

January Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 3, 2011

Where: Trinity United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for January 3rd

- ❖ 2011 budget (vote)
- ❖ Announce committees for 2011, introduce committee chairs
- ❖ Austin Marathon representative, regarding street closures
- ❖ Bicycling - Tom Wald
- ❖ 43rd & Duval traffic issues - Bick Brown or Caren McGraw
- ❖ Friends of Shipe Park - Mark Fishman

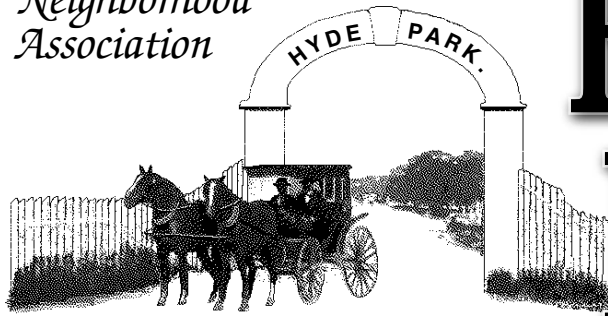
HPNA Holiday Party 2010

See more photos page 12



Making an entrance to the Holiday Party.

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

January, 2011 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 37, No. 1

The Local Historic District Corner

Birth Announcement

On December 16, 2010 at 3:55 pm

— after a four-year gestation period and extremely difficult labor —

THE HYDE PARK LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

was born at City Hall, Austin, Texas

A multitude of excited relatives were in attendance to witness the birth and welcome the new Local Historic District to Austin

City Council voted 6 to 0 (with Bill Spelman off the dais) to confirm the historic zoning of Hyde Park on second and third reading. A number of people spoke briefly in favor of the district, a few spoke in opposition, but several former opponents declared themselves neutral and addressed instead all the difficulties with the process. I am in complete agreement. I can only hope that our experience will make it easier for other neighborhoods.

I want to thank everybody who supported this district and made it possible. Ten years from now—fifty years from now—one hundred years from now, residents of the city of Austin will still be able to appreciate Austin's first subdivision, thanks to your efforts. My special thanks go to city staff members Jerry Rusthoven, Steve Sadowsky, and Chad Shaw.

I urge those of you who are still opposed to this district to suspend your judgment and see how things develop over time. You may find,

as rental houses change to owner-occupied houses and houses in poor condition are restored and revived, that the benefits of the district far outweigh its limitations.

I have a special message to those of you who came out of relative neighborhood anonymity to oppose the district and were willing to work with district supporters to reach a compromise: Now that the neighborhood knows who you are, don't slip back into anonymity! Stay involved! Hyde

Continued on page 23

From the President's Desk:

On December 16th the City Council voted to establish the Hyde Park Local Historic District. The path to that vote was lengthy and unfortunately divisive, and if HPNA didn't find every weakness both in the LHD ordinance and in the process that the city had set up for establishing a local historic district, I think I can safely say that we at least found most of them. Hopefully, our experience will assist the city in improving the process for neighborhoods that undergo it in the future. To that end, I drafted the following resolution, which Austin Neighborhoods Council's central sector passed unanimously and sent forward to the Austin Neighborhoods Council Executive Committee on December 7th:

Resolution Regarding the Local Historic District Application Process

Whereas design standards are a prominent feature of any ordinance establishing a local historic district; and

Whereas the current local historic district application process is initiated by a petition signed by the owners of 51% of the properties (§ 25-2-242); and

Whereas many property owners request to see the design standards of a proposed district prior to signing an application to initiate a local historic district; and

Whereas some neighborhood local historic district efforts develop design standards as part of the application process in order to be able to provide that information to property owners; and

Whereas the city does not review said design standards prior to the 51% threshold being met; and

Whereas the city does review and request or require changes to said design standards after the 51% threshold has been met; and

Whereas this may result in changes to the design standards that are rejected by a significant percentage of property owners who signed the petition;

Be it therefore resolved, that Austin Neighborhoods Council calls on the City to revise the Local Historic District application process so that if an applicant provides proposed design standards to the city prior to the achieving the 51% threshold the applicant may apply for and receive preclearance of proposed design standards prior to the 51% threshold being attained. This change would allow petition signers increased confidence that most if not all changes made to the design standards after the application to initiate a local historic district has been made will be in response to issues raised in the public participation process.

