

Letter from the President By Michael Riley

Summer is over?

As so many of us have seen through the years, the weather in Austin makes its own choices regarding movement from summer into fall. Students arrive, pools close, and at some point August temperatures relent... We play along and wonder when the air conditioning finally gets its vacation and we get to enjoy a few months of open windows, parks, and porches.

NUNA, on the other hand, keeps moving along – because of the help from your friends and neighbors.

My name is Michael Riley, and I took over the reins in August as the President of NUNA from the wise Laurence Miller. I look forward to this changing of the seasons each year. This year I also welcome a change in leaders within NUNA who will help us continue to improve our neighborhood and the things that we love about it.

In this theme of change, there are a number of great folks who have stepped up and become a part of NUNA to help improve our neighborhood. Among these folks are Bill Bednar and Julie Willis for parks, Clayton Maxwell and Julie Willis for the newsletter, Clayton Maxwell for agreeing to be NUNA secretary, and Laurie Marchant and Mary Ingle for keeping their eyes open in different parts of the neighborhood. These are great folks who want to help improve our neighborhood.

I also want to thank a few folks who have done great work in the neighborhood, and who now may be getting a (slight) break. First among these is Laurence Miller, who has spent countless hours being an insightful, calming leader for NUNA. A big thanks also to Judy Willcott for championing the newsletter, Kathryn Kotrla and Robert Morris for getting the newsletter out to all our neighbors, Mark Feist for his leadership on parks, and Kimberly Renner for her work in Aldridge and with the Development Review Committee. Included in this list are also Regan Gammon and Cindy Keever, for their persuasive skills in finding a new crop of leaders.

I am sure there are folks, old and new, whom I've omitted from this list. I apologize in advance for that.

I am still looking for help in a few areas, so please reach out to me at nunaaustin@gmail.com if you have energy

NEW MEETING TIME!

Next NUNA General Membership Meeting

Monday

October 8, 2012 6:30 p.m. First English Lutheran Church

NEXT NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

First English Lutheran Church

Monday, October 8, 2012 6:30 pm

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Guests:
- III. Reports:

CANPAC - Mary Ingle Development Review - Steven Tomlinson Newsletter - Judy Willcott Parks - Bill Bednar & Doug Plummer Parking - Eugene Sepulveda Treasurer - Jan Moyle Quadrant Leaders' Reports -Dick Holland, Mary Ingle, Rick Iverson and Laurie Marchant Other reports: Noise – Bob Kaler

- IV. Items for Action:
- V. Old Business:
- VI. New Business:
- VII. Adjourn

to help us with Development Review, parks, newsletter stories, newsletter distribution, or anything else.

Direct involvement with NUNA is new to me, so I will need some education along the way – but I am excited to be part of improving where we all live, and I look forward to working with more of you over the next year. Lastly, I want to put a challenge out to folks old and new... Come to our October 8 General Membership meeting at First English Lutheran on October 8. Come meet your neighbors, hear about what others are doing in your neighborhood, and tell us what you care about.

Thank you, Michael Riley

Minutes

NUNA General Membership Meeting August 20, 2012 First English Lutheran Church

President Laurence Miller called the meeting to order and first asked for approval of the minutes from the June General Membership Meeting. Mary Ingle made the following correction to the minutes. In the DRC report Steven Tomlinson said that he wanted "to reiterate NUNA support for the work being done by Valerie Bauhofer and Clark Patterson on their property." It should read that Steven said "Valerie Bauhofer and Farhad Bozorgmehr," not Clark Patterson. The minutes were approved with correction.

Laurence presented the slate of new officers from the nominating committee. Mary Ingle pointed out that our by-laws require that the slate be presented in February, that additional nominations be accepted in April and the election be held in May. Also Mary said that our by-laws require 5 members on the nominating committee, not 3. So we had a dilemma.

Steven Tomlinson suggested that we should follow the bylaws in January 2013 and act on the election of the newly nominated officers now. All agreed and Doug Plummer and Rob Moshein volunteered to serve on the nominating committee so that the committee had the proper number of members.

The election proceeded and the following officers were elected unanimously:

Michael Riley, President Steven Tomlinson, Vice President Clayton Maxwell, Secretary NW Quadrant Representative: Rick Iverson SW Quadrant Representative: to be announced SE Quadrant Representative: Dick Holland NE Quadrant Representative: to be announced

Bob Kaler thanked Laurence for his service to the neighborhood and Michael Riley took over as President of NUNA to conduct the rest of the meeting.

