

January Meeting

When: 7:00 pm
Monday, January 9, 2017

Where: Griffin School
5001 Evans Avenue

Note: HPNA meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for January 9

- HPNA Co-Presidents' 2017 briefing on upcoming key issues
- AISD Discussion: Neighborhood priorities for re-development of Baker School and possible closing of Ridgetop Elementary
- Update on Elisabet Ney Museum by Oliver Franklin
- Local Business Highlight by Deaton Bednar, Texas Bike Tours
- 2016 HPNA Awards
- Vote: Resolution to add Guadalupe storm drain improvements to the next bond

See You There!

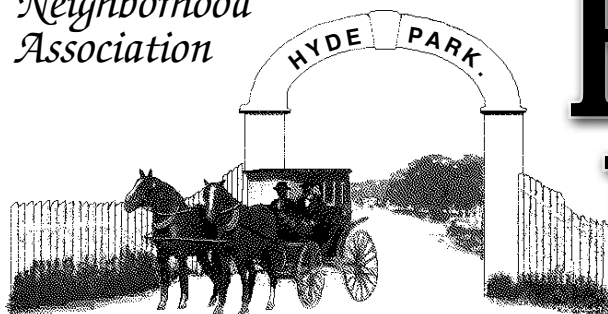
HPNA Celebrates the Season

HPNA celebrated the season and our neighborhood on Sunday night, December 11, at the lovely Elisabet Ney Museum. Scores of neighbors and friends enjoyed the event's champagne, cider, cocoa, and sweet treats. Dessert was made possible by generous donations from Hyde Park businesses: assorted gourmet cookies from Asti Trattoria, mini coconut key lime pies and mocha torte bites from Mother's Cafe, and Wom Kim's Peach Pudding from Hyde Park Bar and Grill. In between - and sometimes in the middle of - conversations, attendees took selfies with each other and the sculptures; find the pictures on Instagram with the hashtag #HPNAHolidays.

The holidays are not only a season of celebration, but a season to help others. Partygoers brought

Continued on page 8

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

January 2017 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 43, No. 1

Flooding in Hyde Park

Editor's Note: At the December meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, Elloa Mathews from the Flood Mitigation Task Force and Annabell Ulary, Matt Hollon, and Reem Zoun from the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department spoke about flooding in Hyde Park. We thank them for their time and commitment to these issues. Following are excerpts from their presentation. If you would like to listen to the recording, please get in touch with me.

Elloa Mathews: How many people here have had structure flooding or yard flooding? Wow. That's a lot.

The Flood Mitigation Task Force was in response to the last three floods - the 2013 Halloween flood, the two Memorial Day floods. How many people remember, or were living here when the first Shoal Creek flood happened? So everybody is familiar with how bad that was: thirteen people died.

Council formed a task force with two members from each district. It actually turned out to be 21 people. We met monthly and we divided into working groups. The three groups were operations and maintenance, to investigate how this storm drain systems work, whether they work right or not, and are they properly funded; capital priorities, which was the group I was in, about how are we going to pay for all these improvements that we all need; and buyouts, and buyouts are mainly ongoing in the Onion Creek neighborhood in the Onion Creek watershed, where all the flooding has been so severe.

Josephina Rodriguez and her baby, Ray, were washed away in the flood in lower Onion Creek. This is who we were thinking about when we were working, especially those of us who live near this area and know how dangerous it can be. She lost her life. Someone that she knew served with us from Onion Creek on the task force. We tried to keep these folks in mind when we were doing what we were doing.

District 9 is from St. Edward's to Hyde Park and even further north. The common problem that I see between you all is what's causing this. I hear from people in my neighborhood; they say it's getting worse, it just keeps getting worse - and the common problem is localized flooding in the urban core neighborhoods, not as much the creek flooding.

I showed Matt (Hollon) an aerial picture of my neighborhood (Sherwood Oaks) and I said, this is what the storm drain system looked like in 1963 when my neighborhood was built. Could you call this adequate or minimally engineered? and he said, minimally engineered. The city did a preliminary engineering report, which is sort of where Hyde Park is now

Continued on page 5

From the Desk of the Co-Presidents

Happy New Year!



It was great to see a nice turnout at the neighborhood Holiday Party at the Elisabet Ney Museum. We want to thank Sarah Cook, Joan Burnham, Nancy Mims, Cindy Beall, Nancy Pennington, Robin Berghaus, and all the other volunteers from the neighborhood as well as Midtown Church volunteers Summer Siebert, Akiko Scott, Sandra Novak, and Amanda Bennet, who made the party a big success. And a big thanks to Elisabet Ney Museum Director Oliver Franklin and his team, including Conna Oram, Patrick Shaw, Chris Keimling, Stephen Faubion, and Lindsay Barras, for once again opening the doors of the museum for our annual holiday celebration.

The New Year brings both challenges and opportunities for the neighborhood as well as the neighborhood association. The first draft of CodeNEXT, the extensive revision of the city's development code, comes out this month. After the code is released, the HPNA will begin conversations with the neighborhood to craft our response to the proposed revised code. At the Capitol, the future of the Austin State Hospital (ASH) will be debated. If the Legislature decides to sell ASH, there will be big repercussions on Hyde Park, and HPNA will work with the neighbors to mitigate any negative impacts.

Within the neighborhood, the final details of the Shipe Pool redesign and restoration will be

hammered out by the City. We are fortunate to have this beautiful pool in our neighborhood and will work to ensure the redesign will satisfy most if not all of the pool's patrons.

Also of concern is AISD's potential plan to sell the Baker School property to a private investor. We, as a neighborhood, need to let both the school district and the City know that we want the school building to be preserved and that any future development of the property should not detrimentally affect the quality of life of the neighbors who live near the school. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the school building remained a community resource?