Be it further resolved, that Austin Neighborhoods Council calls on the City to develop written guidelines regarding design standards, to include information on what must be included in any design standards, what must not be included in design standards and what sort of requirements there are with regard to the legal language of design standards. Providing these instructions to applicants will benefit the City as well as applicants because it will generally reduce the amount of time city staff spend on reviewing numerous drafts of design standards.

ANC's Executive Committee hasn't considered the resolution yet, but I am hopeful that the EC (on which I sit) will send it forward to the general membership for consideration before long. I hope it will be rolled out at ANC's January meeting and voted on at the February meeting. It might be a good idea for HPNA to consider a parallel resolution in the near future.

Obviously the above resolution only addresses one of the weaknesses we found. We should probably also develop recommendations regarding

Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15th of month preceding publication.

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

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the intent of the "demolition by neglect" ordinance, which would not hold all contributing structures to the same maintenance standards as historic landmarks, as well as outlining the process by which local historic district design standards will be periodically reviewed, and working out the procedures for correcting any errors in classifying a structure as contributing or non-contributing. If there is interest we could develop a working group to look at these issues while the experience is still fresh in everyone's minds.

There were several HPNA members who have worked particularly hard to improve various aspects of HPNA and our neighborhood in the past month. These include, but are most definitely not limited to:

- Local Historic District Chair Lorre Weidlich, who spent an enormous number of hours in the past month working with neighbors to improve the LHD design standards
- Kevin Heyburn, who convened an informal meeting of several proponents and opponents to

go over the draft LHD design standards in advance of the city-sponsored meeting

- New crime and safety chair Heather Freeman, who has done a tremendous amount of organizing in an effort to apprehend the tire slasher
- Shipe Park Chair Mark Fishman, Adam Wilson and the other Friends of Shipe Pool, who applied for and received a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation for a Shipe Pool Mosaic Mural Project
- New member Jaree Freeman, who is organizing a meeting with city staff and representatives of affected neighborhoods to discuss the changes to 51st

Street between Duval and Airport and how to make those intersections work better

Finally, I want to mention that Hancock Neighborhood Association has asked us and North University Neighborhood Association to work with them to make suggestions and evaluate alternatives to reduce the impact of music from nearby or not-so-nearby clubs on the sleep of some of our neighbors.

— Lisa Harris
 HPNA President
 <Ljharrisus@yahoo.com>

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment		2010-11 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
Name _____ Phone _____		Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765 Make checks payable to HPNA.	All memberships expire on September 30th of each year. ✦ 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. ✦ 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.
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The Shipe Park Mosaic Mural Project

The Austin Parks Foundation will provide an \$8,000 matching grant to a group of neighbors active in support of Shipe Park for a mosaic mural project for the pool's pump house wall! The project's goal is to create a mosaic mural that reflects the vibrant and creative surrounding community, discourage taggers, and be a catalyst for further improvements in Shipe Park.

The mural will be constructed primarily of glass and tile by volunteers under the direction of Austin mosaic artists Pascal Simon and Holli Brown. In the coming month, the artists will speak with neighbors for input on a mural design that is based around colorful and large-scale native flowers that will cover a significant swath of the south and west-facing walls of the pump house.

The project is spearheaded by Friends of Shipe Pool, a group of volunteers who have organized and assisted in a number of efforts to improve the park and pool areas over the past three years. These include the Shipe Pool Opening Day Picnic events, "It's My Park Day" at Shipe Park (the Austin Parks Foundation's city-wide initiative for park improvements), and the fundraising effort to extend the season for Shipe Pool. Last year, the funds raised for the pool season extension could not be used because of a city staffing shortage, so funds donated by neighbors toward this effort (\$2750) will be used in support of the mosaic mural instead.

The mural project is supported by The Griffin School, a college preparatory high school with a focus on the arts, which is donating production space, equipment, and other resources to enable the project's success. Simon, a Griffin School art educator, and a group of her Griffin mosaic students will make up a core group of volunteers for this project. We are also seeking other high school and adult volunteers who have experience with this artistic medium to help out in this project over the course of the spring.

The Shipe Park Mosaic Mural Project is an exciting opportunity for us to install beautiful art in a prominent public space in our neighborhood. It is also an opportunity for us to build a deeper sense of community through artistic collaboration. We need a lot of help in producing this artwork, and there are many ways to participate:



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- Make a cash donation to help us match the Austin Parks Foundation grant so that we can move forward on this project;
- Contribute ideas about the types of flowers you would like to see represented in the design;
- Donate a special flat ceramic piece or pieces that have personal meaning for you (a plate from your grandmother's china?) to be included in the mural.
- Give us the dusty box of leftover glass and tile you have in your garage;
- Come out on one of the volunteer work days to help us create something beautiful and make a lasting positive impact on your neighborhood!

