \$10 student rate would remain the same. The motion to approve the membership rate increase was made by Regan Gammon and seconded by Dick Holland. It passed unanimously.

Regan Gammon, Nominating Committee Chair, reported on the ongoing work to develop a slate of new officers but with nothing concrete to place before the membership at this time.

There were no reports from Parks or Parking.

Quadrant reports were next with Rick Iverson thanking Bob Kaler for his work not only on the noise ordinance but also on achieving a compromise on the East 33rd Street property. Rick also reported a recent sale in his quadrant and said that the entire neighborhood was experiencing an increasing popularity with realtors since the completion of the NCDD plan.

Valerie Bauhofer brought up the issue of the bus stop at the southeast corner of West 34th Street and Guadalupe. It is a narrow area with several utility poles and a lot of foot and bicycle traffic on the sidewalk. Rick Iverson commented that the City and CapMetro are well aware of the problem but that thus far no solution has been identified.

Dick Holland reported that the parking plan in the Southeast quadrant was very positive although somewhat chaotic due to the transitory nature of the student population which must be informed on a regular basis on how it works.

Under old business Bob Kaler reviewed the information he has gathered on the noise issue along the Waller Creek corridor. The primary offender seems to be the Blind Pig roof deck where the speakers point exclusively north due to complaints from the downtown hotels located to the south. He pointed out that the licensing process for

2011-2012 NUNA OFFICERS

President Laurence Miller- nunaaustin@gmail.com

Vice President Steven Tomlinson- steven@abporter.org

Secretary Cindy Keever- cpkeever@aol.com

Treasurer Jan Moyle- On Leave

NW Quadrant Representative

Rick Iverson- Iver506@sbcglobal.net

SW Quadrant Representative

Kimberly & Dan Renner- krenner@austin.rr.com

NE Quadrant Representative

Mike Riley- micriley@microsoft.com

SE Quadrant Representative

Dick Holland

rh02@txstate.edu

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

Development Review Committee (DRC)

Steven Tomlinson- steve@abporter.org

Internet Server Host

Pallasart Web Design

Parking Permits

Eugene Sepulveda - eugene@abporter.org

Newsletter Design: The MOD Studio- www.themodstudio.com

Newsletter Distribution:

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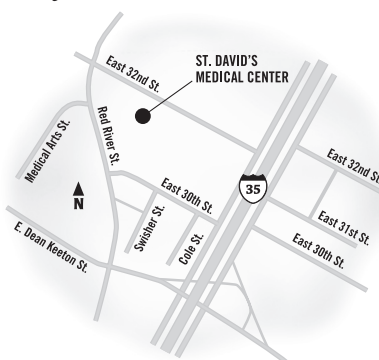
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the bars is handled by the Planning Department and that the hearings on licenses are not publicly advertised thus reducing or eliminating any chance for citizen input. He said the neighborhood should continue to advocate with City Council and staff for more responsive action. At NUNA's last meeting, employees of the Music Commission encouraged NUNA members to call 311 and report excessive noise. They said the 311 calls probably won't bring immediate help but that the calls are recorded and build a basis for commission complaints to other City Departments.

Rusty Jackson asked NUNA to oppose the City's consideration of a limitation of short term rentals. Although most in attendance supported his position it was decided that any action at this time would not be appropriate as it had not been posted on the agenda as an action item.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Keever

Minutes: NUNA Executive Committee Meeting

July 16, 2012

5:30 p.m.

The Executive Committee Meeting met on **Monday, July 16** at 502 West 33rd Street. President Laurence Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Regan Gammon, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of new officers and quadrant leaders for the coming year.

President: Michael Riley

Vice President: Steven Tomlinson

Secretary: Clayton Maxwell

Treasurer: Jan Moyle

NW Quadrant Representative: Rick Iverson

SW Quadrant Representative: to be announced

SE Quadrant Representative: Dick Holland

NE Quadrant Representative: to be announced

The slate was unanimously approved by the Executive

Committee and will be presented to the General Membership at the August meeting.

There was a short discussion about the City's proposal to put parking meters along Hemphill Park. It was the general agreement that there would be very revenue for the neighborhood from the meters and that NUNA should oppose any parking meters installed near the park.

The Committee agreed that the Parking Chair should be a member of the Executive Committee and that it was not necessary for the Membership Chair to sit on the Executive Committee.

