

August Meeting



The Meeting is the Annual Ice Cream Social, and the Social is the Meeting.

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 4, 2014

Where:
Shipe Park Pool

See you there for ice cream and a dip in the pool!

Still Inching Forward?

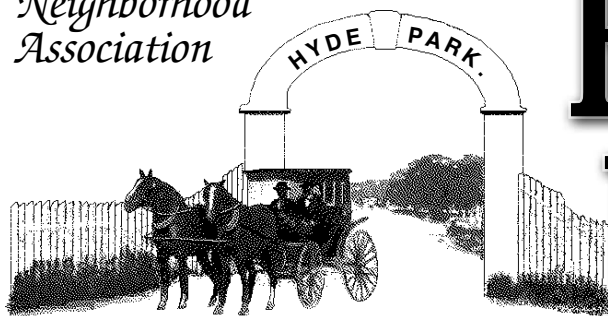
In the February issue, my "Inching Forward" article was an update on the Upper Airport Boulevard Form-Based Code (FBC) Initiative. The title of this new update reflects the pace of developments over these last six months.

An Advisory Group to the initiative was established by City Council in 2010 to represent specific organizations (developers, large and small local businesses, and property owners) with an interest in the Airport Boulevard Corridor between Lamar and IH-35. The group was formed to assist in public outreach and to provide feedback for future development that would foster mixed-use, walkable, bicycle, and transit-oriented development. In December 2011, I was appointed the HPNA representative.

Advisory Group meetings, community open houses, and neighborhood association roundtables were held by the City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department (PDRD)

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*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

August 2014 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 40, No. 8

Hundreds Attend Shipe Pool Party

July 12th marked the 6th Annual Shipe Park Pool Party, hosted by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and sponsored by Grande Communications. Parents, children, and neighbors alike enjoyed food from Best Wurst and Café Hornitos, late-night swimming hours, and *The Lego Movie*.



A huge audience enthralled by the movie. Photo by Clif Wright.

Live music from Brazilian band Os Alquimistas also added to the lively soundscape of laughing children running on the green, watchful adults socializing, and of course, splashing. With hundreds in attendance, the night was a great testament to both community interest in Shipe Park and the bonds between our neighbors.

The impressive turnout came as no surprise to the party's organizer and Shipe Park activist Adam Wilson, who experienced first-hand the community passion and interest that saw the Shipe Mosaic Mural to its completion last year. While the event was a well-seized opportunity to celebrate the privilege we share in having a beautiful community hub, it was also the time to raise awareness about the threat of losing it.

Continued on page 5



This month, we are going to continue the process we began in last month's letter: clarifying some of the terms that have been discussed – and often confused – during the recent discussions about accessory dwelling units. What is the difference between the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan and the two Hyde Park Neighborhood Conservation Combining Districts (NCCDs) and what is the relationship between the two?

What is a Neighborhood Plan?

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan is just what its name implies: a plan. Imagine Austin is a plan for the entire city; it updates the original 20-year-old city plan. The neighborhood plans for the various geographical areas in Austin are additions to the city plan. A neighborhood plan provides goals that

the neighborhood wants to achieve and a vision of the way a specific neighborhood wants to develop over time.

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan, which applies to all of the greater Hyde Park area, specifies the following goals:

1. Preserve and enhance the unique historic and residential character of HP.
2. Preserve and enhance the unique and historic streetscape patterns of HP.
3. Promote a neighborhood-friendly system of transportation.
4. Maintain and improve public infrastructure consistent with existing neighborhood patterns.
5. Protect and enhance the Guadalupe corridor and other commercial areas.
6. Foster a genuine community of neighbors of every age and background.
7. Preserve and enhance the natural beauty, open spaces and watershed systems of the neighborhood.
8. Promote safety and reduce crime.

Each of these goals has a list of objectives that make the goals more specific.

What is an NCCD?

