

hancock

hancock neighborhood association newsletter www.hancockna.org February 2012

HNA 2012 Officer Election

Officer Elections Held at January 18 HNA Meeting

At the January 18, 2012 general membership meeting, nearly 25 members were present to elect new officers and vote on other agenda items.

New officers elected by acclamation are: President Mike Hirsch; incumbent Vice President Rafi Anuar; Secretary Julia Reynolds; and Treasurer Bruce Fairchild

Members voted to charge HNA president with writing a letter in opposition to the city's plan in ImagineAustin to make E. 38th Street a mixed-use corridor extending from I-35 to MoPac.

It was reported that a reclaimed water line will be connected to irrigate the Hancock Golf Course, at a price of about \$400,000, which will be partially funded with any future mitigation money the HNA may be eligible for. A motion was passed to inform the city that the HNA objects to any immediate closing of the golf course. Members also voted to invite Kevin Gomillion, head of the City of Austin golf operations, to the March HNA meeting to answer questions

discuss city plans for Hancock Golf Course.

Carolyn Palaima, chair of the HNA Parks Committee, said she has been unsuccessful in getting a response concerning the unfinished retaining wall along the hilly section of the golf course at 38th St.

Members voted to establish the Perry Estate ad hoc committee comprising current members of the zoning committee and three neighbors with property within 500 feet of the Perry Estate who are regular members, excluding members who have a conflict of interest. The three neighbors to be appointed to the committee are Holly Noelke, Bruce Fairchild and John Reed Henderson.

Members voted to support the Hyde Park Plaza (43rd and Duval) renovations with specific language pertaining to "improvements to the safety and accessibility of the 43rd and Duval neighborhood center." The HNA urges the city of Austin to fund the completion of the public portions of the Hyde Park Plaza project in order to improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists as soon as possible.

HNA Letter to the Mayor

The following letter was sent to Mayor Leffingwell and each member of the Austin City Council expressing HNA opposition to the Imagine Austin plan to develop 38th Street between I-35 and MoPac as a mixed-use corridor:

Dear Mayor Leffingwell,

At the January 18th, 2012 meeting of the Hancock Neighborhood Association (HNA) our membership unanimously voted to oppose any effort to designate E. 38th Street as a mixed-use corridor as is currently suggested by the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan. As the duly elected representative of the HNA I ask that you use all the powers available to you through your office to prevent this change in zoning.

Respectfully yours,

Michael L. Hirsch

President – Hancock Neighborhood Association

APD Changes Sound Enforcement Rules

Wednesday
March 21

Next HNA Meeting

Hancock
Recreation Center

An Austin Business Journal story January 20 reported on changes to the city's sound measurement and enforcement policy, which went into effect Oct. 1, 2011.

Members of the Texas Bar and Nightclub Alliance, which represents about half of the bars and clubs in Austin, plan to request a meeting with the police department to discuss the process that led to the changes.

Several bars and clubs have been cited with tickets and warnings, which are Class C misdemeanors punishable by up to a \$500 fine.

The citations were issued on the weekends from Nov. 25 to Dec 17, 2011, when officers responded to calls regarding loud noise and enforced the amended sound ordinance.

.....con't on page 3

hna officers

President..... Mike Hirsch
Vice President..... Rafi Anuar
Secretary..... Julia Reynolds
Treasurer..... Bruce Fairchild
CANPAC Reps..... Bart Whatley &
Mike Hirsch
Neighborhood Council Liaison
..... Linda Guerrero

hancock newsletter is published by the Hancock Neighborhood Association [HNA]. HNA meetings are held bi-monthly beginning in January, at 7:00p on the 3rd Wednesday at the Hancock Recreation Center located at 41st & Red River.

Editor..... Carol Moczygemba
Designer..... Sandra Smith Gray
Advertising..... Kathleen Strong
Webmaster..... George Wilson

The Hancock neighborhood extends from 32nd to 45th Streets and Duval to I-35.

Clean Sweep
Austin is
Saturday, April 14.
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a letter from the president

Folks,

My name is Mike Hirsch. I was elected president of the Hancock Neighborhood Association during the January membership meeting. I'll do my best to represent our neighborhood's concerns to city agencies and other interested parties. However, to meet some of the most pressing concerns facing our neighborhood, at times we'll need to mobilize as many neighborhood residents as possible in a short period of time. The most immediate means of communication in such instances is through our neighborhood listserv.

If you are not on our listserv, please join. If you are on our listserv, but know of others who aren't, please encourage them to join. Being on the listserv means you'll receive alerts about suspicious activity in the neighborhood, learn about neighborhood events, HNA meetings and agendas, and be invited to participate in discussions on zoning and land use. There is a lot happening in our neighborhood. Help us keep you informed.

George Wilson, our webmaster, has provided us with the following information about how to join the listserv:

Go to the URL <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hancockneighborhoodassociation> and click on the button "Join This Group!" It will present a page that prompts you to create a new account, reuse an existing Facebook or Google OpenID account, or sign in with an existing Yahoo account.