The HPNA also needs to continue to be engaged in the City's ongoing plans for flood mitigation. While we have had severe issues with flooding in the neighborhood, flooding is a problem that afflicts all parts of Austin and many of the ways to remedy the issue require city-wide changes. It is similar with crime prevention. We are fortunate to live in a safe neighborhood, but we have had incidents of crime, including one well-publicized violent assault that took place just over a year ago. Crime doesn't respect neighborhood boundaries. As we are writing this letter, the HPNA is reaching out to APD regarding any string of ongoing crime in the neighborhood.

We need to remain vigilante and engaged with the Austin Police Department in building a safe city. If you see something, please con-

Continued on page 12

Pecan Press

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The Arts in Hyde Park

FronteraFest at Hyde Park Theater

FronteraFest, one of the most popular and longest running performance events in the country, returns for its 24th year. A collaboration between Hyde Park Theatre and ScriptWorks, the Fest has three parts: Short Fringe, January 17 through February 18 at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 West 43rd Street; B.Y.O.V., Bring Your Own Venue, January 25 – February 18 at various locations; and Mi Casa es Su Teatro, one day only on February 11 in primarily private homes (see the website, www.hydeparktheatre.org, for full schedule and location details).

FronteraFest, which allows artists, actors, singers, dancers, and writers the freedom to perform in virtually any medium or manner, has been delighting, challenging, and engaging audiences for nearly 25 years. The Short Fringe showcases pieces 25 minutes or less and runs the entirety of the festival. B.Y.O.V. features pieces in non-traditional venues, and Mi Casa es Su Teatro offers one day of performances hosted primarily at private homes throughout the city from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. The Long Fringe, which hosted pieces over 45 minutes, has been canceled for the first time, due to the theatrical venue crisis in Austin.

In what has been described as the premiere “performance event of the Southwest,” participants have traveled from around the world to participate as well as attend. Actors from as far as Chang Ung University in Seoul, South Korea performed a fascinating adaptation of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, in both Korean and English. Other U.S. cities represented in recent years include New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles. Throughout the life of the Festival, there have been thousands of participants.



Nadine Mozon and Michael Steven lend their magic to FronteraFest

Continued on page 9

Membership Information

- Membership in HPNA is open to all residents 18 years or older residing within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of its boundaries.
- All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.
- New members and members who lapse in dues for over six months are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.
- Membership dues can be paid in several ways: By signing up at an HPNA meeting or event, by mailing in the membership form, or by joining online using PayPal. To pay online, go to www.austinyhydepark.org and click on the Join Now button. Dues paid online are \$6.

Submission Information

- Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at lweidlich@grandecom.net.
Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.
- Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at herzele@gmail.com.
All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes.
- Send your contributions to Kid’s Corner to Jessica Charbeneau at ppkidscorner@yahoo.com.

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Notify me by email of HPNA meetings & events _____

Dues per Person Standard - \$5/yr. Check
 Senior - \$1/yr. Cash

 New Member Date _____
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	2014	2015	2016
NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD	21	29	24
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$470,419	\$570,905	\$578,158
AVERAGE SQ FT	1,582SF	1,549SF	1,927SF
AVERAGE SOLD \$/SQ FT	\$321.75	\$376.47	\$361.16
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	14 DAYS	7 DAYS	7 DAYS

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for Single Family Residence taken 10/04/2016 from the Austin MLS. For detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker.



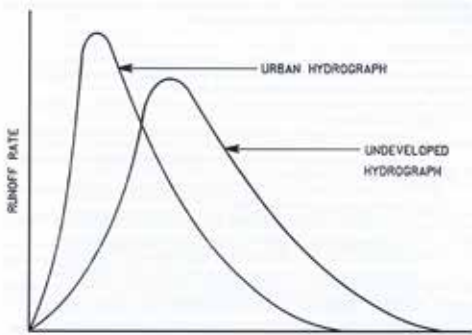
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Flooding in Hyde Park...

...cont'd from page 1

- the preliminary engineering report for Guadalupe. In 1977 the city adopted a drainage criteria manual (DCM) that said, make the pipes this big, do it this way, engineer everything correctly, and unfortunately your 1960s neighborhood (Sherwood Oaks) was built before that manual was adopted. In Hyde Park, it's much older than that.

What is the urban hydrograph? And why should I care about it? We all live in this very urban area but we all still see building going on and at the same time we see flooding. We're saying, why is this allowed? In the urban hydrograph, the runoff gets to you faster and it peaks higher; in the undeveloped hydrograph it comes later. You have time to prepare. You're living in an area where the flood is coming so fast you cannot get out of the way.



Everything we did, we were thinking about safety. We know we can't fix - and the city can't afford to fix - every flooding problem, but we have to fix the worst problems. So this is why the urban hydrograph is interesting to us. If you live in an urban area - this is the urban core now, believe it or not - you have to know that the flood can get to you faster.

The first thing you could do is, you have a drainage project that is on your neighborhood plan CIP list, you need to be getting out in front of that next year. There is a bond election advisory committee that has been formed. A person who was on the Flood Mitigation Task Force and grew up in Hyde Park has been appointed by Council Member (CM) Pool. So, there's someone there who understands Hyde Park and knows what needs to happen. I would be very active if I lived in this neighborhood in getting that person to listen to what you need.

North of 51st Street is a different Council Member's district. Runoff doesn't respect political boundaries. If you're in a watershed and the headwaters of your watershed are in Greg Casar's district, you need to be talking to Greg Casar about development regulations that impact runoff in his district because District 4 up there, that's where Waller Creek's headwaters are. That's coming down to Hyde Park.

The Council appropriated half a million dollars for a preliminary engineering report to figure out what the problem is on Guadalupe. I would recommend that you form a committee, you notify CM Tovo's office, you tell her you want a regular update from whoever the consultant is.