An NCCD is very different. It is a city ordinance; specifically, it is a zoning overlay. It modifies the basic city land development code. It can make the stipulations in that code either stricter or looser, depending on the patterns prevalent in the neighborhood to which it applies. If an issue is not specified in an NCCD, basic city land

development code applies. For example, the Hyde Park NCCD does not specify FAR (floor area ratio). Therefore, the FAR specified in Austin land development code (set by the ordinance known as the McMansion ordinance) applies in the parts of Hyde Park covered by the two Hyde Park NCCDs.

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Pecan Press

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A Critical Distinction Missed

Dear Editor:

“From the Desk of the Co-Presidents” in the July issue presented a good overview of the differences between the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (HPNPCT) and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA). While the issues discussed in the article were well presented and correct, the conclusion that the responsibility of the contact team is to make sure that each individual member gets their input into the plan misses a very important distinction.

The responsibility of the contact team is to ensure that Neighborhood Plan Amendment proposals, with credible support from all stakeholders, are moved into the city plan amendment process to be thoroughly vetted by all stakeholders. The city’s defined process for neighborhood plan amendment proposals includes provisions for a staff-facilitated community meeting prior to writing the amendment, notification of all stakeholders via the city’s zoning notification rules, and public hearings at both the Planning Commission and City Council.

The bylaws of the Contact Team state that it is “... the responsibility of the Hyde Park NPCT to work on behalf of all stakeholders in the neighborhood planning area.” Taking responsibility for working on behalf of all stakeholders requires that the contact team spend considerable effort to ascertain the viewpoints of all stakeholders, not only those who attend meetings regularly. This can be a daunting task, but one that can serve the whole neighborhood if it’s done with transparency and a willingness to work for the best interest of the neighborhood as a whole.

— Larry Gilg
Avenue G

Hancock Park Proposal: Some Objections

Dear Editor:

Mr. Carapetyan’s article in the June issue (“A Better Use for Hancock Green Space”) is likely well intentioned; but it is also superficial, short-sighted and misleading. In considering the altering of the city’s use of the golf course land, we should be thinking about the following points:

- (1) Equal use by all sounds nice but flies in the face of reality. Barton Springs serves swimmers and sunbathers, Sixth Street its aficionados, Lady Bird Lake and its trails, boaters and runners. None would retain its flavor or identify Austin if engineered to “all-taxpayer, all-purpose use.”
- (2) Saying soccer is “crammed into the NE corner” of Hancock disregards that soccer, or any game, is played that way. A given sized field with players on it and observers around it. If soccer is being abused at Hancock, then UT football is abused when fans and players are confined to the stadium.
- (3) Labeling our neighborhood park-starved ignores Shipe and Eastwoods here, and Hemphill and little Sparky, with its flowered arbors, just south of 38th. All are open to everyone and used by few. Real life is that most park enjoyment is via beholding natural peace and quiet.
- (4) Non-golfers (frisbee players, dog walkers, joggers) and golfers coexist smoothly at Hancock because both use common sense. The course does have unenforced rules against non-golf use just like I-35’s left lanes outside Austin are legally for passing only. Neither rule is enforced; and I-35 works for going to Dallas or San Antonio just like Hancock works, creating a bucolic neighborhood. Sometimes people work better than rules.
- (5) Opening a part of Hancock to limited commercial development and generalized use is a Pandora’s Box better kept closed. Where would it stop? We’ve seen developers try to crack Hancock for decades. What will happen when the first does?
- (6) And if UT, downtown, and the area north might be park-starved, opening the course land would draw that hunger here. Would we see permitted or metered parking like in other high draw areas?
- (7) In the same *Pecan Press* issue a main topic was lowering square footage for secondary dwellings. If that is a traffic/parking/density concern, making Hancock public is ten. Residents and their autos disappear into their property. Park users from afar don’t.

Continued on page 7

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment	2013-14 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
<p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Dues (per person)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year/person <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year/person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member</p> <p>Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Date _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Amount Paid \$ _____</p>	<p>Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:</p> <p>HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765</p> <p>Make checks payable to HPNA.</p>	<p>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖</p> <p>Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of the designated boundaries.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖</p> <p>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.</p>



We Welcome Your Submissions to Pecan Press

Send in your articles, letters, and photos (but not your poetry*) by the 10th of each month to:

Editor, Pecan Press
<editorpecanpress@gmail.com>

*Send your poems to:
Charlotte Herzele
<herzele@gmail.com>

Note: The Pecan Press will not publish unsigned/unattributed poetry. All poems (even if written under a pen name) must carry a name and address or phone number for identification and verification purposes.



