

## President's Note

By Lynn Marshall, NUNA President

The heat is on, as the song says (cliche alert — there's at least one more nod to the oldies down below). Oddly, May has been unusually cool, but the development pressures are heating up.

The Texas legislature this spring entertained all sorts of menacing bills to regulate (or de-regulate) local regulations on zoning, development, and compatibility standards regarding what can be done on/near private residential properties (e.g. your home) all over Texas but especially targeting the larger cities (e.g. Austin).

Fortunately, most of these bills died on the vine, though, like kudzu and catbrier, conceivably they could sprout up again if somebody at the Lege were to graft one to another unrelated bill. See "You Need to Know About This!" on page 7.

Then there's the Zilker Park Vision thing. Massive parking lots in Zilker Park where the habitat (rare plants and rarer critters), karst formations, geology, and hydrology are wildly sensitive and it wouldn't take much to do it permanent damage? The City Council will be voting on this soon. Slippery slopes are tricky things — easy to go down but virtually impossible to climb back up.

Is it just me, or does it feel like things are getting odd out there? A city that styles itself as "green" and "environmental" wants to pave paradise and put up a parking lot? And on some of its most sensitive public lands? What's going on?

Slippery slope alert. Watch your step.

Yes, some aver that the "slippery slope" concept is a logical fallacy. But if so, the "I'll bet you can't eat just one" Lay's potato chip ad was an epic fail. That first potato chip is the golden-fried trailhead of a long, fast, and delicious slippery greased slope. It's all downhill from there (Utz Dark Russett are an even slipperier slope). But if we must give up the useful concept of the slippery slope as that first small act that leads to a major mistake, then too we must relinquish the handy concept of "the lemming" when attempting to describe the behavior of a person who blindly follows groupthink instead of making an independent decision about wearing bellbottoms (Uncle Walt lied to an entire generation of impressionable movie-goers — the film makers pushed the critters over the cliff). And how do we otherwise explain a 7/3 vote to approve a plan that will push the development of the jewel of Austin's parks? Everybody knows that one thing leads to another. Everybody knows that it seemed like a good idea at the time. Leonard Cohen. He knew what everybody knows.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Bylaws revision update
- ◆ Happy Birthday ANC!
- ◆ Neighborhood heroine Joan Bartz, a proclamation
- ◆ Watershed Protection detention pond program
- ◆ Things you need to know about from the Lege

## 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 June General Meeting will take place on Monday, June 5, 6:30 p.m. at Sparky Park, 3701 Grooms.**

**City of Austin engineers from Watershed Protection will speak on the Adams Hemphill detention pond project. Bring your questions.**

# AGENDA

## NUNA GENERAL MEETING

June 5, 2023 6:30 p.m.  
Sparky Park

Call to order  
Treasurer's report  
Quadrant and other reports  
Watershed Protection program on Adams/Hemphill  
parks detention pond project  
Bylaws revision presentation and vote  
Election of president for 2023-2024  
Announcements  
Adjourn

## ADVERTISE IN THE NUNA NEWSLETTER

### RATES AND INSERTIONS

The NUNA newsletter is published six times a year, and ads are sold by the calendar year beginning with the February issue, which is the first issue of the year. If your ad begins at another part of the annual ad cycle, the cost will be prorated for that year and the six-ad cycle will begin with the first (February) issue of the new year.

### ANNUAL RATE (6 ISSUES)

1/8 page (3.5w x 2.25h): \$200  
1/4 page vertical (3.5w x 4.5h): \$300  
1/2 page horizontal (7.5w x 5h) \$550  
1/2 page vertical (3.5w x 10h) \$550  
Full page (7.5w x 10h): \$1000

### AD SPECS

Black and white copy  
No bleed  
Images 300 dpi JPG or PDF

## 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 June General Membership meeting will take place on Monday, June 5, 6:30 p.m. at Sparky Park.



## NUNA OFFICERS 2023-2024

President	To be determined
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
	Lynn Marshall
ANC Representative	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: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES**  
**NUNA GENERAL MEETING**  
**April 3, 2023**

NUNA president Lynn Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. The minutes were recorded by Mary Ingle, NE quadrant leader.

Reports by the Treasurer, the CANPAC representative, the ANC representative, and the quadrant leaders were given.