Watershed (Department) goes out when there is a storm. Watershed has to stop what they're doing and go out and deal with that storm. So they cannot continue planning, they have not added a person to the drainage operation staff in ten years. There has not been a drainage bond since the year 2006. Has our city grown in 10 years or what?

We recommended that all development or redevelopment in any area with documented flooding prove that there's going to be no adverse downstream impact. You have to get an engineer to prove that. And consider the cumulative impact. People say, well, I just want a variance for 5% over the impervious cover, that's not very much, right? But if everybody does it, the cumulative impact is what an aging and undersized storm drainage system cannot handle and that's what is causing flooding. And that all redevelopment reduces the post-development peak rates of discharge on the site, so if you have a site that right now has 90% impervious cover, if you redevelop it, you need to take it back to what it was like when it was grassland.

We just spent on the mobility bond three-quarters of a billion dollars. And the last drainage bond we had for the city was for \$95 million 10 years ago.

Generally, what I would recommend, what other neighborhoods are doing, is that they're sending a resolution to Council saying, please adopt the recommendations in this report that relate to drainage infrastructure and redevelopment. Then, again, to get in touch with Dorsey Tidswell, who was the appointee from CM Poole's district. The bond election advisory committee's first meeting is either this month or next month, and they will be talking and vetting and going out to promote what bond projects get funded. This project for Guadalupe is \$18 million and the money has not been set aside yet. Fellow taxpayers will vote on that. It's a political process - neighborhoods start fighting each other for the money - but I can say this, watershed does a great job on telling people what they're going to do.

Matt Holland: I was the staff liaison for the Flood Mitigation Task Force project, which went from September of last year to May of this year. It was a long process, they covered an incredible amount of material and a number of issues.

I'm glad that Annabell came because she is one of the flood engineers that are working on that preliminary part of that process. There's a feasibility study that happens at the very beginning and that's sort of ongoing, then that moves to that preliminary engineering report (PER), and we're headed toward that.

Continued on page 10



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News from the Ney

The Holiday Party was a wonderful event this past year! The museum's staff is looking forward to next December as we speak! The Wish Tree is now snug in its bed and the wishes are in the hands of Nancy Mims, who has been cataloging these all these years. It was Nancy's idea in the first place, and it has become one of the museum's most cherished traditions.

Getting on with 2017, then, be sure to bring your family and friends to the Ney for the January version of the weekly Drawing Salons. As in August, the salons take place every Saturday morning from 10 am to noon. Through these unique workshops, visitors have an opportunity to draw from Elisabet Ney's sculptural works in her very own historic artist studio. Each session will be hosted by a Museum Educator, and all of the required materials will be provided. Participation is free and open to everyone, regardless of age or level of experience! No RSVP is required.

More exciting events are in store for February, too. Be sure to watch the museum's Facebook page for more details.

In the meantime, the Museum's staff wishes you the very best of years to come.

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Monthly Calendar

January

- 6 — Recycling Pickup
- 9 — HPNA Meeting
- 11 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 12 — DRC Meeting
- 17 — Opening of FronteraFest at Hyde Park Theatre
- 20 — Recycling Pickup
- 23 — Contact Team Meeting

Pecan Press Advertising Rates

(Effective September, 2015)

Size	(width X height)	Price
Back Cover	(7.5" X 10")	400.00
Full Page	(7.5" X 10")	300.00
1/2 Page	(7.5" X 5")	190.00
1/4 Page	(3.63" X 5")	100.00
1/6 Page	(3.63" X 3.25")	80.00
1/9 Page	(3.63" X 2.25")	60.00
1/12 Page	(3.63" X 1.63")	50.00

Around & About the Avenues

The Egg Scramble Needs You! Interested in planning or volunteering for the Fifth Annual Hyde Park Egg Scramble? This HPNA event, sponsored by Grande Communications, is Saturday, April 15, 2017, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. We need assistance with setting up the egg hunt areas, operating the food stations, supervising the bounce house and obstacle course, leading the Egg-and-Spoon Race and the Egg Toss games, and handing out prizes! Enter <http://signup.com/go/DihZA8> to go to our invitation page on *SignUp.com*.



Holidays Left You Stressed Out? Windsor Park Branch of the Austin Public Library is sponsoring a series of free meditation classes taught by Steven Ross, the founder of East Side Yoga. These will take place on Saturday, January 14, 21, and 28, from 10:30 am to 12 pm at the Windsor Park branch, 5833 Westminster Drive. If you have any questions, contact Sharise Edwards at 512-974-9840.



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HPNA Celebrates... ...cont'd from pg 1

toys, gift cards, and monetary donations for our young neighbors at the Helping Hands Home on Avenue B and 38th Street. As in past years, the Holiday Party collected wishes for the future on the Wish Tree. Attendees' wishes ranged from the sublime - "I wish for a more peaceful world" - to the ridiculous - "I wish for ten dogs and one pig."

Thanks to those who joined us and to those who assisted, including Joan Burnham, who chaired the event and made the grounds so appealing with dozens



of luminarias; Ney Museum staff people and docents Conna Oram, Patrick Shaw, Chris Keimling, Stephen Faubion, and Lindsay Barras, who again welcomed the neighborhood into the studio and made everything run so smoothly; Summer Siebert, Akiiko Scott, Sandra Novak, and Amanda Bennet from the Midtown Church who helped with all elements of the party; Nancy Mims, for arranging the wish tree and collecting our thoughts; Cindy Beall, for providing cocoa; Nancy Pennington, for collecting the presents for the Helping Hand Home; and Robin Berghaus, for providing support all evening long.