The first guests were Steve Grassfield, Parking Enterprise Manager from the City of Austin and his assistant, Eva Moore. Their presentation was about Parking Benefit Districts which are created when a neighborhood requests parking meters on their streets. There are several advantages to becoming a Parking Benefit District such as the meters generate turn-over on individual parking spaces and charging for parking can help reduce the number of cars parking in the neighborhood. Also the neighborhood receives 51% of the parking revenue in excess of maintenance and operations costs to be used for improvements such as curb ramps, lighting, sidewalks, landscaping and bicycle lanes. There was a lively discussion about how this would impact the neighborhood and whether NUNA could be involved and not install meters on Hemphill Park. Doug Plummer suggested and it was agreed that we table the discussion for now and select a committee to make recommendations to the membership.

Craig Long, the next guest, invited the membership to visit his new café/deli/take-out, GoGo Gourmet, at the corner of 31st Street and Speedway. He will be serving fine coffees, pastries, sandwiches and salads, and dinner take-out.

The next item on the agenda was the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house expansion of 20,000 additional square feet. Kent Collins, a real estate developer and architect and attorney John Donisi presented drawings of the new plan which includes 26 additional rooms, 3 study halls, a reception room and 25 parking spaces. The fraternity house at 300 West 27th was granted an historic landmark in 1972 (which might limit changes), but this addition has been approved by the Historical Commission. Also the

2012-2013 NUNA OFFICERS

President	Michael Riley - nunaaustin@gmail.com
Vice President	Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org
Secretary	Clayton Maxwell - claytonmaxwell@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Jan Moyle - On Leave
Acting Treasurer Laurence Miller - lmiller@fluentcollab.org	
NW Quadrant Representative	
Rick Iverson - Iver506@sbcglobal.net	

SW Quadrant Representative

Laurie Marchant - Laurie@alexandermarchant.com

NE Quadrant Representative

Mary Ingle - casamia22@att.net

SE Quadrant Representative

Dick Holland - rh02@txstate.edu

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

Development Review Committee (DRC)

Steven Tomlinson - steve@abporter.org

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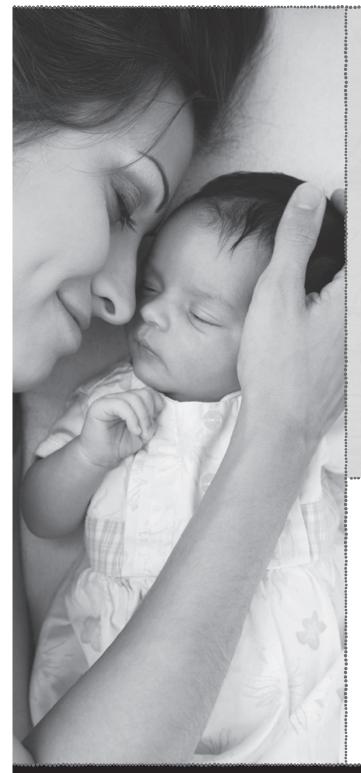
Eugene Sepulveda - eugene@abporter.org

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owners of the 3 properties adjacent to the fraternity house have all submitted letters of approval. The project involves the demolition of 2707 Hemphill which was the location of the Martha Sivley Typing Service for many years. Although the house has not been designated as an historic landmark, the historic preservation officer for the City feels it is an historic building and is moving to prevent its demolition and the Historic Landmark Commision has yet to approve the project. There was some opposition to the demolition of 2707 Hemphill because the neighborhood has already lost so many historic houses. Steven Tomlinson said that the project has already been reviewed by the NUNA Development Review Committee (Mary Ingle, Rick Iverson, Mary Gay Maxwell, Michael Riley and Steven Tomlinson) and they approved the project unanimously based on improvements in noise and traffic conditions in the neighborhood. Laurence moved that the membership accept the recommendation of the DRC. Rob Moshein seconded and the motion passed.

Michael expressed appreciation to Carole LeClair for the July 4th celebration which all agreed was a great success as a result of Carole's organization and hard work.

