



# NUNA

October 2023

NORTH UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## President's Note

By Lynn Marshall, NUNA President

Come to NUNA's October General Meeting on Monday, October 2. Important stuff to be heard and talked about.

First, former Austin City Councilmember and Texas State Representative (Dist. 46) Sheryl Cole will speak at the October meeting. I hope you will attend. It is a rare chance to hear first hand from someone who has served in both of these offices and who can give us some insights about some of the more "interesting" things going on in the halls of officialdom.

Good news! The Zilker Park plan that the Austin City Council was on the verge of passing has been deep sixed. The plan called for a 5,000 seat amphitheater for commercial entertainment to be built on the Great Lawn plus three parking garages in the park.

Bad news! Councilmember Leslie Pool has put forth a resolution to cleave 176,000 residential lots into smaller parcels (down to 2,500 s/f) and allow multiple residential units to be built on each. Property owners will then be taxed on this new "highest use" value of their property. And then there's a move to allow RVs to be parked in driveways and rented out as a dwelling unit.

Odd news! The endless parade of the Cruise autonomous taxis in training that paraded endlessly through North University, West Campus, and elsewhere throughout the summer seems to have abated somewhat.

Hot news! No small number of NUNA-ites beat the heat by heading off to cooler climes and are beginning to return home now that it is more likely to be 99 and not 109. The squirrels are not wasting any time preparing for winter — half-eaten pecans and broken acorns are covering the sidewalks.

There's more inside about all of this (except the squirrels — the four-legged ones anyway).

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Ba Ba Ba Bad to the Zone — Councilmember Pool wants to chop up your property into small lots
- ◆ Huh? Whaaaa? Keep off the grass! Or: Mayor Watson now says plan to monetize Zilker Park Plan now a no-go
- ◆ Like rats in a horror movie — NUNA overrun by Cruise Autonomous Taxis
- ◆ Update on proposed designs for Adams/Hemphill Park
- ◆ It's My Park Day coming up

## JOIN NUNA!

NUNA is a clearinghouse for information about what's happening in the neighborhood. And it's a great way to get to know your neighbors and contribute to your neighborhood.

NUNA meetings are held the first Monday of even-numbered months unless otherwise announced. Watch for the white yard signs that go out the week before the meetings or check [northuniversity.org](http://northuniversity.org) for information.

There's more information on page 2.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

**The October General Meeting is Monday, October 2, 6:30 p.m. at Sparky Park, 3701 Grooms.**

**Former Austin City Councilmember and current Texas State Representative Sheryl Cole will speak.**

# AGENDA

## NUNA GENERAL MEETING

October 2, 2023 6:30 p.m.  
Sparky Park

Call to order  
 Reports  
 Presentation by State Representative Sheryl Cole  
 Discussion of upcoming City Council actions  
 Announcements  
 Adjourn

### NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2023

Lynn Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. The minutes were recorded by Mary Ingle, the NUNA Secretary. Reports by the Treasurer, the CANPAC representative, from ANC, and the quadrant leaders were given.

A program was given by the City of Austin Watershed Department (assigned engineer Hanh Thai) about the Adams/Hemphill Park proposed dry basin, the runoff situation, and proposed solutions. Q & A followed the 20 minute slide presentation.

Vice-President Mike Marcom presided over the revised bylaws vote. An amendment was made concerning the past president status for more than one year. All changes including the "on the spot" amendment passed affirmatively.

Next was the revisited election for the NUNA meeting in April) between Lynn Marshall and Pam Bell. A paper ballot was provided to qualified NUNA members, all in accordance with the bylaws. Lynn Marshall won the election with a 16-14 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30, followed by a rewardingly delicious, almond cake provided by master baker and NUNA NW Quadrant Leader Randy Thompson.

## NUNA GENERAL MEETINGS

NUNA general meetings are held the first Monday of even-numbered months at Sparky Park (unless otherwise announced) at 6:30 p.m. Watch for the white NUNA signs that go out a week before the meetings and check NUNA's website at [northuniversity.org](http://northuniversity.org) for more information.

The next General Membership meeting will take place on Monday, October 2, 6:30 p.m. at Sparky Park.



## NUNA OFFICERS 2023-2024

President	Lynn Marshall
Vice President	Mike Marcom
Secretary	Mary Ingle
Treasurer	Jan Moyle
NE Quadrant Leader	Emma Kate Schultz
NW Quadrant Leader	Randy Thompson
SE Quadrant Leader	Ravine Woods
SW Quadrant Leader	Sam Elkin

CANPAC Representatives

Mary Ingle

ANC Representative

Lynn Marshall

Babs Davis

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Membership in NUNA is open to all residents 18 years old or older residing within the boundaries of North University Neighborhood, which is bounded by 38th St., W. 27th St., Duval, and Guadalupe.