The Holiday Party has also served as HPNA's volunteer appreciation event. As the year grows to a close, we are grateful to those friends and businesses that support the activities and occasions that make Hyde Park special; thanks to everyone and every organization that donates time, services, and treats to events including the Easter Egg Scramble, the Fire Station Festival, and this Holiday Party. We hope that you will join us for these and other events in 2017 and work with HPNA and your neighbors to maintain





community and friendship in the heart of Austin.

— Sarah Cook

All Photos by Lizzie Chen



FronteraFest at Hyde Park Theatre... ...cont'd from page 3

While the spirit of the festival is collaborative rather than competitive, there are weekly three-person voting panels as well as audience voting in the Short Fringe. The highest ranked performances get to return to the stage each Saturday of the Short Fringe for a Best of the Week showcase. The final week of the Short Fringe, February 14 to February 18, is reserved for Best of the Fest, which are pieces selected from Best of the Week, and a special Wild Card night, which are pieces selected by FronteraFest staff and crew.

Ken Webster, Artistic Director of Hyde Park Theatre, credits the Fest's popularity and longevity to the eclectic mix of performances, "The combination of work by established writers and performers as well as newcomers to the Austin arts scene is an exciting mix," he says. "From dance to music to theatre – you experience an artistic melting pot, and I think that resonates in a city like Austin."

Christi Moore, Executive Director of ScriptWorks, views the collaborative nature of the Fest as invaluable to both new and developing artists and writers. "The very nature of the ScriptWorks organization is collaborative. We work together to make everyone better, to tell better stories, become better writers. The Fest provides a different and very special kind of immediate feedback that can educate, entertain, and inspire."

FronteraFest is widely regarded in the national arts scene as an incubator for new work. Many performances that germinated at the Fest have catapulted to become full-length, professional award-winning productions. Austinites Steven Tomlinson, Ron Berry, Hans Frank, Cyndi Williams, Lowell Bartholomee, and others have been widely recognized for their work. Participants have also included former LA television actress Beth Broderick, now living in Austin; Hank Schwemmer; and slam poet Big Poppa E, who made a name for himself on HBO's former television series, Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam.

The Fest is a collaboration between two of Austin's foremost arts organizations, Hyde Park Theatre, an award-winning professional theatre in Central Austin, and ScriptWorks, a playwright development and service organization with members in Austin, the state, and around the country.

Venue, ticket information, and full schedules can be found at www.hydeparktheatre.org. Persons interested in performing in Mi Casa or sharing their home for a performance can contact Christina J. Moore directly at fronterafest@hydeparktheatre.org.

— Kevin Heyburn



Flooding in Hyde Park... ...cont'd from page 5

Reem Zoun: I'm supervisor with the local flood mitigation group. We deal with all kinds of flooding, that includes away from the creek, which is happening in your neighborhood.

When someone asked how many people have flooded in the neighborhood, I saw a lot of hands go up. So I have a request: if you would either call 311, or use our flood information request form. If you fill that out, that really helps us prioritize our projects. If there's house flooding, that gets most priority. That is what makes this (the Guadalupe project) the number five priority in our local flood hazard mitigation prioritization list. Your storm drain system, which was built in the 1920s and '30s, was determined to be capable of carrying a two-year storm, which is very small, because our DCM requires that we build our newest storm drain systems to a 25-year capacity.

We have a finished technical summary. We do an analysis of the existing system. That tells us what it can handle right now. It can only handle a two-year storm. Then we do some preliminary alignment. We look at how big of a box we need to put in, how much it would cost, so we have an idea of what to plan: do we need to go for a bond election, what kind of funding can we get?

Our in-house technical summary tells us that the cost estimate for this project is \$18.5 million. We do not have that kind of funding so we put this project in the upcoming bond election list of projects. We have \$500K in our funding, so I'm going to hire a consulting engineer to work on this project, to do a PER. At the end of that we'll have a report. That's when we'll come back to you and tell you that these are the options that we have: What are the preferences or what do we not know about? Can we do a retention pond somewhere? Things like that.

The Guadalupe storm drain improvement project - the green boundary that you see - all of it is included. Actually this system picks up water for a drainage area larger than this. It picks up water from the Central Market pond that picks up a very big drainage area. And the Triangle pond picks up some drainage area beyond the Triangle, northwest of the Triangle.

MH: I'll show a map of your entire neighborhood and how that fits into this bigger picture. This is the neighborhood plan boundary. This is Hyde Park itself and it shows Waller Creek, which is your major stream, coming through Hyde Park here. In fact, your entire neighborhood, other than this little bit of Boggy Creek over here, is Waller. This other part that we've been talking about that has the Guadalupe system - this big blue polygon - that's what we're calling

Continued on page 15

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HPNA General Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by co-President Reid Long at the Griffin School, 5001 Evans Avenue. The meeting began with self-introductions by first-time attendees.

The first agenda item was a presentation on the city's Flood Mitigation Task Force (FMTF) Report. Elloa Mathews spoke as one of Council Member Kathie Tovo's two appointees to the task force. She explained the history of the group as a response to flood events dating back to 2013. The charge of FMTF was not only to study the flooding problem and identify solutions, but also to consider necessary buyouts (in Onion Creek) and budgetary issues (funding for flood mitigation projects). She presented data from an urban hydrograph showing that flooding events occur far more quickly in urban areas, making it hard for populations to get out of the way, underscoring the extent to which flooding is a public safety issue. Her talk concluded with a discussion of funding. There has been no drainage bond in Austin since 2006 and she urged our group to lobby for and support a bond proposal. The Hyde Park storm drain system dates to the 1920s and is inadequate for current demands. A drainage upgrade is part of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan. She advised the group that flood mitigation projects are prioritized and neighborhood groups should be persistent in lobbying the city. This includes contacting CM Tovo's office for updates as well as contacting council members whose districts are upstream and contribute to our flooding issues. She also recommended that HPNA send a resolution to the City Council supporting adoption of the 19 recommendations in the FMTF report, especially those related to controlling infill and redevelopment in urban areas with pre-1977 infrastructures. She underscored the cumulative impact of impervious cover variances and stressed the need for vigilance and a quick response to these requests. Applications for redevelopment should be required to prove no adverse downstream impact, and all redevelopments should reduce rates of discharge to match peak rates for undeveloped land. Matt Hollon, FMTF staff liaison, also answered audience questions. He advised neighbors to monitor the issue by Googling "Austin Watershed Protection Master Plan" and clicking the Master Plan Problem Score viewer, which identifies the most important flooding problems and mitigation projects in the city. Finally, because this is a public safety issue, the Flood Mitigation Task Force intends to bypass the CodeNEXT initiative and work instead to present its recommendations to the Environmental Commission and the Austin City Council.