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Hundreds Attend Shipe Pool Party...

...cont'd from page 1

Austin's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) announced in 2011 that the 80-year-old pool had a mere five-year life expectancy. This summer, shell leakage and pump issues forced temporary closure; and although the immediate problems were addressed, restoring the pool will take more work. The fate of the pool may hinge on the 2014 PARD Aquatics Assessment report, which aims to determine if city funding would be better spent on smaller neighborhood pools or larger regional pools and splash pads.

District 9 city council candidates Erin McGann and Kathie Tovo were there to shed light on their campaign views, including the polarizing topic of funding for neighborhood pools. McGann spoke mainly of promoting local business and increas-



A cool way to enjoy the party. Photo by Clif Wright.

If you agree that the Shipe Park facilities are an invaluable asset to the strength of our community, there are ways to become involved in advocacy efforts. Jill Nokes, a Hyde Park resident and founding member of Friends of Shipe Park, recommends the following ways to show support:

- Contact your local representative to speak up on behalf of Shipe Park and all 27 neighborhood pools in Austin (www.austintexas.gov/mail/all-council-members)
- Come to organized park events like It's My Park Day in March
- Join Friends of Shipe Park by visiting www.shipepark.org or simply "like" the official page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofshipepark)

— Mary Lynam
Staff Writer Intern



No better place or time to picnic. Photo by Clif Wright

ing infrastructure spending, yet expressed a desire to maintain public parks on a regular basis. Tovo declared her commitment to the neighborhood pool system, citing her belief that access to these smaller pools are crucial to sustaining the quality of life for families in the expanding city of Austin. She added that she and her daughters once relied on Shipe Pool while living in a nearby neighborhood, as many without a local pool do today. Ian Davis, who made a brief statement on behalf of candidate Chris Riley, acknowledged his own connection to Shipe Park as a former camp counselor and reflected Riley's regard for community building.



Taking Time To Admire the Mural. Photo by Clif Wright

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Hyde Park Poets —

Taking Leave

Morning light—clear as
That light inside you somewhere—
A trading post in some small
Town in northern New Mexico—
I don't remember the name—it
Doesn't matter—wandering among
The gewgaws for tourists and
The necessities for natives,
Looking for something to take
Back with me, something to
Remind me of all this when I'm
Back home, feeling my chest
Tighten thinking of leaving
This state that has such
Enchantment (yes, enchantment)
For me, going back to work.
Longing. We're talking about
Longing, longing for the
very space that surrounds you.
Something quixotic, something
Very sad here. This was one
Of my early trips. Later, I
Learned wisdom, learned to
Walk away from it, taking
Nothing with me. That's the
Good way, that's the clean way.

— Albert Huckstickler at
Dolce Vita, June 6, 2000



Letters Dept. cont'd —

(8) The article asks, "Have you ever been to Central Park?" If this refers to Austin's at 38th and Lamar, it also refers to a huge parking lot in an adjacent commercial development. If, more likely, it refers to New York's Central Park, any comparison overlooks and is fatally flawed by one huge difference. Tall, opulent apartment buildings surround Central Park and subways whisk visitors to and from. No one drives to Central Park and no one parks a car there. If Hancock is to be like the former, we probably need another Lamar and a lot more parking first. If it's to be like Manhattan's, we probably need to build Park Avenue apartments and a subway system first.

— Daryle McGinnis
E. 39th St.

Local CONNECTION!