Feel free to contact me with ideas, questions, or to help out!

– Adam Wilson for Friends of Shipe Park
<adam@griffinschool.org>



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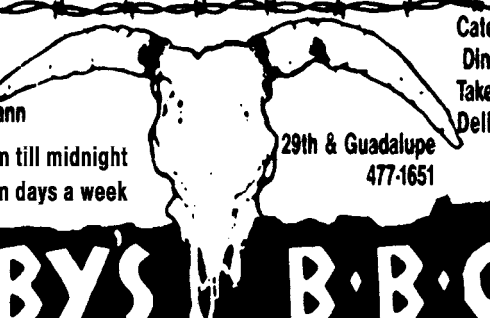


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RUBY'S B.B.Q

Letters Dept.

Ney Restoration Shouldn't be All-or-Nothing

Dear Editor,

First, I would like to say that I appreciate the continuing dialog on the Elisabet Ney Museum's landscape restoration plan.

The motivation to steward the museum property is part of a long history of hard work to realize Elisabet Ney's vision for the arts and arts education in Texas. In contemporary efforts to pursue Ney's vision for the arts, I hope that the City of Austin will reconsider the plan to destroy the few remaining artifacts of Ney's legacy in the museum landscape.

Elisabet Ney's historical significance is not only tied to her artwork; it is tied to her passion for promoting the fine arts as a means of uplifting society. Ney's life and works inspired the creation of the statewide organization called the Texas Fine Arts Association. This organization was founded in 1911, just a few years after her death by her friends and admirers.

The Lodge building on 45th, the stone wall, and the arch built into Ney's dam are graceful reminders of the TFAA era. I object to the view that these landscape features are "purely ornamental." This view trivializes the significance of the TFAA's efforts, an organization that for many years interpreted Ney's life and served as a venue to successfully bring together Ney's artwork with the contemporary art of Texas artists from the 1910's through the 1940's.

The depression era landscaping on the museum grounds was a coordinated effort of the TFAA, garden clubs statewide including the Violet Crown Garden Club, the City of Austin, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and the Civil Works Administration (see TFAA annual reports from '33 and '34 listed below.) By today's standards, the addition of a stone wall, terrace, and flagstone paths dedicated to members of the fine arts community might seem a bit quaint or even trivial. We might dismiss the planting of memorial trees or the transplanting of plants from Ney's Liendo plantation. On the other hand, it can be viewed as a profound connection between an arts organization, members of the community, and Ney's role in promoting the fine arts in Texas.

Without the TFAA and the work of many people who worked tirelessly to raise awareness and steward the property, Ney's significance may well have been forgotten. The depression era landscaping was a significant part of the history of the TFAA and of the site. Very much in the tradition of Ney, the TFAA held annual meetings and events in this treasured landscape.

I find it regrettable that there has been an all or nothing perspective on the landscape restoration plan.

The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes can be met with creativity; I do not think that the guidelines were intended to destroy landscape features that are valued by a community and are, themselves, of historical significance. The landscape restoration plan itself does not propose an exacting restoration throughout the site; multiple landscape treatments are used to accommodate the needs of the Elisabet Ney Museum. The

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same flexibility can be applied to meet the needs of the community.

I do not believe that saving a few valued artifacts from the history of the site in any way denigrates Ney's significance. On the contrary, they give one a sense of time and connection of history to community. I believe that historic preservation is at its best when its practice involves an authentic dialogue about the past, present and future.

It's most successful when it retains the elements of places that people value and finds means to preserve and interpret the complexities of places over time.

I hope that the City of Austin will find the means to make what are truly only modest revisions to the plan—to keep the last remaining remnants of the TFAA in place. According to the May 2009 annotated agenda of the Landmark Commission, Commission Member Leary, "noted the need for preservation and retention of the rock wall." I hope that this recommendation is incorporated into the restoration plan and its implementation.

In addition, the master plan recommended reopening of the abandoned Lodge. It is a shame for the City of Austin to have an abandoned structure on-site that was once the place of arts education.