Bill Bednar is the new Chair for Hemphill/Adams Parks. Everyone expressed appreciation for all the work Mark Feist has done over the last eight years. There was a brief discussion about the need for planting trees and irrigation in the park.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Willcott

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Music Trespass/Neighborhood Noise

By Bob Kaler

The Presidents Forum for North University, Eastwoods, Hancock and Hyde Park Neighborhood Associations had their first meeting on **June 6, 2012**. Presidents attending were Laurence Miller from NUNA, Lin Team from Eastwoods, and Mike Hirsch from Hancock. Lisa Harris from Hyde Park was unable to attend but has agreed to participate in Forum's mission. Others attending were Mary Ingle and Bob Kaler. The draft policy statement was presented, discussed and a copy was provided to Lisa Harris.

The Draft Policy Statement includes the following:

The Presidents Forum of North University, Eastwoods, Hancock and Hyde Park Neighborhood Associations resolves to end all music trespass into our neighborhoods and homes from the bars and clubs in the Downtown Entertainment District.

The Forum resolves that the sound ordinance be revised to end the long distance trespass of all music including specifically the bass and other low frequency sound waves that the current 85db limit fails to stop. The revised ordinance should address outdoor and roof top venues separately from indoor ones. Indoor venues must be required to upgrade walls, windows, doors and roof construction to contain ALL sound.

It resolves that the Music Commission police the Downtown Entertainment District to assure that the revised ordinance is enforced and offending venues are sanctioned.

The Forum also resolves that the affected neighborhood associations be notified of all hearings concerning new music venue permits so that neighborhood association representatives may attend those hearings which are of concern to the coalition. City staff should also not be allowed to issue a new music venue permit without a public hearing.

Additional items discussed were: 1. Develop a strategy to effectively lobby the Mayor and Council to assure that the serious issue of music (noise) trespass from the Downtown Entertainment District into our neighborhoods is stopped. 2. Seek volunteers from within the associations to assist with acoustical, legal, press, codes and ordinance issues

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that will need to be addressed. 3 Continue to explore the opportunity for mutually beneficial relationships with other affected groups, such as the Down Town Business Alliance and the Down Town Neighborhood Association plus the neighborhood associations in East Austin where the Red River bars are migrating.

The coalition is now formed and will provide the framework for a concerted effort to address this persistent problem. We will need all the help we can get from interested members of NUNA, please contact Bob Kaler @ 322-9641 or robertckaler@yahoo.com if you have a special skill or interest in working to end the noise trespass from down town.

The critical nature of the Forum's work was brought home on 19 July 2012 when Carol Gibbs (City Neighborhood Liaison) informed me that the Blind Pig received a music venue permit from the City on 19 June 2012 to produce 85db for 7 days a week until 2:00 a.m. each and every day beginning who knows when. Music commission staff had assured me that coalition members would be informed of any pending music venue permit request by the Blind Pig and anyone within Forum's neighborhoods concerned about the issue would also be allowed to testify at the hearing. The

notification of the hearing was limited to businesses and neighborhood associations within 600 feet of the Blind Pig. That the music commission staff knows that "music" from the Blind Pig can be experienced at least 2.9 miles or 14,784 feet from it's roof top bar had no effect on the permitting procedure. It's business as usual in Austin, the Loud Music Capital of the World.

What Are Neighbors For? An Unexpected S.O.S.

By Clayton Maxwell

I'm not shy about asking my neighbors for help. I ask Rob Moshein for advice on my struggling rosebushes. I ask Mary Gay to keep an eye on things when we are out of town. I once asked Laurie Marchant to pick out fake eyelashes and a wig for me when she was out shopping for disco costumes. And this past spring, I asked several of my neighbors to help bail my nanny out of a detention center in rural Louisiana.

It's a long story, but in a nutshell, our part-time nanny, Ana (not her real name) from Honduras, was detained by Austin police on February 14th while on a date with her sweetheart;



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the police pulled him over thanks to an expired registration sticker on his car. The police ran a background check on her, too, and found that she had an unresolved legal status. And off she went, straightaway, to a detention center in San Antonio, then to Laredo, and then finally to what is often the final stop for detainees before they are sent back to their country—the barbed-wire wrapped, high security La Salle Detention center in the backwater of Jena, Louisiana.

As I write this, Ana is still locked up in La Salle-- wearing her navy blue prison uniform that looks like scrubs, praying, making friends with other detained women from Russia to Ecuador, and trying to stay in touch via an unreliable phone system. As a matter of fact, she just called me via the prison's overpriced, outsourced prepaid calling company, except the call was dropped, as they often are, so I didn't finish my labored attempts to explain to her in Spanish the latest news from her lawyers. If I sound a tad weary, well, I am. As of today, she has been detained 156 days.