The second item on the agenda was a presentation of a redevelopment plan for 4004, 4006, and 4008 Avenue C. The speakers sought support from HPNA for the project. Neighbors expressed interest in improving the site but also had concerns over redevelopment size, parking, and compatibility with the requirements of the neighborhood plan. A motion to postpone consideration of this project was approved by a vote of 19 in favor and 2 opposed.

The final agenda item was a vote on the 2017 HPNA budget. As there was no Hyde Park Homes Tour this year, revenues were down, but so were expenses. A budget surplus is expected for 2016. The vote approving the budget was 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

After announcements for upcoming December events, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

— Submitted by Susan Marshall
Co-Secretary, HPNA



Co-Presidents' Letter... ...cont'd from page 2

tact the appropriate authorities.

Finally, we hope to encourage more neighbors to participate in the neighborhood association. We always need more folks to participate in the discussion of issues affecting Hyde Park. The more diversity of views we can get, the better. We also need volunteers for the many activities the HPNA plans throughout the year, including the Historic Homes Tour, the Egg Scramble, the Fire Station Festival, and the Holiday Party. We both have found that participating in these activities is a great way to meet your neighbors and to make new friends.

Let's make the most of 2017! Have a very healthy, prosperous, and happy New Year!

— Kevin Heyburn
Reid Long
HPNA Co-Presidents

Kid's Corner: Featuring (your name here!)

Welcome to the Pecan Press Kid's Corner, where you can find out about kid happenings in Hyde Park. Feel free to submit anything kid related, including event info, kid's drawings, stories, comics, songs, poems, what have you! ppkidscorner@yahoo.com

The Pecan Press Kid's Corner is looking to feature a neighborhood kid, tween or teen each month! Please send nominations to ppkidscorner@yahoo.com. Include a brief description of the cool stuff your kiddo is up to and we will follow up with you to get the complete scoop.

We are looking for kids like these:

1. Kids who have unique hobbies or interests.
2. Kids who show an interest in volunteering or working with people in the community.
3. Kids who show dedication to their sport, art, or academic studies.
4. Kids who have overcome challenging situations in their lives.
5. Kids who have something they'd like the neighborhood to know.

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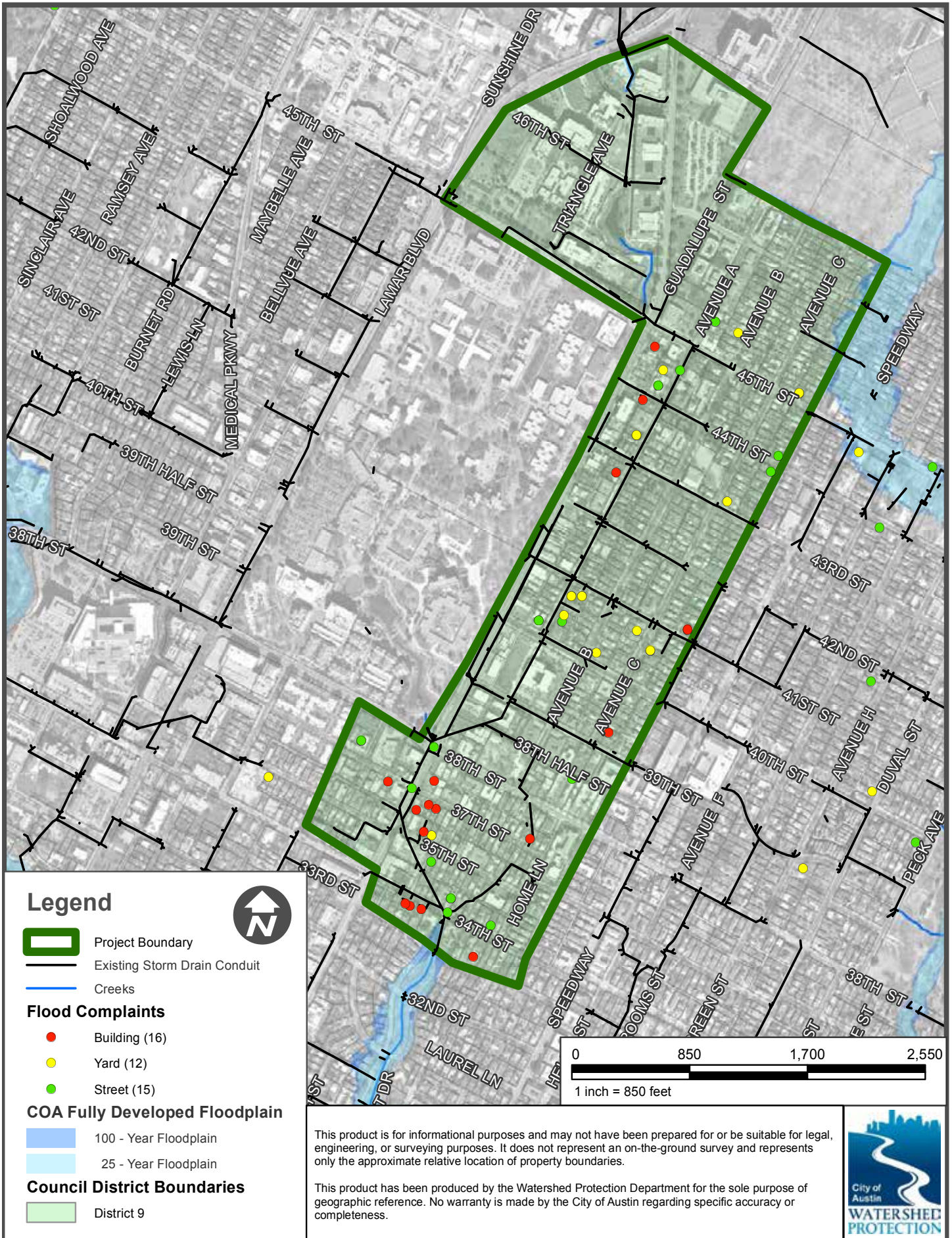
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Guadalupe Street Storm Drain Improvements