I hope that the Lodge can one day serve to inspire children and adults as it once did. I am optimistic that with more dialog and continuing attention, the landscape can once again fully reflect the historical and cultural significance of its long and cherished history.

— Jenni Minner
Resident of Hyde Park
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For information about the landscaping efforts consult the TFAA annual reports, in particular:


Texas Fine Arts Association. Report of the 24th Annual Meeting of the Texas Fine Arts Association. Austin: Texas Fine Arts Association, 1934.

Report of the Annual Meeting of the Texas Fine Arts Association, 1933. Austin: Texas Fine Arts Association, 1933.

Texas Fine Arts Association on the Handbook of Texas on-line:
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kit01>

Prohaska, Edward Eugene. "Advocating Art: The Texas Fine Arts Association, 1911-1943." Master's thesis, The University of Texas at Austin, 1993.

Taylor, Bride Neil. "Elisabet Ney, Sculptor." Austin, Texas: Thos. F. Taylor, 1938.



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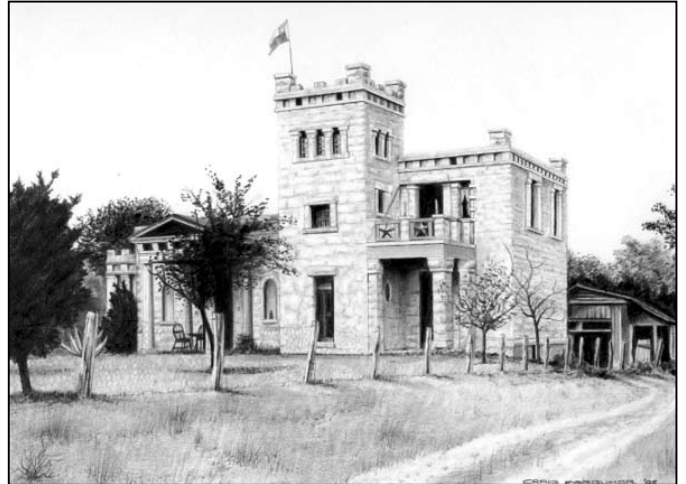
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Letters Dept.

Excited About the Ney

Dear Editor,

I note with interest neighbor Ann Graham's letter about her "excitement" over what has happened to the once-lovely grounds of the Elisabet Ney Museum.

This is just the kind of dialogue the neighborhood could and should have had if the museum's curator and park officials had heeded the well-founded reservations expressed by neighbors before the destruction that has happened at the Ney.

What was once a lovely, useful, albeit neglected public space is now some kind of weed exhibit, apparently a place where urban youth will soon be able to learn first hand about the joys of goatheads and grassburrs.

I wonder if Mrs. Graham has explored just how deeply, beyond having its name dropped frequently, the Ladybird Wildflower Center has been involved in the Ney project, or how many of the trees that were to have been planted to replace those removed or lost to neglect have, themselves, already died.

I wonder if she and other neighbors have viewed comments from Jill Nokes, Hyde Park's own professional restoration ecologist and expert, available on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's excellent Austin Unscripted video site at <http://tinyurl.com/26dm9at>

Many of us are excited about all this, but in an entirely different way.

— Joel Cryer
40th Street

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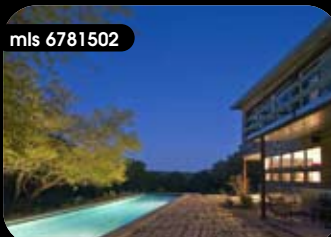


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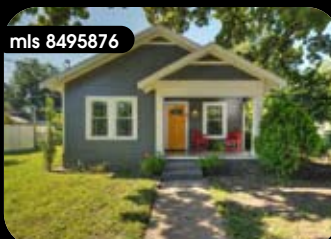
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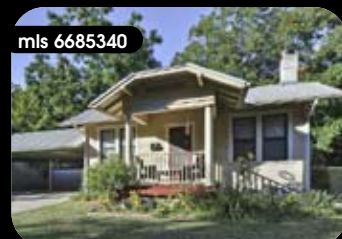
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HPNA Meeting Minutes: December 6, 2010

The December general meeting must have been affected by spillover holiday spirit, as the conflict of the November meeting was absent. Despite competing holiday events, 25 neighbors turned out.

President Lisa Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00, and called for a round of introductions so neighbors could put names to faces and houses on the Avenues.