Your dues benefit the neighborhood, paying for neighborhood events, presentation materials, mulch for the parks, signs, and such.

Dues cover a calendar year (January–December) and are not prorated. Members may vote 30 days after paying their dues. Not sure if your NUNA membership is current? You can check that with Jan Moyle at [moylejan@gmail.com](mailto:moylejan@gmail.com).

Fill out the form below, make your check to NUNA, and mail it to Jan Moyle, 200 W. 32nd St., Austin, TX 78705. Or visit our website at [northuniversity.org](http://northuniversity.org) and pay online.

### NUNA MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15/person  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25/couple  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10/student



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# BA BA BA BAD TO THE ZONE

Councilmember Leslie Pool and the City Council want to carve up 176,000 Single Family residential lots in Austin to make "small lots" for multiple housing units.

## Is one of these lots yours?

What follows is excerpted from the website and analytical minds of the people of Community Not Commodity. For more information on a move by the Austin City Council to radically remake Austin's neighborhoods, visit <https://communitynotcommodity.com>

Councilmember Pool's proposal directs city staff to draft code amendments that would convert single-family zoning into multi-family zoning all over Austin.

If CM Pool and the City Council are successful, Austin will become the only large city in Texas to broadly eliminate existing single-family neighborhood zoning.

Under the Pool resolution, a 7,500-square-foot lot could be subdivided into three lots, each with three units, for a total of nine units in taller buildings that can be closer to adjoining homes and the street.

**These new land use regulations will apply to all existing housing with SF-1, SF-2, SF-3, and SF-4A/4B.**

**This action would open up single family areas to small lot multi-family residential development everywhere.**

**In the first wave, over 176,000 lots would be cut into smaller parcels. You will not be notified before it appears next door.**

**If the resolution goes through, it will authorize developers to re-subdivide existing single-family lots into parcels of 2,500 square feet (or less). And it will allow three dwelling units on these smaller lots.**

**The proposed density of 3 units on a 2,500-square-foot lot is around 52 units per acre, just below the limit for MF-5 High-Density Zoning.**

**Properties in the Lake Austin and Rural Residential zoning districts have a minimum lot size of one acre. They are exempted from the division plan.**

**PUDs (Planned Unit Developments) are also exempted.**

Austin already has far less land zoned for single-family-only housing (one house on a lot) than many US cities. This is because SF-3 "single-family" zoning in Austin already allows a home and ADU, or a duplex.

This extreme proposal by the Austin City Council will destabilize existing neighborhoods and promote incompatible development.

The City Council adopted Pool's resolution this summer, but this has not yet been adopted as a code amendment.

There is still an opportunity to safeguard our neighborhoods from Council-driven redevelopment. But not much time. D9's Council rep is Zo Qadri. 512-978-2109





**REPRESENTATIVE  
SHERYL COLE TO  
SPEAK AT NUNA  
GENERAL MEET-  
ING OCTOBER 2**

Texas State Representative Sheryl Cole will speak at NUNA's General Meeting on October 2. This will be a rare opportunity to speak with someone who not only served for three terms on Austin's City Council but was Austin's first African American Mayor Pro Tem.

Sheryl Cole currently serves in the Texas legislature and the representative from District 46, which is adjacent to North University's district (49) represented by Gina Hinojosa.

*North University Neighborhood  
VS  
The Autonomous Taxi*

All summer from 8:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., North University was overrun with small cars with cute names and no driver moving in endless loops through the neighborhood. These were the Cruise autonomous vehicles, taxis in training. From what the people on my street saw, they don't learn fast and their manners are bad.

One car would lurch to a stop across the intersection every time it passed by. It huffed, groaned, hummed, rebooted, backed up, sniffed the curb, woke up, then lurched down the hill and squealed around the corner (delusions of muscle carness).

More than once, we saw them go head to head with an actual car and driver — in the wrong lane and it would not back down. Traffic jammed. People jumped out of the way as the car sped by. Young men bellowed at the cars to go away. Headlights blazed into houses. One night, my neighbors and I estimated that the cars went by over 500 times.

Then last week they disappeared, except for one sad car making the rounds by itself — the last of the litter that hasn't learned it shouldn't chew on the shoes or dampen the carpet. But to paraphrase the Terminator, they'll be back.



*Douglas Plummer  
35th St. Resident  
NUNA Member  
Managing Director of  
Midtown Office of  
Independence Title*

*"Do my neighbors know they can choose a title company right next door?"*

Next time you buy, sell or refinance a property, request your trusted neighbor, Douglas Plummer, with his Midtown office. Before signing your contract, please ask your real estate agent to request Doug's office.

Conveniently located in your neighborhood, and with years of qualified experience, the Midtown office of Independence Title, will make sure you have a smooth closing.