Flooding in Hyde Park... ...cont'd from page 10

the Guadalupe system, although Avenue A is really where all the main action is in terms of your neighborhood, where the pipe goes. It goes to Hemphill pond – Hemphill branch is a big tributary of Waller.

If you guys had been a recently developed neighborhood, you would have had larger detention ponds already. In your neighborhood, there's not room for that kind of thing, and so it becomes pretty challenging to design a project in here when you've got people already living there and no room to build a big Triangle-looking detention pond. That'll make the original engineering process more challenging. So that's what we actually call a localized flood.

Google "Austin watershed master plan" and you get this nice website and it has all this information, including this problem score map view. We try to keep this up to date. It basically shows you what the Watershed Protection Department thinks are the worst things going on around town in terms of drainage problems, erosion problems, and whatever. When you guys call 311, we build up information about parts of town. In this particular case, we've got quite a few house flood complaints, which are the highest key, and so we have then created this boundary around the storm drain system to say, this is something that really needs attention.

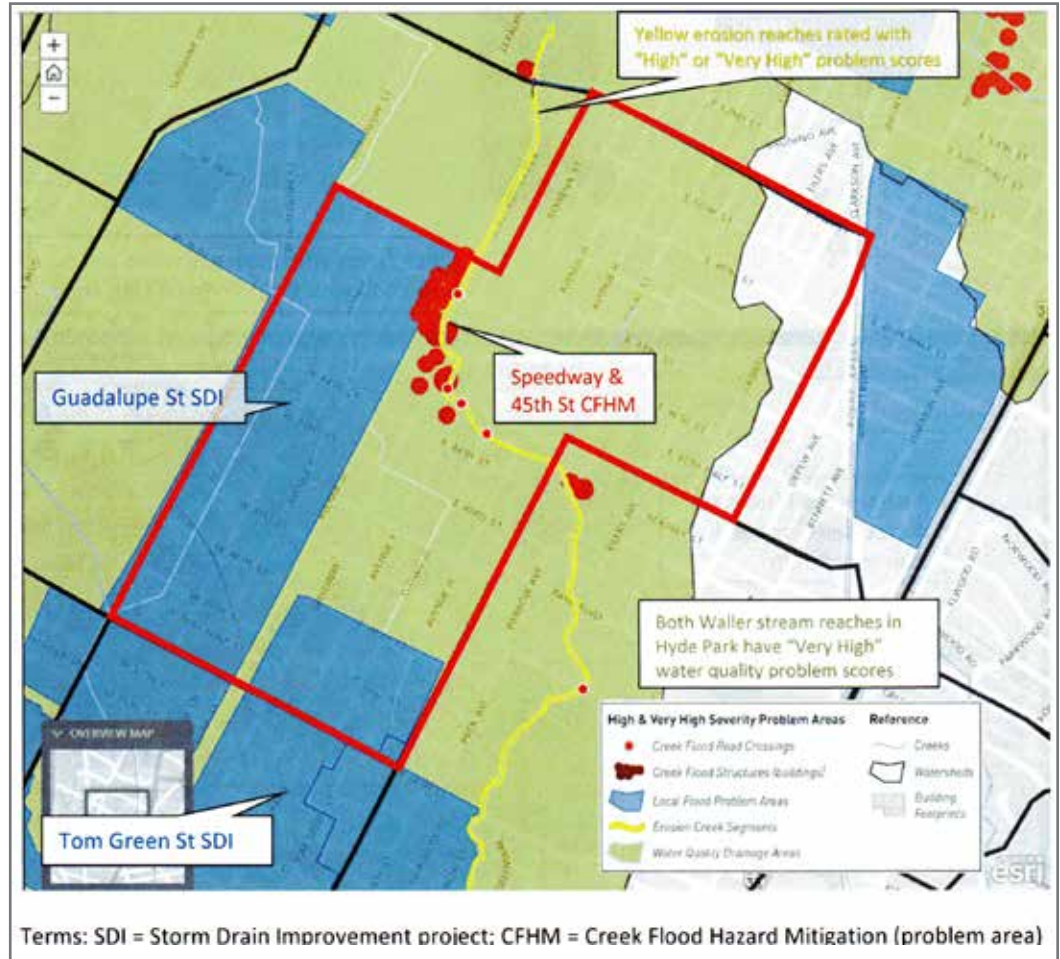
EM: This is something that I learned: When you say 100-year floor, it doesn't mean you have one chance in 100 years of getting flooded – one in four over a 30-year mortgage, you have a one-in-approximately-26% chance.