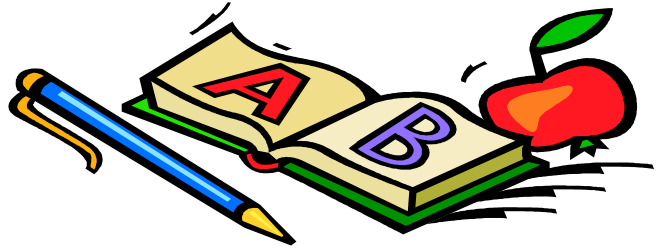
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From the Co-Presidents... ...cont'd from page 2

Those two NCCDs are the Hyde Park NCCD, which covers greater Hyde Park south of 45th Street (south to 38th Street, between Guadalupe and Duval), and the North Hyde Park NCCD, which covers the remainder of the greater Hyde Park area (north of 45th Street, between Guadalupe and Red River). Any zoning revision that intends to change the land development standards of greater Hyde Park needs to address and modify both of these NCCDs. The two NCCDs (like the LHD) are designed to implement the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan. That is why they are more precise and more recent than the Neighborhood Plan.

Follow Up to Last Month's Letter: Advocacy

A further similarity between the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and the Contact Team is that both advocate for their stakeholders. The Contact Team bylaws state the following: "It is also the responsibility of the Hyde Park Contact Team to work on behalf of all stakeholders in the neighborhood planning area." The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association does the same thing. HPNA bylaws state the following: "HPNA exists to foster a closer, more genuine community of neighbors and to preserve the historic and unique character, amenities, and ecology of the community of Hyde Park. This is accomplished by providing a forum through meetings of HPNA and its committees for pursuing a variety of goals beneficial to the community and by combining the efforts of the residents in effecting the improvement, restoration and preservation of the Hyde Park community." HPNA advocacy activities range from adopting resolutions intended to promote the welfare of the neighborhood (for example, the occupancy limits resolution) to working toward legislation designed to protect the neighborhood (for example, the NCCDs and the LHD). The crucial difference between the Contact Team and the HPNA is the stakeholders in each group and the scope of each group's mandate.

Thanks to the Friends of Shipe Park

Our appreciation goes to the Friends of Shipe Park for their organization of our sixth annual pool party. The Lego Movie and wonderful music added up to a great evening of entertainment. We look forward to another great Shipe Park event in August, when we gather there for our annual ice cream social.

— Kevin Heyburn & Lorre Weidlich
HPNA Co-Presidents



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Monthly Calendar

August

- 4 — HPNA General Meeting
- 8 — Recycling Collection
- 11 — HPNA Steering Committee Meeting
- 22 — Recycling Collection

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Around & About the Avenues

A New Addition to the Pecan Press: Readers may have noticed on the masthead the inclusion of Mary Lynam as a staff writer intern. This is the first time this publication has had such a position. Mary recently moved to Hyde Park after she graduated from the University of Delaware, with a major in professional writing and a career goal of editing. Her initial article on the Shipe Pool Party appears in this issue. Please give Mary a warm Hyde Park welcome!

The editor would also like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Farr, who has been serving as the publication's production manager for many years. His professionalism, reliability, and quick turnaround time on layouts are remarkable, making the editor's life so much easier than it would otherwise be. Also to be thanked again are the many volunteers who are involved in ensuring that the Pecan Press finds its way to the doorsteps of residents on time, month after month.



Publicity for Two Hyde Parkers: In the July issue of *Tribeza*, Nancy Mims was one of three Austinites chosen for their skills in documenting what they cherish about their neighborhoods. For five years Nancy has documented with her smartphone camera the various unexpected gems she discovers on her "walking meditation" each morning in Hyde Park. Also in the July issue is a profile of Adam Wilson, focusing mostly on his involvement with the Friends of Shipe Park, the pool mural, and his founding of the Griffin School. Deaton Bednar, who played a role in Adam's becoming active in the care of Shipe Park, is described as a "neighborhood community-building powerhouse." The Pecan Press interviewed Adam in the September 2013 issue.



Save the Date: This year's National Night Out is on Tuesday, October 7, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Neighborhoods must register by September 13, which can be done at www.nnoaustin.org.



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	1st Quarter 2013	1st Quarter 2014	CHANGE
NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD	20	18	-10.00%
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$482,550	\$446,093	-7.56%
AVERAGE SQUARE FOOTAGE	1,916 SF	1,624 SF	-15.24%
AVERAGE SOLD \$/SQ FT	\$263.06	\$289.17	9.93%
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	51 DAYS	34 DAYS	17 DAYS LESS

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for Single Family Residence taken 04/08/2014 from the Austin MLS. For detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker.