I was never certain of Ana's legal status. She was married to an American, so when she told me one day with much elation that she had just received her passport in the mail, I assumed it was a US passport, and not from Honduras, her country of origin. Although she only worked for me about twice a week, our ties were deep. She first helped me with my son, Harry, when he was only a few weeks old; now he is almost three. She and Harry became good pals—they strolled through Hemphill Park, looked for critters in the creek, walked up to Toy Joy and the Taco Shack. My husband and I both speak Spanish and we got to know her well, too. She talked to us about her life, about the situation in Honduras, about her aspiration to learn English and resume her university education here one day. When she got married, our daughter was her flower girl and we all celebrated her wedding together.

But we never really talked about her immigration status, so it wasn't until later, when she was detained and I was working with lawyers to unearth her story for the legal case, that I realized how much she had risked to be here in the US and how badly she wanted to stay. I learned that even though she was middle class and enrolled in a university in Honduras, her safety there was parlous: her brother, while tending the family store, was shot in the head, and gang violence in her hometown was exploding. I discovered that she had made the long trek across Mexico and over the Rio



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Grande, entering the US with a ‘coyote,’ the often corrupt guides who lead people over the border. I found out that she went straight to a church here in Austin, one where she had a contact with the Honduran minister, and they sheltered her and helped her find work, which eventually led her to my newborn son and me.

It’s a shocking thing when someone who has gradually become an integral part of your daily life, someone with whom you have an easy interdependence, disappears suddenly and completely for reasons you don’t fully understand. Ana worked for us every Tuesday, so the Monday evening after she was detained, the minister of her church and his wife showed up at our door to let us know what had happened, that she would not be coming to work for us the next day. Poof, she was gone; it was as if she no longer existed. Except for the responsibilities she left behind: the apartment she was renting, the car she had bought, the English classes she was attending, not to mention all of the other families for whom she babysat and cleaned and who depended on her. All of these components of a full, thriving life were left dangling without a chance for communication or resolution. Her phone was confiscated so she had no way of contacting any of the other families for whom she worked--our number and address were the only ones she had memorized.

But the minister said there was hope for her case. He’d transferred \$1000 of Ana’s money into the account of a ‘lawyer’ at the detention center in Laredo, where she was first being held. But when they moved her to Jena, Louisiana, the last stop before deportation, we discovered the lawyer had done nothing—he was a borderland “notario” who makes big promises to scared and uninformed newly-detained women like Ana, and then takes the money and runs.

And that’s when I had to ask neighbors for help. If Ana had any chance of staying, we had to hire some decent lawyers, and it would be expensive. Many of my neighbors know Ana—she is friends with some of the other nannies in the neighborhood and she occasionally babysat or cleaned in their homes. I sent out an email to several neighbors and was able to raise \$1100 just from a few families. Several moms for whom she had babysat wrote letters attesting to the quality of her character—a key element in the lawyer’s application to cancel her deportation. The amount of care and concern from these neighbors helped make this

struggle feel like it wasn’t just Ana bearing this hardship alone—she has people on her side who would help her the best they could. And if she still was sent back to Honduras, at least she had been supported and we had tried our best. Everyone in our neighborhood who contributed to the cause knew she was worth it.

I managed to get the \$1000 back from the corrupt Laredo notario (threats of reporting him to the Texas State Bar were well-received) and delivered that sum along with the remainder of Ana’s savings, the money collected from Hemphill Park neighbors, and my own contribution to a reputable immigration lawyer in Baton Rouge. Without getting into the legal details, the lawyers have built a good case for her. Right now, we are waiting for a judge in San Antonio to review the case, a case that he has had on his desk for months now.

It’s been a long uphill battle, much longer than anyone had thought. None of her friends have been able to make the eight-hour drive to go visit her. I made the drive once, and that is another story—suffice it to say the sterile white walls of La Salle Detention Center are one of the scariest places I’ve ever been—it makes the back alleys of a bad neighborhood in Tangiers feel cozy and safe.

I miss Ana. When she walked in our front door in the morning, she exuded good cheer, like she’d been singing with her church all weekend, which she often had been. When I’d ask her how she was, she’d say, “Super bien!” She laughed a lot. She hugged my children like they were family and always brought us sweet little gifts and cards for our birthdays and even my wedding anniversary. Her presence in our house was a wonderful reminder to not be complacent; she helped me snap out of it when I might be cranky from my often teetering balancing act of parenting and work and not enough sleep.