Mary Ingle reported that CANPAC (the 7 neighborhoods around UT) is mainly concerned with the West Avenue Medical Complex but there was nothing new to report.

Steven reported from the DRC that Trudy's will not have to pave their parking lot and that 400 East 33rd Street is still not in compliance.

Doug Plummer reported that revenues from the cell tower at Sparky Park can be used to refurbish the park. So this second phase of development could include adding AC to the electrical substation which could then be rented for parties and special events. The neighborhood is working with a project planner from the City Parks Department and they will hold a charette at the park on October 6, 9:30 - 11am, soliciting neighborhood input.

Laurence reported that he and Bill Bednar have met with Mark Feist about Hemphill-Adams Park to bring Bill up to date as the new Hemphill-Adams Park Chair.

There was nothing new to report from Eugene Sepulvida,

Parking Chair.

Bob Kaler submitted a policy statement from the Taskforce on Noise entitled "A Sound Statement." This statement is found on page 6 of this newsletter. Bob said that the Taskforce is meeting to determine the next steps. They are working with the Austin Downtown Alliance.

Bob recommended that you call 911 to report a noise disturbance, request that an officer go to the location of the noise and take a sound level recording. Be sure to get the incident number. The incident number allows NUNA to track the police response. You can call Bob at 322-9641 or e-mail to robertckaler@yahoo.com to report all of the above.

Michael adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Willcott



JOIN NUNA NOW

Fill in your information below and mail it to Laurence Miller, P. O. Box 49130, Austin, Texas 78765. Dues are a bargain at \$15 per person, \$25 per couple and \$10 per student. Make your check payable to NUNA.

Name: Address: Telephone Number: E-mail Address:

A Sound Statement

The Presidents of North University, Eastwoods, Hancock and Hyde Park Neighborhood Associations have joined together to address the increasing intrusion of music from bars and clubs in the Downtown Entertainment District into our neighborhoods.

A Taskforce on Noise was active a few years ago, in which representatives from our neighborhoods participated. Some progress was made, but the increasing number of rooftop venues has created an even worse sound distribution phenomenon.

We believe that the City's commitment to increasing population density in the central part of town is threatened by the existence of the levels of sound currently allowed to permeate the area. There are certainly other neighborhoods where this is already a problem, and it will continue to be so until something is done.

We recommend that the following actions be taken to address this problem:

1. Revise the sound ordinance to end the long distance trespass of all music, especially the bass and other low frequency sound waves that the current 85 db limit fails to stop.

2. Apply the revised ordinance to outdoor and rooftop venues separately from indoor ones, with sound measurements taken at rooftop levels when that is the source of the sound.

3. Require indoor venues to upgrade walls, windows, doors and roof construction to contain all sound.

4. Assign the Music Commission the responsibility to police the Downtown Entertainment District to assure that the revised ordinance is enforced and offending venues are penalized, including the loss of music license as the ultimate penalty after intermediate sanctions.

5. Notify potentially affected neighborhoods of all hearings for new and renewing music venue permits and require a public hearing before issuing any music venue permits.

We believe that these actions would protect the quality of

life in Central Austin and enable the music industry to thrive in peace and harmony with the community.

Signed:

Lynn Team, Eastwoods Neighborhood Association Michael Hirsch, Hancock Neighborhood Association Lisa Harris, Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Laurence Miller, North University Neighborhood Association

NUNA Parks Committee Wants You ! By Julie Willis

The NUNA Parks Committee is seeking grant writers, green thumbs, list-checkers, squeaky wheels, trash-picker-uppers or anyone else interested in contributing a bit of time and talent to bettering Hemphill-Adams Park. The committee is fortunate to have former NUNA president Bill Bednar at its helm, but we'll need more than his considerable talents and a single volunteer (yours truly) to conquer an ambitious agenda that currently includes:

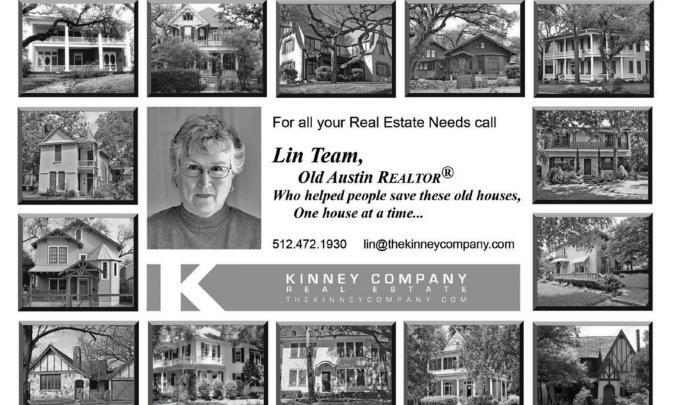
• Organizing "My Parks Day." This is a citywide event usually held in the first week of March (2013 date TBD) for neighborhoods to rally around their parks: picking up trash, mulching trees, clearing brush, and generally beautifying. We will need to recruit participants, gather equipment (bags, gloves and tools), and organize the delivery of breakfast tacos with Trudy's, our generous annual benefactor.

• Saving our trees. Some of our aging trees – particularly the pecans – need to be replaced; others just need TLC. Our challenge is to determine the comprehensive needs, develop a plan in cooperation with the city to address them, and find a way to fund the effort.

• Irrigating Hemphill Park: The deleterious effect of last year's drought on our trees underscores the need to address irrigation of Hemphill Park in the plan. The committee seeks to fully re-examine the issue and propose a course of action.

• Crosswalk at 30th: Based on concerns about the safety – particularly to students and children – of crossing between Hemphill and Adams, some neighbors have proposed a





pedestrian-controlled crosswalk/traffic light at 30th & Hemphill, like the one outside Wheatsville on Guadalupe. Looking for a way to help the neighborhood, but don't want to hold office, etc.? Here is a discrete project with a beginning and an end that will definitely make you a hero! We hope one or more of you may be passionate about taking this on.

• Creek Bed Clearance. We also have the annual task of clearing out the summer's accumulation of vegetation in the creek bed. There have been various approaches to this over the years, including both a neighborhood work day, where we do it ourselves, and getting it done on a contract basis (cost: approximately \$3,000) through the generosity of one or more neighbors. This is a job that needs immediate attention. How about it, old hands?

• Fundraising. All of the above will require resources beyond the limited fund currently available to the Parks Committee. The help of a neighbor who has experience writing grants and/or is interested in general fund-raising (e.g. seeking donations, staging bake sales and car washes, etc.) would be invaluable.

If any of the above piques your interest, please consider contributing some time to the Parks Committee. Whether you want to take an on-going role on the committee across all the issues or simply hold a bake sale to benefit the parks, "many hands make light work," with results we can all enjoy. Contact Bill Bednar, 587-3504, wcbednar@bednarlaw.com; or Julie Willis, 284-7324, julie_willis@mac.com.

Finally, another big thanks from the neighborhood to Mark Feist for his many efforts on behalf of Hemphill-Adams Park. We look forward to building on his many accomplishments!

Never Too Busy to Go Go -Lunch at the New Go Go Gourmet By Clayton Maxwell

I've got a new cure for the computer screen blues—deviled eggs and an ice coffee at the just opened Go Go Gourmet. Located at Speedway and Helms, Go Go is both a tasty lunch spot and a friendly reprieve from too much time in the home office, staring at words on a screen. An easy stroll down Laurel Lane, across Speedway, and voila, I walk into a light-filled café where real people are actually there to greet me, talk to me, and serve me lasagna. Bam, just like that, I am brought back from cyber land into a world of flesh and blood and good food.

When I first walk into Go Go Gourmet, the owner, Craig Long, is working the counter, and his son, Edgar, is queuing up Supertramp on the record player. Craig introduces himself and takes me on a little tour of their food case healthy salads and comfort food like meatballs (for subs), tuna melts, and lasagna that you can eat in or take out. Aha! My daughter is in love with lasagna. Another victory for the reluctant chef mom! It's only 1 pm and already I know what I'm serving my kids for dinner.

I sit at the community table and devour my lunch—the vegetable lasagna, a beet and apple salad, and one deviled egg. It tastes really, really good. The lasagna is full of carrots and spinach; the beet salad is perfectly vinegary. For right now at least, the presentation is simple—everything is served on a recyclable paper plate. This is fine by me. And if it helps keep the prices down (a tuna melt is only four dollars), then even better.