If you don't want to create a Yahoo ID, an alternate method of joining the listserv is to send mail requesting access to:

hancockneighborhoodassociation-subscribe@yahoogroups.com


The downside of this method is you'll not have access to the archive or additional features on the Yahoo groups page.

Please join the listserv and encourage your neighbors to do the same. Neighborhood unity will give us strength!

Mike Hirsch

President, Hancock Neighborhood Association

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Eighteen tickets were written the first weekend, 10 the next, then nine and finally two, APD Commander John Romoser told the ABJ.

"We believe as the businesses became aware, they started to comply with the ordinance," Romoser said.

During the past 12 months, his officers have reached out to every downtown business to ensure that they understood the noise ordinance, he said. However, he said he did not reach out to them specifically since the rule changes took effect.

The change that entertainment venues are most concerned about is the removal of the requirement that there must be a complaint before an officer can issue a warning or citation.

The new rules also lower the duration of the sound meter reading from 60 seconds to 15 seconds, which was determined to have the same sound averaging.

Sixty seconds is a long time, and officers found that bars would reduce the volume when they saw an officer standing outside a given venue with a sound meter, which would affect the reading, Romoser said.

Other changes include giving officers options to measure sound coming from rooftop sources or from spots other than within six feet of the property line, and updating the sound meters used by the police.

(Excerpted from the Austin Business Journal, January 20, 2012)

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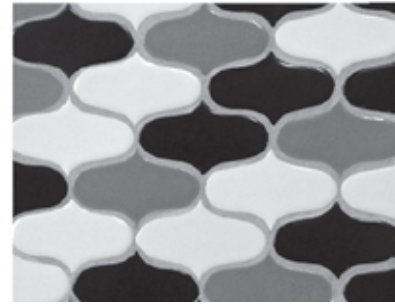
The Red River Church at 45th and Red River collects toiletries (toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant, shampoo, shaving supplies, etc.) and household cleaning products to give to Caritas of Austin. They collect non-perishable food items to take to the Manos de Cristo Food Pantry.

Donated items can be dropped off at the church Monday-Wednesday from 9:00-2:30. Enter the parking lot from 45th Street.



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Thank You, Friends of Shipe

Thanks to our neighbors involved in the Friends of Shipe Park efforts to save our community swimming pool, the City Council passed the following resolution that "ensures that Austin's neighborhood pools remain open and free."

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Aquatic facilities have been an essential part of the Austin community and culture since 1927, beginning with the operation of Barton Springs pool, and after 1930 via the construction of other Aquatic facilities including neighborhood and wading pools (i.e. free public entry) and municipal pools (i.e. paid public entry) throughout Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to continuing over eighty years of providing free or subsidized swimming pool facilities for the Austin community; and

WHEREAS, over 1,000,000 Austinites and visitors enjoy the use of these swimming pools annually despite sometimes limited operating schedules and closed facilities due to budget constraints; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood, wading and municipal swimming pools

dispersed all across Austin are a community benefit available to all and mirrors our commitment to increasing the public's access to open space via pocket parks; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that swimming is an activity that provides a myriad of benefits: it improves general health and wellness; it can be continued for a lifetime; it allows those who are unable to walk or run the opportunity for exercise; it fills a recreational need for both individuals and families across all economic and social strata; and it improves safety by enhancing water safety among youth our children; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood pools provide relief from the high temperatures during the summer months and allow our citizens to avoid driving or driving longer distances to larger municipal pool locations; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of swimming promote an active and fit community that, in turn, ensures that Austin remains attractive as both an economically vibrant city and as a recreational destination; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin management has suggested engaging an outside consultant to address the future of aquatics in Austin ; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN :

The City Manager is directed to draft an aquatic facilities comprehensive master plan through a public process, with the participation of neighborhood associations and other interested stakeholders, incorporating:

- 1) an analysis of all existing Aquatic facilities including physical condition and historic significance;
- 2) a future needs assessment based on population growth projections of size and geographic distribution;
- 3) inclusion of best practices for both operations and programming; and
- 4) an assessment of funding sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the aquatic master plan include strategies to ensure that Austin 's neighborhood pools remain open and free.

Shipe Park Day!

It' Shipe Park Day! March 3, 10am-2pm. Volunteer to help clean up our beloved community park. Please bring your own water bottle to keep the park trash/recycles to a minimum. If you knit, please email Rhonda Baird at rhonda@stikki.com directly from the site. Organizers would love to create knit pieces for the poles and cables in the park. Snacks will be provided.

Volunteer registration opens February 12. If you volunteer online, you will get a free tee-shirt. <http://austinparks.org/itsmypark.html>



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Austin Water Code Revision

In the next 50 years, Texas faces a critical water shortage. Even with further development of conventional and alternative supplies of water, Texas is still looking at a water deficit of more than 16 percent according to information posted on the Landscape Texas website.

The City of Austin held a Citizen Workshop on Water Conservation Code Revision in January (report not available at this printing). Despite the recent rains, Central Texas is still in the midst of an exceptional drought that weather experts predict could worsen. With that in mind, Austin Water is reviewing the structure of its current watering restrictions and codes.