 **Midtown  
Ishmael Law Firm, PC**  
an attorney fee office of Independence Title

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3009 N. Lamar Blvd. | Austin, TX 78705

# ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN SHELVED

(Whew! That was a close call.)

In May the City of Austin released a document titled the "Zilker Park Vision Plan." This vision plan envisioned a 5,000 seat amphitheater on the Great Lawn of Zilker Park and three parking garages boring deep into the sensitive karst deposits that give life to Barton Springs.

Public response was vociferous and immediate.

Some 300 people showed up at the June Parks Board meeting to speak passionately against corporatizing Zilker Park. But despite the reasoned arguments and environmental and hydrological logic on display, the Parks Board voted against the citizens and against Zilker and for a plan that would monetize a natural treasure through ticket sales and large commercial corporate-sponsored events. Zilker's fate — should it remain a park for the people? or would it become a vehicle of corporate profit? — was slated to be voted on by the City Council on August 31.

*Save Zilker Park* signs sprouted all over Austin. *Save Zilker Park* T-shirts appeared on bodies all over town. And filmmaker Steve Mims made *Zilker, Inc. — The Plan to Monetize a National Treasure*.

*Zilker, Inc.* premiered to a packed house at The Linc. Designworkshop, which had received \$600,000 for its part in creating the Zilker Park Plan, immediately complained to YouTube that a couple of screenshots of their website in the film violated copyright. YouTube



the blacked for the soul of August 31 on their calendars, and made plans to speak out against the Plan at City Hall.

took the film down. The film roared back with offending bits out. People feared Austin, circled August 31 on their calendars, and made plans to speak out against the Plan at City Hall.

Then out of the blue, the Watson Wire hit. Mayor Kirk Watson didn't mince words. He said:

**The Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan will not be on the August 31st City Council agenda, and there is no plan to bring it before the Austin Mayor and Council in the future. ... I'm grateful the Interim City Manager has stopped this process.**

Then three council members made a joint statement. Ryan Alter (Dist. 5), Mayor Pro Tem Paige Ellis (Dist. 8), and Zo Qadri (Dist. 9) stated:

**As City Council Members, we play a critical role as stewards of Zilker Park... We know the challenges Zilker Park is facing will not go away on their own, but we do not see a path forward for the Zilker Vision Plan and therefore cannot support it.**

It is a good thing that our elected representatives have spoken for Zilker Park and against giving over Austin's jewel in the pursuit of corporate gain. But is the Plan gone for good? Who knows. Money never sleeps.

# TRASH FALL 2023

It's time for the more-or-less annual reminder about trash management in the neighborhood. We all see the piles of trash left by dumpsters that are already overflowing. One interesting thing this fall is that there actually seems to be fewer overflowing dumpsters and recycling carts at many of the apartment complexes these days and a lot less furniture set out at the curb. Several people have commented that they have noticed the same thing. Usually the big move out and move in months of June and August generate mountains of garbage bags and old couches, but this year was much tamer trashwise.

But nevertheless, trash, recycling, and compost must be taken out and picked up, and we all want to do our part and do it properly. So here are a few facts and figures and reminders.

North University's weekly trash and compost collection and twice-monthly recycling takes place on Fridays unless a holiday or weather event slides it down a day or so. Our garbage carts should be at the curb or in the alley by 5:30 a.m. The empty carts should be moved into your yard the same day.

The big blue recycling bins are only for mixed paper, plastic, metal, glass, and cardboard boxes, which should be broken down for a better fit in the carts.

Please DO NOT put your recyclables in the bin in plastic bags. The bags tangle the sorters at the recycling center and can shut the process down while the machines are cleaned. Also, put food waste and other compostables in the smaller green carts, not in the recycling bins — it contaminates the recyclables and causes whole loads to be rejected for recycling. The green compost are serviced every Friday.

Twice a year, Austin's Resource Recovery announces a special pickup of large items. This is usually in August and February for curbside customers. Items for Bulk Collection must be placed on the curb, not in the alley.. Items that will be picked up during Bulk Collecting include metal items, appliances, tires, furniture, and mattresses. Appliance doors must be removed for safety reasons. Bulk Collection will not pick up brush, branches, sheet glass, construction debris, cardboard boxes, truck tires, auto parts, paints, or chemicals. You can find a full list of what can be put out at [austintexas.gov/bulk](http://austintexas.gov/bulk). Special brush pickup dates will be announced a couple of times during the year.

Leftover paint, chemicals, cooking oil, and other hazardous materials can be dropped off by appointment at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center at 2514 Business Center Drive, 78744. Appointments can be scheduled online at [austintexas.gov/dropoff](http://austintexas.gov/dropoff) or by calling 512-974-4343 (according to the current website).

Make sure to keep the cart lids closed all times to keep out rodents, raccoons, possums, flies, and mosquitoes. While you're at it, check for standing water elsewhere too since we just had a bit of rain — the mosquitoes will waste no time feeding and laying their eggs.