I bring a book to keep me company, but it remains unopened. I have no shortage of things to discuss with Craig and Edgar. And they intentionally don't have wifi. Craig says what they offer instead is 'Hi!-fi'. At first, I misunderstand, thinking he means 'HIGH-fi'—a little bit of homonym ambiguity that seems appropriate here. Or, maybe he meant 'hi-fi' as in high fidelity. But what I like to think he meant was "Hi!-fi"-- Go Go prioritizes real hellos over instant messaging.

Craig and his family just opened Go Go Gourmet in mid-September, but you would think that he's been there forever. During my time there, he greets each customer who walks in the door by name. He's befriended the neighbors, including the old fellow who lives across the street at the Pick and Gavel. It's not a surprise, though; Craig is a longtime denizen of the area. He and his wife have lived on Park St. for decades and their children spent many years at Lee Elementary. His daughter Annie, a Plan 2 student at UT, lives around the corner from Go Go. And his son, Edgar, who works as Craig's right hand man during lunch, happened to have my daughter's current first grade teacher, Mrs. Green, about, oh, fifteen years ago.

If you knew Fricano's, the sandwich shop that used to be in this same spot, when you visit Go Go you will be struck by how different the interior now feels—it's gone from dark to light. Craig stripped the walls of dark paint, showing off fresh wood walls, and added funky orange, white and yellow floor tiles. Just to the left of the front door is a metal record stand showing off the Go Go vinyl collection-- it holds such musical gold as the Stone's Some Girls and the aforementioned Supertramp.

But let me tell you about that record stand's bawdy but illustrious past—it was once the urinal at the old Liberty Lunch bar downtown. Just imagine the musical talent that has stood before it. I am happy it now holds records and not baked goods.

But the record holder is not the only endearing decorative oddity that grabs your attention at Go Go. In case you are tempted to take yourself and your lunch too seriously, a black velvet portrait of Charles Nelson Reilly smiles down at you from behind the bar. And a garage sale pointillist painting of a half-dressed man in the desert holding a white butterfly might evoke flashbacks to your own exploratory trips to Big Bend—Craig calls it 'peyote pointillism.'

Quirky décor is definitely part of the Go Go experience. And so is the coffee. Did I mention that their ice coffee is tied with Wheatsville's for the best I've had in town? But that makes sense because both Wheatsville and Go Go get their coffee from a talented local roaster named Kenneth. Pair that coffee with one of daughter Annie's homemade chocolate chip cookies and some real conversation and you can kiss those computer screen blues goodbye. PS: My kids loved the lasagna for dinner.

Neighborhood Notes

Changes at Sparky Park

There will be a charette on October 6, 9:30 - 11 am at the park, to solicit neighborhood input on the second phase of development of the park.

Good News

Clayton Maxwell is delighted to report that her nanny, otherwise known as Ana in the last neighborhood newsletter, was released on September 13th after seven longs months in detention. They are both very grateful for the kindness and support they received from neighbors, especially Kimberly Renner, Rachel Lomas, Carole LeClair, and Laurie Marchant.

Sparky Park Theater

On Thursday through Sunday evenings, October 4-20, 2012 at 7 p.m. the Exchange Artists will present *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono at Sparky Park. The production will last one hour. Information about the Exchange Artists and the play can be found at www.exchangeartists.org.





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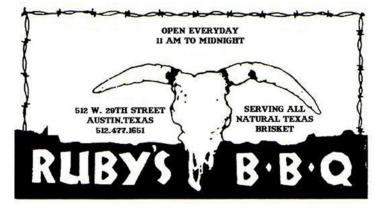


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Schedule of NUNA Meetings

Executive Committee 1st Monday of the Month 209 East 34th Street 6:00 p.m.

> September 10 November 5 January 7

<u>General Membership Meeting</u> 1st Monday of the Month First English Lutheran Church 6:30 p.m.

> August 20 October 8 December 3

<u>Development Review Committee</u> 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

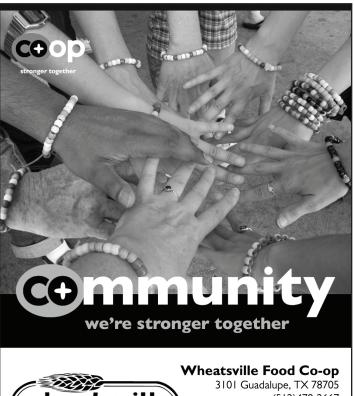


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