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Right Behind

I've been a lefty for two weeks, now,
What a difference two weeks can make,
I eat very slowly, now,
I feel like my 16-month old grandson,
He is learning to eat—he does not have 100% efficiency, yet
1st pass

He knows that “thing” carries oatmeal to his mouth

2nd pass

The food is on that thing

3rd pass

Got it! Whoops—didn't make it to the mouth

4th pass

Thing is just thing with a fleck of oatmeal

5th pass

Screw it – I'll just go direct (at which point, he sticks his face into the bowl)

To those of us, watching, me, this is hilarious,
Wait—not so hilarious as practical,
I eat with my left hand (can't raise the right—surgery on the shoulder)

New understanding—I can identify with my grandbaby,

Another interesting bit...

I do the Sudoku and the Scrabblegram, in the newspaper,
Every morning, to kick start my brain,

I'm terrible at Sudoku, but, now

As a lefty, I am kickass

Must be the right brain opening up,
There are worse things than having to use the non-dominant arm,

I mean, what if I didn't have one?

— *Herzele, 3/23/13*

Agent

I love to watch the morning come awake
(that's iambus) sitting in front of the
coffee house on my bench happily observing
the bustle—now that I'm not part of it:
the women so fresh, the men so determined,
the sparrows who nest in the eaves so
pert and eager. I take it all in.
I am the timeless observer, sent here
to record and pass on the complexities
of this planet's culture, charged not
to interfere. I sip my coffee, light
a cigarette, write it all down. I'm
not in a hurry but I'm aware of time. I
want the record complete when they beam up.

— *Albert Huffstickler at
Quack's, June 8, 2000*

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4517 AVENUE G | OFFERED AT \$975,000

3 BED | 2.5 BATH | STUDY | .30 ACRES | +/-3070 SQFT

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HPNA Meeting Minutes: July 7, 2014

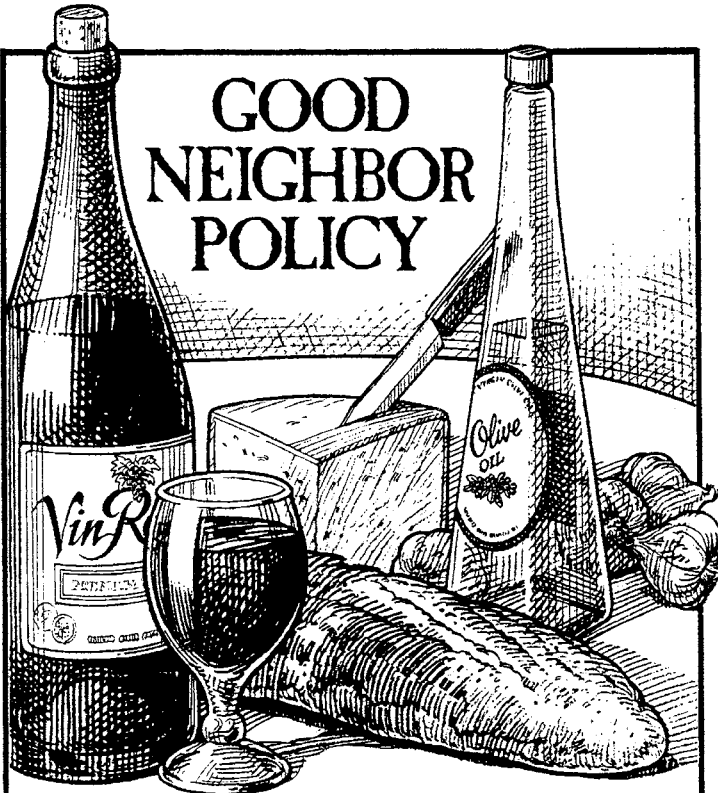
Lorre Weidlich, HPNA co-president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. First, an announcement by Adam Wilson about the upcoming Shipe Pool Party on July 12 (see the story on p. 1). Adam mentioned current maintenance issues of the pump and leak in addition to the fact that Shipe Pool is among the few pools in Austin of an age and condition considered to be near the end of life. A report next month from staff of Parks and Recreation will inform a long-term plan for city aquatics. The question is whether the city will choose to maintain smaller neighborhood pools or move to larger centralized pools. Adam stressed that Friends of Shipe Park are advocating for all neighborhood pools.