There was an update on the Adams/Hemphill Park Advisory Group and the detention pond/basin situation. Also, an update on the damaged historic Aldridge Place column at 32nd St. and Guadalupe was given. A separate bank account for historic matters will be set up pronto.

Guest speaker Daryl Slusher, a former City Council Member and journalist, gave a short program on his latest endeavors, an online journal called The Independent. Daryl showcased his latest article on ETODs (Equity Transit Oriented Developments). He mentioned "sensitive development," as the term appeared in the city documents 70 times without a definition related to ETODs.

The Slate of Officers was presented for 2023-2024. A vote was taken to approve the slate of officers except for president after nominations from the floor. For NUNA president, Lynn Marshall was nominated by the Nominating Committee; Pam Bell was nominated from the floor. As there was a tie vote (taken 3 times) between the two candidates, this election will be remedied at the General Membership meeting in June with another vote. In the meantime, as determined by a motion and an affirmative vote, Lynn Marshall will serve as NUNA president through the June election. A substitute motion was made and carried that Pam Bell be included and invited to the Executive Committee Meeting in May.

There was a report on some of the most damaging bills at the state legislature this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

*Approved 5/1/23 by NUNA Executive Committee*

**BYLAWS REVISION**  
**2023**

**In keeping with the need for any organization to keep up with the latest developments in technology and also with any issues arising out of experience, the NUNA Executive Committee realized last year that we needed to update the bylaws under which we operate. A separate committee was formed to study the issue.**

**After numerous (and sometimes somewhat semi-contentious varying opinions on content) the Bylaws Committee was able to come up with a bylaws revision that will, hopefully, serve our neighborhood's purposes for years to come.**

**A final draft of the proposed bylaws revision was approved by the Executive Committee at its early May meeting but must be formally accepted and adopted by a vote of the General Membership at our next meeting, now planned to be June 5 at Sparky Park. Should the timing or venue be changed, an announcement will be made.**

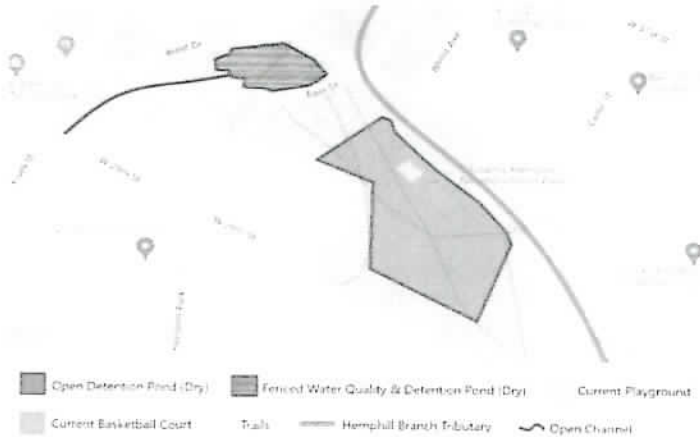
**NUNA members are encouraged to study the proposed bylaws revision so they can make an informed decision when attending the meeting and voting on its adoption. Remember, only the votes of current NUNA members in good standing will be counted.**

**Current members should receive a copy of the proposed revision with the email announcement of the meeting. Anyone who does not receive a copy of the proposed revision by email may contact any officer or quadrant representative to request a copy be emailed or otherwise provided to you.**

**Mike Marcom,**  
**Vice President, NUNA**

Upcoming Watershed Protection presentation on the

# ADAMS HEMPHILL PARK DETENTION PONDS GUADALUPE STREET FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECT



Hanh Thai, Project Sponsor, and John Middleton, Supervising Engineer, of Watershed Protection will give a PowerPoint presentation on the project at the June 5 General Meeting.

A May 30 email from Watershed Protection closed with:  
*We would like to design the proposed detention basins*

in the park to be as acceptable as possible to the community and allow for the continued use and enjoyment of the park. For that reason, we are developing concept plans that take into account both existing and potential amenities in the park. We are planning to present two possible concept plans later this summer or in the early fall for community feedback. Once we have a final concept plan, we will seek a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board and approval from the Austin City Council for the proposal to install the detention basins in the park. Without these detention basins, we do not think we can proceed with the Guadalupe St. Flood Risk Reduction project due to the potential adverse impact in regard to flood risk for existing buildings.