Alan Marburger, who was to give a presentation on future plans and vision for Guadalupe, was not present; his item was postponed for a future meeting.

The president introduced Heather Freeman, new co-chair of the crime and safety committee, with an update on efforts to combat ongoing crime in the neighborhood.

Heather said that neighborhoods like ours, with high crime rates, see drastic reductions if a Crime Watch can recruit enough block captains to participate in the program. A block captain is responsible one square block, or for a large building in the case of commercial or apartment development. Captains contact the people living on their block, and communicate basic information on deterring crimes and repeat offenses. Heather will contact more people who have expressed an interest after the new year, and once the tire-slashing uproar dies down.

Regarding tire slashing, Heather said that despite a fifteen-year history of slashings in the neighborhood, no one's ever been caught or convicted. [One person is strongly suspected of the crimes.] She urged neighbors who are hit to call 911 when it happens, and to request that APD send a crime-scene unit to collect fingerprints. APD has learned that the slasher does put his hand on cars when he bends down, and leaves fingerprints. Clear fingerprint evidence would go a long way toward letting APD make a case against a suspect.

The slasher is currently vandalizing tires at a rate of 40 cars per month, and damaging at least two tires per car. (Eighty tires a month is a LOT of tires!) Current association plans include purchasing and installing two or three cameras, with resolution good enough to identify faces, at three or four high-risk locations. High-risk locations are determined by how often vandalism occurs there, and how many cars are vandalized per incident. The association will hire a security consultant to give advice on camera placement, and possibly other tactics to catch the slasher.

In passing: for graffiti removal, call 311 – someone will come out and clean paint. Response time anything from one day to one week. Callers need to tell 311 the specific location and how many tags are at the site. If the graffiti can't be cleaned, they'll match the paint and repaint.

Lorre Weidlich reported on the current status of the Hyde Park local historic district application. The district was approved by City Council on the first reading, but due to the amount of opposition expressed to the council, they urged the LHD planning team to schedule meetings to attempt to work out differences between the groups. District opponents objected to a range of concerns, from wanting further design standard modification through perceived hostility to alternative energy solutions in the plan, to some who rejected the idea of a historic district outright.

A meeting was scheduled for December 7th by the City Planning and Development Review department, with planner Jerry Rusthoven acting as the moderator and as representative of the City to hear neighbors' concerns. Lorre continued by enumerating the changes made to the LHD ordinance. The LHD team removed all references to exterior lighting. City staff insisted on removing several items dear to neighbors' hearts, notably tree preservation and alternative energy. Austin Energy refused to incorporate alternative energy, as no review process exists. The Legal Department said the word "should" does not have any legal force, and that the document must say "shall" in all cases if the district is to be legally enforceable. Although the LHD document states it is not a static document and will be reviewed periodically, it is not yet clear how this process will be conducted. One thing that is clear is that the review process, since the LHD will have the force of law, will have to be done through the City, not through the neighborhood.

Barring major new changes that would require another HPNA approval vote, the LHD team planned to take the LHD document back to Council on December 16th with whatever modifications can be agreed on by that time. [Note: the measure passed unanimously.]

The president will bring forward a resolution to the Austin Neighborhood Council to revise the LHD process, so changes will happen before the process of collecting signatures begins, rather than after. The LHD process is so new that City staff are learning along with the neighborhoods, and beginning to recognize they need to be involved earlier in the process to avoid protracted, contentious processes such as the one we have just gone through.

Continued on page 13

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The Hyde Park 20



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Stephen and Ashley in holiday finery.