And always, before you send something into the trash or recycling, consider if it could be reused or repurposed. Austin Creative Reuse at 2005 Wheless Lane, 78723, takes in all sorts of odd items that still have some life in them and sells them for very reasonable prices. Teachers love this place, and you wouldn't believe what you can find and what clever and creative neighbor you might run into there dropping things off or leaving with an armload of materials for some creative project or other. And of course, Goodwill and other local thrift and resale stores are ready to take furniture, clothes, household items, and other things that can be resold.

## THE WRITE STUFF OR WRITE STUFF

Fire up that old Remington. Dig up that vintage Underwood. Make friends with that Commodore Amiga in the closet. Or just sharpen a pencil or dip a feather into the inkwell and write something for the NUNA newsletter.

Opportunities abound. Email Lynn Marshall at [nunaatx@gmail.com](mailto:nunaatx@gmail.com) or call 512.478.5243.

# ADAMS/HEMPHILL, ARK

## AN UPDATE ON PROPOSED DESIGNS THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Mary Ingle

The Adams/Hemphill Park Advisory Committee met (for the last time) on September 7, Thursday, 2023.

The meeting was convened by Zach Jarjoura. With 17 participants, city staff outnumbered (4-1) the 4 NUNA representatives: Mark Feist, Madeline Maxwell, Mary Ingle, and Miranda Grieder.

John Middleton, the senior engineer from the Watershed Protection Department, started off the meeting with an explanation of the storm drain between East and West Drives. He reported that the City Arborist has determined that the mesquite tree near the sewing set is in bad shape, and it most likely will be removed.

To give you some idea about what might be in a survey later in October and early November for residents, two design plans were presented. This is a rough description about what might be included in each plan:

Plan 1 had ten benches or "seating opportunities, nine picnic tables, a rock climbing wall, two more swing sets and playscape, and a basketball court. A gate and a bridge to the park were included in the drawing.

Plan 2 had nine benches or "seating opportunities," four picnic tables, one additional swing set and one play structure in a designated area, no bridge option from East and West drives, a reduced footprint of pavement, and a basketball court. This plan included half the lighting of Plan 1.

A pollinator-garden was mentioned, with cooperative maintenance with the Parks Department and Watershed Protection. It is important to find out who is responsible for maintenance, since continued maintenance of Hemphill Park creek bed has always been a challenge for timely upkeep!

These two plans were presented in tandem with the dry basin which will be installed in the park for drainage purposes.

The next step will be a public survey and virtual meeting to be held at the end of October or beginning of November

2023. The meeting will be open to the public. It is important to participate in this meeting if you are at all interested in the park "improvements." Supposedly, residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on elements in the plans or a combination of elements, or suggestions for removal of improvements.

Construction of the park improvements is slated to take 10 months (plus hydrolics, which could take longer). The final design is targeted for March/April 2024. There will be some lag time to secure a contractor for the project, but the park improvements are said to be completed in 2026.

During the presentations, there were many questions from the participants. The questions ranged from night sky concerns over the lighting in the park to the bridge at the fire station on 30th Street which is not in the best shape (who will repair that bridge?). Even the concept of "less is more" for the design of the park was uttered.

With your collective input to these two plans, the improvements suggested for this park project should render a better plan. "Light bulb!" Participate!

## IT'S MY PARK DAY NOVEMBER 4

It's My Park Day is coming up on Saturday, November 4. Mike Marcom, Master Mover of Mulch reports that approval of NUNA's park project is pending (announcements to be made Oct. 9) Watch for signs in the neighborhood about volunteering to move mulch and treat the trees to some TLC. Watch for signs around the neighborhood announcing the event, or Google "Give Pulse - It's my Park Day Austin" for information.

Every year Mike oversees the operation and Janet Beinke contacts local business about donations of refreshments. Starbucks has been a generously provider of coffee, always appreciated by those working in the crisp (we hope) morning air.



**JUST LISTED!**

*Bring your architect, contractor and imagination to create your dream home! Prime location just steps from Hancock Golf Course. Excellent opportunity and unlimited potential to remodel and expand this 1925 cottage with 2BR/1BA located at 510 East 39th St. List price: \$699,000*



**SOLD!**

*Quintessential 1917 Craftsman bungalow located in the heart of Hyde Park's historic district. Main house features 3BR/2BA, spacious formal living and dining rooms. Detached guest house with 1BR/1BA plus oversized garage with workshop. Located at 4004 Avenue H. List price: \$1,400,000*

Contact Suzanne Pringle, your neighborhood expert, today for a complimentary market analysis and customized marketing plan for your property. Check out new listings for sale on **Instagram** @hydeparkrealtor.

**Suzanne Pringle**

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Kuper

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