More information on the project is available here:

[austintexas.gov/GuadalupeDrainage](http://austintexas.gov/GuadalupeDrainage)

[austintexas.gov/page/adams-hemphill-neighborhood-park](http://austintexas.gov/page/adams-hemphill-neighborhood-park)

## You never write. You never call.

What am I, the Maytag repairman? Inquiring newsletter editors want to know.

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.

## THE PLANTS OF NUNA

Passersby keep asking me the same question — “What’s that plant?” as they point to colorful mounds across the street. These shrubby plants are all over the neighborhood and come in two colors. The pink-flowered *Lantana camara* is from the West Indies and Central and South America, but it established itself long ago in Central Austin. Its cousin *L. horrida* (calico bush or Texas lantana) with vivid yellow to orange to red flowers flowers, is a native. *Lantana montevidensis*, trailing lantana or polecat-geranium (crush the foliage — you’ll smell why), has purple flowers and trailing stems.

All are excellent for hot, dry spots. They bloom ferociously in the heat, and their purple fruits are coveted by birds. The mockingbirds work their way into the center of the plant and launch themselves straight up to grab the berries (this is why lantanas are found along fences. Bees and butterflies are frequent visitors too.

Lantanas can be invasive in the wild, but in North University they are easy to keep in check. *Lantana camara* and *L. horrida* can reach 6 feet but aren’t fazed by being cut back. A healthy *L. montevidensis* in my yard (my grandmother’s house), has been cascading over the same rock wall since the 1940s. I whack it back every so often and it rocks on.



# PROCLAMATION

# JOAN BARTZ & ANC

Mary Ingle

Be it Known that

Whereas, as an ordinary Citizen, strong in her beliefs, a mother of five children, Joan Bartz wanted good schools, beautiful surroundings, and a safe, crime-free neighborhood; and,

Whereas, Feisty and tenacious Joan Bartz successfully "cut her teeth" with a lawsuit in the 54th District Court and saved Dottie Jordan Neighborhood Park in the University Hills Neighborhood (as we used to say, "her bartz was worse than her bite"); and

Whereas, with equal treatment from city government in mind, Joan Bartz persevered and founded a small problem-solving, educational group called the Austin Neighborhoods Council in 1973; and

Whereas, Joan's wisdom and vision created and maintained the long-lived, the strong, powerful and independent Austin Neighborhoods Council;

Now, Therefore, I, Kirk Watson, Mayor of the City of Austin, Texas, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2023 as Joan Bartz Day and in celebration of Austin Neighborhoods Council's fiftieth year.

On May 4, the City Council supported a Proclamation from ANC to celebrate its founder Joan Bartz and ANC's 50th birthday. Councilmember Leslie Pool, who has been friendly to neighborhoods, was the Council sponsor. This was quite an accomplishment for a "neighborhood" organization that has become the umbrella group for member neighborhoods in Austin.

Joan, from University Hills, started ANC in 1973 as a problem-solving group for a handful of neighborhoods having difficulties with the City of Austin. One of her mottos was "We all are just one bad zoning case away from getting involved in city politics." A strong personality equipped to handle information gathering, she navigated the district court system to achieve her goal of saving a local park, and was organized enough to bring people together for a common cause.

Joan passed away in 2021, and with proclamations on hold during the pandemic, ANC was not able to address her contributions until 2023, but fortuitously, this was also the fiftieth anniversary of ANC's founding!

Austin Neighborhoods Council gives us the opportunity to connect with people we may not ordinarily meet in our day to day lives. It is also a way to connect with a diverse audience who face common challenges related to safety, family, zoning, city issues, deficient sidewalks(!), trash, parking, noise, etc. Our neighborhood, North University, is a long-standing member of the Austin Neighborhoods Council. Our current NUNA representative to ANC is Babs Davis.



Douglas Plummer  
35th St. Resident  
NUNA Member  
Managing Director of  
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# AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL

# URNS 50

Lynn Marshall

Fifty years ago in 1973, the formidable Joan\* Bartz was inspired to bring the individual neighborhood associations together under one roof. Thus, the Austin Neighborhoods Council, an organization of organizations, was formed, and it has been going strong ever since. Joan described ANC by saying "We do for neighborhoods what the Chamber of Commerce does for business." Quickly, ANC became the group for anyone running for a city council place to speak to, and it is still that way.