The main order of business was transportation, the first of two issues being the light rail proposal. Scott Gross, Austin's Urban Rail Program Manager, presented information regarding the recommended alternative of rail from Highland to Riverside. This is envisioned as just the initial corridor of a system of light rail. Current plans call for 16 stations and four park and ride stations, with estimated ridership of 18,000 weekday riders, resulting in 10,000 cars off the road each day. Alignment would be primarily at grade, with dedicated right of way. \$22.1 million is the estimate of yearly operation and maintenance expenses, which would begin in 2022. Fares would cover about 22% of these expenses, with other funding coming from a variety of sources such as sales tax, federal money, and savings from duplicative services. For example, bus routes 7, 10, and 20 would be re-worked or reduced/eliminated.

The Central Corridor Advisory Group took action on this recommendation and CapMetro endorsed it, as did the Austin City Council. In August, City Council is expected to finalize the language for a bond proposal, which will also include funds for roadway projects. The bond election would be held this November. Should the bond be approved, this would trigger a few years of study and refinement of plans, including environmental impact statement and details of alignment, station locations, bridges, and tunnels. For more details, visit projectconnect.com.

Scott Morris, from OurRail Political Action Committee, also spoke in favor of light rail, noting reduction of carbon and operation and maintenance costs per passenger mile that are less for rail than buses. However, disputing some of the data used by Project Connect, his group opposes the proposed northern section of the route, favoring instead the currently more dense Guadalupe-Lamar corridor. He argued that the city needs to stop using transportation infrastructure to shape speculative future growth.

Continued on page 15



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Still Inching Forward?... ...cont'd from page 1

though June 2012. Since that time, the Advisory Group has received periodic updates from Jorge Rousselin, the PDRD Development Services Process Coordinator, regarding the progress of the first draft of the FBC. This working draft was reviewed by city staff, revised with staff input, and then was to be integrated with CodeNEXT initiatives to revise the City Land Development Code (LDC). In an April 2014 email from Jorge Rousselin, the Advisory Group was informed that the CodeNEXT Consultant (Opticos Design) was being brought on board to assist in the completion of the Airport Boulevard FBC.

Opticos Design also recently completed a review and assessment of the city's LDC. This lengthy Code Diagnosis document, released in May, can be found at www.austintexas.gov/department/documents-1. This 92-page document is worth scanning by anyone wishing to be informed about potential changes to the current code. The Upper Airport Boulevard FBC will eventually be integrated with a revised City of Austin LDC.

– Doris Coward,
HPNA representative to
Upper Airport Boulevard
Advisory Group

July Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 13

In other words, its approach needs to change from planning for future growth to serving the existing population. For more on this group's perspectives, visit www.centralaustincdc.org or www.ourrail.org.

Mike Pikulski, HPNA transportation chair, concluded the transportation presentations with an update on Mobility35. The purpose of this program is to identify and implement short- or mid-term strategies to improve mobility and connectivity along the I-35 corridor from Georgetown to San Marcos. Significant changes are under consideration. One change being studied is the addition of one lane in each direction of I-35, which could be a general purpose, HOV, or toll lane. One proposal would close the ramps at 32nd and 38th. Of much importance to Central Austin are proposed major changes to the frontage road and the entrance/exit ramps at Airport Boulevard and 51st Street. Improving east - west connectivity is also a major focus of planning. Improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists are seen as key by the Department of Transportation. More information is available at www.mobility35.org.

– Submitted by Artie Gold &
Adrian Skinner
HPNA Co-Secretaries

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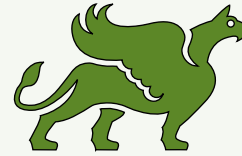
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