If the drought does worsen, the Lower Colorado River Authority-where Austin gets its water-would ask customers to cut back even more than Stage 2 restrictions require. The current code and watering restriction levels are not designed for long-term drought situations. Updates to the water conservation code will take into consideration protecting Austin's tree canopy and the long-term effects on Austin Water residential and commercial customers.

Many Hancock area neighbors have already begun replacing lawns with xeriscapes, or dry landscaping that requires minimal irrigation. For information on landscape options during prolonged drought, visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center or Texas WaterWise Council websites.



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Lee Live

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GOAL FOR 2011-12: \$40,000

Questions? Email Kelsey Evans at Kelsey.evans@mail.utexas.edu



Ellen Peters Estate 4007 Speedway

This Hyde Park Bungalow is filled with echos of the love and care given by Miss Ellen Peters over the 70+ years it was her home. Miss Peters, who was one of nine sisters, never married, nor did four of her sisters. As they aged, she brought them into her home and managed their care. She lived to be 95, and her nieces describe her as the most generous and joyful person they have ever known. When asked if she ever tired of caring for her elderly sisters, she answered "Oh no, never! It is my privilege and my joy to be able to have them here."

Now that Miss Ellen is gone, her nieces are selling her house. It needs updating from the ground up, but it has good bones and spacious rooms. The original character is largely intact. There are three bedrooms and one bath, a generous living room with a fireplace and built-in bookshelves, a formal dining room and a breakfast room with build-in table and china cabinet. It is pre-inspected so buyers can see what it needs to bring it into tip-top shape again.

According to the tax records, the house has 1256 sf of living space. The 50 x 130 foot lot has convenient alley access.

The price is \$289,000. For an appointment to see the house call Lin Team.



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Perry Estate Open House

Hancock neighbors were invited to an Open House reception at the Perry Estate December 18 to tour the mansion and grounds and see the results of restoration efforts up to this point.

To insure the historical integrity of the mansion, preservation

architects Volz & Associates were brought in as consultants. Austin architect Robert Smith has been supervising interior design work, and Mark Word Design of Austin is overseeing restoration of the gardens.

Remembering Austin in the “Good Old Days”

Go to the following link to enjoy a Texas Country music video remembering Old Austin, Texas 1965-1995. Every thing you remember from the good old days in Austin, Texas including Night Hawk steaks, the Chief Drive-in,

Aqua Fest, Butter Krust Bakery, Cactus Pryor, Scarbroughs and more.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvACIVBNBIs&sns=em>

People's Law School

Registration is now available for People's Law School put on by the Austin Bar Association and the Lawyer Referral Service of Central Texas.

http://www.austinbar.org/pages/PLS_Registration

People's Law School will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25th at the University of Texas Law School, located at 727 E. Dean Keeton St. Doors open at 8:15 a.m.

For a complete listing of classes:

http://www.austinbar.org/pages/PLS_Classes

For directions:

http://www.austinbar.org/pages/PLS_Directions

For FAQs:

http://www.austinbar.org/pages/PLS_FAQs

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8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
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Event Schedule
Doors Open: 8:15 a.m.
Orientation: 8:30 a.m.
First Class: 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Second Class: 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Third Class: Noon – 1:15 p.m.

Topics Offered:
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See other side for the Schedule of Classes available.

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To ensure adequate seating, registration is preferred but not required.
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Interpreters available upon advance request for hearing impaired attendees.
Contact Julie at julie@austinbar.org or call the Austin Bar office at 512-472-0279, x108
by Friday, Feb. 17 to obtain an interpreter for the event.
For more information call the Austin Bar Association at 512-472-0279 or visit www.PeoplesLawSchoolAustin.org.



SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Consumer Law 9:00 Protecting Yourself Online 10:30 Identity Theft	The Legal Process 9:00 When & How to Hire a Lawyer 10:30 Small Claims Court 101
Criminal Law Noon Arrested! What are My Rights?	Life Planning 9:00 Getting Your Financial House In Order 10:30 Estate Planning Noon The Probate Process Noon Guardianship
Debt 9:00 Handling Debt 10:30 Handling Debt	No Escaping Taxes! 9:00 Dealing With the IRS
More Debt 9:00 Bankruptcy 10:30 Foreclosure, Loan Modification, & Short Sales	Real Estate Law 9:00 Buying, Owning, & Selling Property 10:30 Tenants' Rights Noon Homeowners/Condo Association Issues
Employment Law 9:00 For Employers 10:30 For Employees	Small Business Law 9:00 Choice of Business Entity 10:30 Choice of Business Entity Noon Tips for Small Business Success Noon Business Contracts Basics
Family Law 9:00 The Divorce Process 10:30 Child Custody & Support	School Law 9:00 Student & Teacher Rights
Immigration 10:30 Immigration (in English & Spanish) Noon Immigration (in English & Spanish)	Wills 9:00 Wills & Why You Need One 10:30 Wills & Why You Need One Noon Wills & Why You Need One
Insurance Noon Social Security Disability Noon Home, Auto, & Health	Veterans' Issues 10:30 Discharge & Benefits Issues
Intellectual Property 9:00 Trademark & Registration 10:30 Patents Noon Copyright & Registration	

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