ANC celebrated its first 50 years with a party at Star of India Restaurant on Anderson Lane on May 5. This was the first in-person meeting in several years, and ANC reps and member association presidents table hopped in a frenzy of catching up on the burning neighborhood issues being hurled our way by the City and the Texas legislature — petition rights, parkland dedication fees, the small-lot thing, the Skyscraper Bill, STRs (Short Term Rentals), stealth dorms, and more (see You Need to Know About This! on page 7).

The welcoming committee at the restaurant door included NUNA's own Mary Ingle (ANC V-P and past ANC presi-

dent, CNC board member, and NUNA secretary), Sheryl Cheatham (ANC treasurer), and Megan Meisenbach (ANC Sector 5 Rep). ANC's Sector 6 Rep., the talented Darnal Llanes of River Bluff Neighborhood, entertained with guitar and flute. His daughter Carmen Llanes, who serves on the City of Austin Planning Commission, was there, as were ANC President Ana Aguirre, Linda Guerrero (Parks Board and D9 council candidate), former city council members Daryl Slusher and Laura Morrison (herself a past president of ANC), Joe Cascino from Mayor Kirk Watson's office, and 80 or so other people from all over Austin.

NUNA is an active member in this important community organization, and we wish ANC a Happy 50th Birthday! Here's to another 50 years of bringing people together to protect Austin's wonderful neighborhoods.

*\*That's pronounced Jo Ann, not Joan as in Joan of Arc, though if one ever worked with (or dared go against) Joan "Her Bartz is worse than her bite" Bartz, the many commonalities would not go unnoticed. They both saddled up, got out in front, fought for what they believed in, and wouldn't back down.*



Mary Ingle  
6 NUNA



ANC members in deep discussion



ANC president Ana Aguirre



Checking people in at the door

# YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS!

The Texas legislature seems to not want cities to make their own decisions about building standards.

The Skyscraper Bill (HB 491) sought to prevent a municipality (e.g. Austin) over 750,000 "from limiting the height of a building based on the building's proximity to a lot that is located more than 50 feet from the building." Fortunately, the bill died. Otherwise a building of seemingly unlimited height could have been built a short distance from your house.

The Small Lot bill (SB 1787) regarding lots less than 1,400 s/f also died. It had to do with getting rid of all sorts of requirements having to do with setbacks, impervious cover, parking, and building height.

And there are many things happening down at City Hall. A few that you might want to be aware of are:

Item 36 on an upcoming agenda would reduce public input on all sorts of things, including limiting time for speaking, not allowing one person to donate their allotted time to another speaker, and not being able to remove controversial items from the council's consent agenda.

The UT Democrats and the UT AURA group has submitted a letter to the city demanding that UNO be extended to the north campus area (are you feeling a target on your back yet?) That would be Hancock, Eastwoods, and North University (NUNA), and it would obliterate the two neighborhoods imbedded in UNO: OWUNA and Shoal Crest.

The City Council recently approved a 24-room Short Term Rental in the Chestnut Neighborhood. Fortunately, there has been a great coming together of forces around the state over the STR bill. Austin attorney Stephanie Ashworth is working on this as part of the Texas Neighborhoods Coalition based in Arlington.

Zilker Park is in the crosshairs too. There was a contentious Parks Board hearing earlier this month with citizen after citizen speaking out against the proposed parking garages and monetization that is being proposed. The Parks Board voted 9 to 3 in favor of the project, which will bring development to a very sensitive area. More information can be found here: <https://www.austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision>.



Top to bottom and left to right: Joe Cascino and Linda Guerrero, Daryl Slusher, Laura Morrison, Daniel Llanes and Scooter Cheatham, Carmen Llanes (no... that's her index finger), Vera Givens and family. Photos by Scooter Cheatham.

## ***Coming soon!***

Classic 1917 bungalow located in the heart of Hyde Park's historic district at 4004 Avenue H. Beautifully restored, this charming home features three bedrooms, two baths, spacious formal living and dining rooms, sunroom/office. Original fireplace, French doors, long leaf pine floors. Separate guest house/office. Detached garage and storage shed. Oversized lot, 75' x 125'. List price: \$1,400,000. Shown by appointment.



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.

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