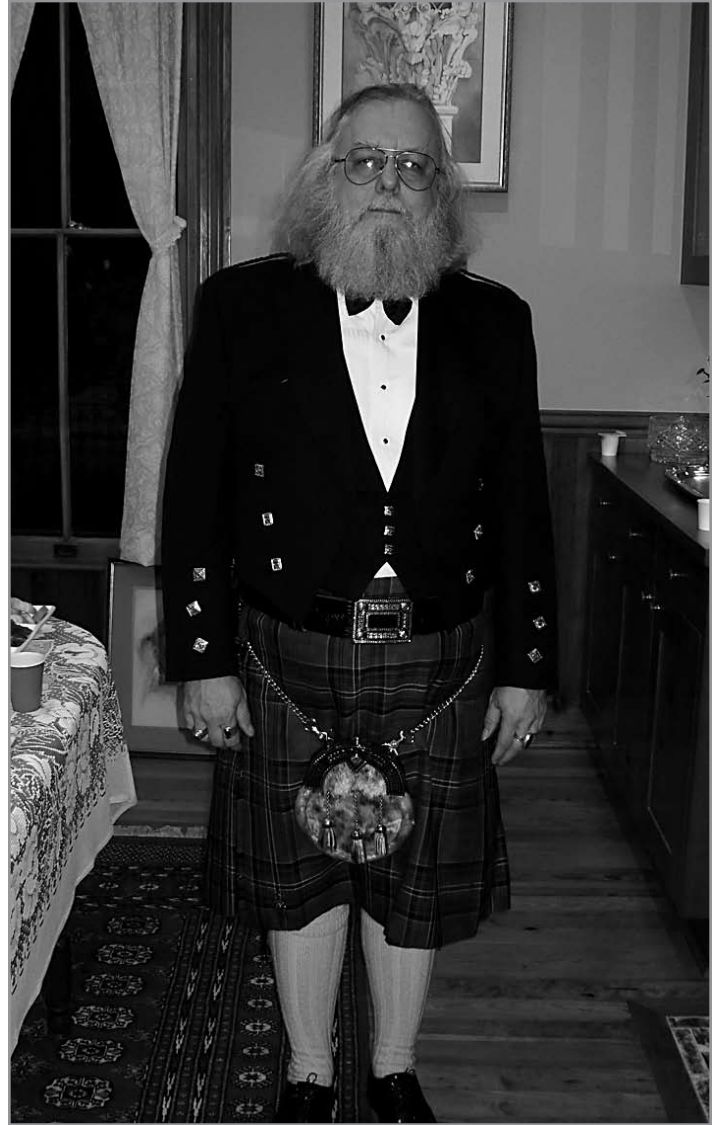


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December Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 11

President Harris passed out copies of the pocket-green site plan, which was drafted by a member of the Hancock Neighborhood Association. The green will be roughly rectangular, with the long side facing 38th Street. The City has already said that section of the park which was marked as a combination of Bermuda sod and decomposed granite is not acceptable to the Public Works Department, which owns the parcel. They require Bermuda sod only.

The city will install a water line and one water tap for irrigation. Proposed plantings include two California bur oaks, chinquapin or Monterrey oaks, and three crape myrtles. At this time the amount of money left for this project in the Austin Energy mitigation fund is believed to be \$24,000, but this is not certain. Parks Foundation records do not record the transfer of project money to the foundation. The amount of available money is still being investigated. If HPNA and HNA apply for the partnership program and the green is installed, the two neighborhood associations will have joint responsibility for labor and cost of maintenance (water bill, cost of mowing, etc.). HPNA is the applicant of record and we would carry the major responsibility for maintenance and upkeep. The president noted that HNA is still on board with the project, but has not yet committed funds to it.

Dorothy Richter reminded the neighbors that the current comprehensive Austin planning process is ongoing, and four possible choices have been identified. Choice C, which appears most popular overall, posits much more dense development in the central city than Hyde Park's. She urged neighbors to support the local historic district to get some neighborhood control over planning and density before the neighborhood is overrun with dense infill, and ends by looking like West Campus does today. David Conner added that a large homebuilder had approached him looking for empty lots, and wanting to know whether he thought they could get construction permits into the pipeline for more infill before the LHD passes.

The president adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

– *Respectfully submitted,*
Sam Waring, Co-Secretary



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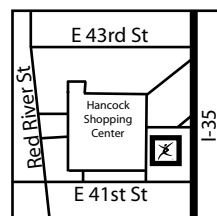
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The Lodge : the Yellow Frame House on the Grounds of “Formosa”

Much is known about “Formosa,” the Elisabet Ney Studio in Hyde Park. But what is the story on the nondescript yellow frame house on the northeast corner of the Ney property between Waller Creek and paralleling 45th Street? Now abandoned and boarded up, it was for two extended periods abuzz with purposeful and creative activity. To begin at the beginning : In 1911 – one hundred years ago and four years after Elisabet Ney’s death – “Formosa” was the birthplace of the Texas Fine Arts Association in honor of Ney’s artistry and her indomitable spirit. The estate provided the group with a physical home as well as gallery space for exhibitions and other efforts which included touring art programs. The establishment of an art school in connection with the University of Texas was another goal, not realized until 1938. Yet another example illustrates the challenges faced by the TFAA in their heroic mission to encourage an appreciation of the visual arts in Texas. In the early years, the art department functioned in borrowed space in existing campus buildings. After World War II, a group of surplus frame barracks buildings from Camp Swift near Bastrop were moved to a space north of the football stadium – the department’s first real home. Then in 1961 – after 23 years – the art and art history department would finally be housed in a proper university building.