MH: It doesn't mean you're in the 100-year flood plain; some of these might actually flood in a 10-year flood. Here in Hyde Park, I think some of these houses flood at a more frequent interval than that.

Back to the bonds. As a city employee I can't get up here and pitch anything to you guys on this, but it is going to be an important civic process. The Council is not sure whether they want the bonds to be in 2017 or in 2018. One of those two years will be selected in the early coming part of this year. We have quite a few drainage projects identified as possibilities, and one of them is this Guadalupe Street project.

Resolution

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association requests the Bond Election Advisory Committee to place the Guadalupe Storm Drain Project on the next bond package.



Audience: Are you working with CodeNEXT to get some of their rules changed about what you can and can't build? Everybody asks for 5% over (imperious cover limit). It's not the 5% over that's killing us, it's houses that traditionally take up 45% of a 50' x 150' lot being torn down and maximized with two houses on that lot that take up a lot more than that. And this happens over and over and over again. That is only going to be controlled by what you can build on a piece of land. When we have so many trees and we have a flooding problem, why aren't there more street sweepers coming and getting those leaves up? Almost any day of the week I can drive down my

Continued on page 16

Flooding in Hyde Park... ...cont'd from page 15

street and I will find three or four lawn guys blowing leaves down the drain, which they're not supposed to do. We've got people who are putting a lot of xeriscaping in, that is, crushed granite. We've got one guy who's replaced his three times because every time it rains hard, it goes right down the drain. Over the last 25 years, it's the same drains clogging up every time.

MH: A multi-part question. You've got residential development here in the interior of a neighborhood and you've got lots of commercial development that potentially could upzone or get larger or more intensive. When we design a major project in an area like this we may try to just make it as big as we can. I talked to you about how there was a major detention pond here (Triangle), and we retrofitted one in here with the Central Market plan, so these both have helped a lot, but we can't just take all of your water and send it downstream as fast as possible, because those folks down here in the next section below are going to flood.

Audience: If you put in as much as you can to not harm anybody down south, that is not going to take care of the potential of everything built out to the max, then the difference has to come in zoning regulations that stops that extra from happening.

MH: I'm completely agreeing with you. There's part b to my answer. I just want to explain: in our projects, especially in these urban areas, we just try to retrofit in as much as we can so we're not negatively affecting people downstream but we're doing as much good for you guys as we can. Meanwhile, the Watershed Protection staff, in consultation with other city departments, has led an effort for this in the CodeNEXT draft to actually request for the first time that when someone redevelops a commercial project, they actually do what Elloa said: retrofit in flood mitigation with that project. Let me give you an example.

Our rules right now say, you've got 90% impervious cover on something that never had the regulations and they were not required to put in a flood retention pond back in the day. They want to redevelop it. The flood engineer goes in and goes, 90% impervious cover. We're just going to keep that or maybe go down to 89%, so they're not making things worse. You don't have to do anything just now with our rules. Back in 1991 we said, here in urban watersheds, you got to build a water quality pond. By the way, not every project needs to put in flood retention; it's very site specific.

Right now, if you have an old property and just don't increase your impervious cover, you're off the hook. That's not an effective way to gain ground over time. So we're requesting in CodeNEXT that the City

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Council pass a measure – now that’s not going to be popular with a lot of folks in the development community – but we’re looking at other options around the country where people have put in vaults and such. Some 20 years ago, people in Maryland and Virginia and other places around the country were doing the same thing and they just basically put pipes and vaults and other things underneath their project. Water goes in there, slows it way down, really addresses the flooding.

We think that’s a big deal for redevelopment projects for commercial. We’re not recommending that at this point for individual single family homes. I think that’s going to be a community discussion and I think that the Flood Mitigation Task Force actually really wanted to see that too.

EM: What we were talking about was the cost. Taxpayers can either pay for it through the bonds, the CIP, or we can ask each parcel in a commercial redevelopment to do their part. You have flooding that damages property and the taxpayers end up having to foot the bills, so there has to be a community dialog about why we wouldn’t ask redevelopers to do this - on a residential level, to at least have a site plan that talks about grading more, how the trees are protected, and things like that. Our capital priorities group said, if we implemented the watershed protection master plan, it would cost \$2 billion in our city.

Audience: Piggybacking on your statement: currently our house sits on a slope and all of the water from the street to the north drains down and floods the house. I just recently found out that the city doesn’t mandate that residential properties do anything with their runoff water, it’s up to us as individuals to take it to court.

MH: Why aren’t single family residential properties required to do some form of drainage planning and permitting? Right now it’s handled as a site-to-site issue in the court system or what have you, so if you’re developing a property, you have a responsibility to not flood your neighbor. Unfortunately that doesn’t always go 100% well, so we end up with these issues. We have a roiling debate within our department right now about what do we even recommend on that. There’s a lot of stress right now in the city

having to do with affordability and permitting complexity and other things like that.

There are actually two more parts to the discussion. After the Flood Mitigation Task Force was over, we came back to Council and said, we know that our infrastructure is under a lot of pressure, and we have problems like the leaves and the cleaning frequency. We ramped up our staff: we have a storm drain cleaning crew that goes in and vacuums out all those things periodically. We got additional money for a storm drain rebuilding crew. We got more money for crews to go into the creeks and make sure there’s no blockage at our culverts and bridges.

Our pond group is way behind. We have these big ponds like we’re talking about. Many of them are maintained by the city, and those need to be maintained at a high level. We actually got more resources to deal with that. We’re not going to be out there probably as often as you like, but we’re really trying to make strides to increase our service.

EM: We said very clearly that we did not want our recommendations to go through CodeNEXT. We felt like they were public safety recommendations. The recommendations are now going through the environmental commission. We felt this had more to do with public safety than how things looked.