Now I look at many of the workers in our neighborhood with more curiosity and awe. It’s likely that a good deal of the people many of us count on for cleaning and caring for our children, mowing and hedging, building and repairing, have backgrounds very similar to Ana’s. What is it like to live everyday with the uncertainty and stress of being here undocumented, always with the risk of having the life they are building unravel? I am reminded that what they and Ana want—for Ana so much so that she is willing to spend

months in prison-- is something that most of us already have—the opportunity to live here legally. My fingers are crossed that Ana gets what she wants.

A Way to Work

by Steven Tomlinson

You have seen me at dawn, walking to work, carrying a large white sack.

If you're curious, come along – a short trip down the street through the park.

Along the way, I pick up trash.

Sure, it's compulsive. But this is my work, my calling.

Compulsions kick in when it's too late for miracles.

Look across the park. Cracked earth, dry grass bending toward the constant trickle of a broken water fountain – and then the colors. Blossoms of paper bags, cartons and napkins; the frisky breeze whips up a dance of styrene cups and plastic grocery sacks.

That young man, over there, in the pick-up by the curb? See, he's on the phone, “transacting” between bites of his beef burrito. In a moment, he'll mash the aluminum foil, one-handed, into a ball and pitch it out into the grass, sling his legs back into the cab, gun the engine and speed off as he continues his conversation. He will forget the park before he reaches the end of the street. He will forget the burrito, the conversation.

And that gentleman over there, resting in the ditch? Yes, the one with the swollen eye and the broken fly. He is my teacher. If you can win his trust, he will cast out your demons.

Everything goes in the sack. Wrappers and butts and broken glass.

Where does it come from? Wait here and watch the wind bear the first bits from Guadalupe, dropping unnoticed as car doors open, slipping from distracted hands. 40% of it blows out of the beds of passing pick-ups. Don't ask why people toss trash in the beds of pick-ups without so much

as a passing thought for aerodynamics.

It is simply what we've got at this point.

And once the critical mass of trash has accumulated, our vision shifts, and we no longer see the park. We see something else and part of us clicks off, that mysterious part that takes care when care is called for.

We have adjusted: The people who live near the park blame the people who live in it. The young man fears for his survival. My teacher communes with deeper truth.

At the moment, it's just you and me.

People sometimes stop me when I'm out with my bag:

“Did you get community service?” Or, “It's about time you got out here. Do you know how disgusting it gets, seeing this crap every day?” Or, “There's some trash over on my street. Might you wander over that way?”

One man got out of his Lexus, bounded across the park and cupped my face in his hands. “God bless you,” he said, weeping. People are strange. It's simply what we've got at this point.

In another era, we might have sown apple seeds. There is a time for scattering.

This is a time for gathering together.

See how the bag bulges with brokenness.

Before long, microscopic radio frequency transmitters will come embedded in everything you buy – Coke cans, gum wrappers, condoms and Kleenex. Your merchandise will be tagged at point of purchase, and those who redeem your discards will collect a share of the fines electronically debited from your accounts.

And when accountability is so automated, when we have to pay, we will look just a bit closer, think just an instant longer. We will change our lives, and my compulsions will invest elsewhere.

As the sun rises over the pristine park, you can see we are done for now. We head on to the office, leaving behind only the colors of dust and drought.

Yes, it is too late for miracles. Still. Take one last look: My teacher rises from his bed and opens his good eye to something he can care for. The young man closes his phone and sees the park for the first time. How did he get here, he wonders?


My teacher laughs and waves.

The young man almost smiles, then takes a deep breath, drops the crumpled foil into the bed of his truck and drives on.




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Schedule of NUNA Meetings

Executive Committee

1st Monday of the Month

209 East 34th Street

6:00 p.m.

September 10

November 5

January 7

General Membership Meeting

1st Monday of the Month

First English Lutheran Church

6:30 p.m.

August 20

October 8

December 3

Development Review Committee

Last Wednesday of the Month with Exceptions

First English Lutheran Church

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

July 25

August 29

October 3

November 7

NUNA, Hyde Park, & Hancock Real Estate Update

Neighborhood stats year-to-date*

HOMES ACTIVE 26		HOMES PENDING 13		HOMES SOLD 60	
DAYS ON MARKET		LIST PRICE		LIST PRICE / SQ FT	
High	583 days	High	\$985,000	High	\$336
Low	1 day	Low	\$199,000	Low	\$137
Avg	69 days	Avg	\$401,275	Avg	\$248

* Stats shown are for single family homes through June 2012.

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9th Annual July 4th Parade

“Our little 4th of July is not terribly fancy but it does bring us all together to celebrate our nation’s holiday and remind us that we are lucky to live in such a wonderful country and neighborhood!” - *Carole LeClair from Page 1 story*



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