MH: CodeNEXT is very detailed. It doesn’t sound as if those recommendations are actually going to get to Council’s desk for their signature until at least 2018. We don’t want to wait several years to get this rolling because each time something gets built, it’s a loss of opportunity for retrofitting these projects.

Audience: One thing that seems very common nowadays is that when an old house is torn down, before the new one is built, they bring in lots of fill. The runoff from that goes elsewhere. So again this is something where the developer needs to take responsibility for the runoff.

MH: If you raise something up like that, you haven’t changed the impervious cover, so that’s probably not as big a change. If you’ve changed the drainage pattern, you could actually flood your neighbor inadvertently. You’re replacing a lot of pier-and-beam structures with slab and that has a big impact.



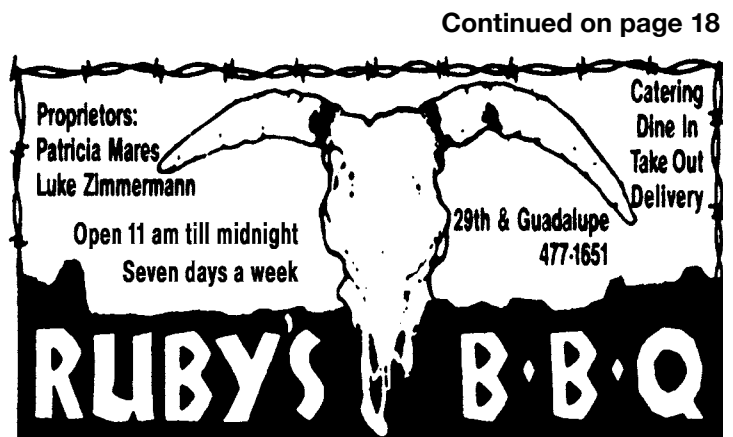
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Continued on page 18



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Flooding in Hyde Park... ...cont'd from page 17

Audience: What you see now, in the northern part of Hyde Park, is that a little bungalow gets renovated and they put another house in the back. The impervious cover of that lot is within the guidelines but it's double what used to be there. Then there's driveway gravel, which is not grass and trees to drink the water up. The watershed is dealing with after-the-fact and one of the things that the neighborhood needs to go after is the zoning of what the developers can do. Until there are rules in place that the developers have to deal with the water, the watershed gets it at the end. This A-B condo regime is happening everywhere, certainly north of 51st.

MH: We see this a lot. We've had a lot of internal debate – water harvesting tanks, even green roofs. There are all sorts of things you could do to slow down, absorb, collect water. There's all these implementation issues that we're fighting our way through, like how are we going to make sure that mechanism is still there in 10 years and somebody didn't just do away with it.

Audience: Developers' regulations. It's what he has to do to get a certificate of occupancy, to get his approvals and permits. It's regulations for them because they're not going to do it. It's additional expense that they're not getting back because it makes the neighbors happy.

Matt: It gets nitty gritty, because then you figure out this: that guy, he sells it to the first person and then they sell it to the next person. There are some mechanisms actually that could probably follow that sort of thing. It starts getting a little bit complicated and adds some cost, so how do we as a community handle that? This came up during the McMansion debate long ago. I think there's some real promise there but I think it's going to require another layer of bureaucracy. Frankly, maybe we just decide to trust people and say, just put this in.

Audience: Does your department review and approve flood plain variances? If so, if you don't approve, how many City Council members does it take to unravel your decision?

MH: The Flood Mitigation Task Force had one of its subcommittees look at flood plain variances. One of the most confusing things about flood plain variances is that everybody conflates them with every other kind of variance possible. Actually, it just means you want to build in the flood plain. There is some bullet list of things in our code: if you do this, this, this, this, and this, you can get an administrative variance. So if you've done these exemplary things and your project is not going to increase flood flows, no adverse impact, you have safe access, and you don't have any other issues, you can build in the flood plain.



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Lots of projects can't do that and so then it has to go to Council. I think it's a simple majority of Council. The stereotype is, somebody just bought a property and it was in the flood plain and they want to put a big building on there and they want to block the flood flows. Those usually get the big zero to 11 vote or they don't even come in. Mostly, it's somebody who says, I want to build another bathroom on my house but I'm in the 25-year flood plain and I don't meet these criteria. We're looking at that, too, internally, and we're hoping to give some ideas that help on both ends - help the community and help on the flooding end and make sure there's no additional adverse impact.

EM: Waller Creek has the third highest number of flood plain variances.

Audience: When owners buy homes, they know if they're buying in the flood plain.

MH: That was definitely my attitude coming into this. I think there are certain circumstances where you can actually improve the situation. Somebody says, I could even make a smaller footprint and put it on pier-and-beam, I'm going to go up, and so I'm actually going to improve the flood flow a little bit. Would we want to have that get the variance instead of having to go through Council? We don't want to have extra people in the flood plain, obviously, but almost nobody is going to take a house in Hyde Park and say, I'm just going to tear it down and turn it back into the flood plain. That would be an exemplary situation.

Audience: You might not own a house in the flood plain but because of development around you, you might go into the flood plain.

Matt: I'm going to push back a little on that, because I think the localized flooding is a little trickier because it's so complicated. When we model a flood plain, we try to figure out, what is that flood plain? We don't say, what it is right now? That's what FEMA does, but there's a FEMA flood plain and then there's the additional city of Austin fully developed flood plain. What we say is, what would happen if everything upstream of this point built out as much as it could, every single thing got torn down, and they put in 45% every lot, every commercial thing went wild and did its maximum? That's what this flood plain shows. It's a little bigger than the FEMA flood plain as a result, so we're trying to account for the fact that we know that there's going to be the potential death of 1000 cuts that we want to avoid. On the creek flooding side I'm a little more confident that we have that kind of pinned down. I think on the local flood side it's a little trickier, because we have less data.



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