In the 1930s, the organization was especially active in advance of the Texas Centennial of 1936 – the 100th anniversary of Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico and her birth as a republic. Also

1939 was the Centennial of the selection of Austin as the permanent capital of the Republic of Texas. To gain organizational space, the yellow frame house – which was in the path of University of Texas campus

expansion – was moved to 305 East 45th Street in 1933. It was through the influence of Judge Robert Lynn Batts, who was on the UT Board of Regents (1927-1933), and whose wife was a TFAA board member, that the five-room cottage was given to TFAA to serve as offices and as a home for the caretaker, Mrs. Willie Rutland.

But change was in the air. Clara Driscoll, founding president of the Violet Crown Garden Club – whose members erected the Centennial Wall along the 44th Street boundary of Formosa in 1939 – and who was famed nationally as the “Savior of the Alamo” deeded Laguna Gloria, her Mediterranean-style villa situated on 28 acres overlooking Lake Austin, to TFAA, where the organization continues to maintain their state headquarters. Two years earlier, in 1941, TFAA deeded the Ney property to the City of Austin in exchange for the maintenance of the grounds and the building. In

Continued on page 18



As part of the Conservatory’s community outreach, groups of school children were welcome and interested visitors.

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The Lodge at Formosa...

...cont'd from page 16

subsequent decades, Willie Nunn, an employee of the Parks and Recreation Department was displayed at the entrance to PARD headquarters. The Lodge was used by PARD as offices, for storage and even occasional classes.

From 1941 forward for several decades were quiet years until the 1970s when the Elisabet Ney Museum Association was formed with an active city-appointed board. Then, in 1986, preservationist Gregory Free became board president. His conviction that classes in representational sculpture would be an enhancement to the mission of the museum led to the founding of the Elisabet Ney Sculpture Conservatory (ENSC) which was chartered that same year and attained 501-c-3 non-profit tax status. The most rewarding chapter in the history of the Lodge had begun.

At first, classes were held in the basement of the museum. Then, with several foundation grants, the Lodge was dramatically upgraded – even with a handicapped ramp. Under a year-to-year contract called the Facilities Operating Agreement, PARD leased the building to ENSC for a one dollar annual fee with the only requirement that the school maintain the building and environs and pay for utilities and upkeep. In 1987, Shirley Kivell was hired as director of the school. The conservatory settled into a comfortable hand-to-mouth existence with only class tuition covering modest salaries. Well-known sculptors Pernella Smalley and Daniel Harkins – who as a graduate student had been Charles Umlauf's assistant – were among the first to join the faculty. Others were Jon Formo, retired head of the art department at the University of South Carolina, and Mary Paige Huey. More teachers came with qualifications to teach stone carving, bronze casting and even sculpting in cement. Students desiring instruction in representational sculpture came from near and far to attend class. With no actual connection to the museum other than the name, nevertheless, faculty and students valued the tradition of Miss Ney's figurative art and adhered to the classical study of the human figure.

But change was once more in the air – beginning in 1987 when the Ney's first curator was hired with Greg Free's endorsement. It soon became apparent that the operation of the sculpture conservatory in the Lodge on the museum grounds incurred the dissatisfaction of Mary Collins Blackmon. Among the issues she identified were the following :



The grounds surrounding the Lodge provided outdoor studio space for classes in stone carving.

- (1) funds raised in support of the sculpture program should instead be used for the museum.
- (2) the need to clean up the grounds of the Lodge and remove all sculpting material – that the working operations of stone carving classes looked unsightly and were an embarrassment.
- (3) the sculpture classes did not conform to the curator's long-range plan to build and operate "a true recreation of the fine arts academy that Elisabet Ney aspired to have on her own grounds" – replicating the school where she herself had studied in Bavaria in the 1860s.

In spite of these cross purposes, the school in the Lodge grew and flourished and survived until February of 2001 when Greg Free, the only remaining member of the museum association board retired. This opened the way for a new board which was formed but was not recognized by the city. It seems the PARD Cultural Affairs Division had determined that a board of directors for a city museum would,

henceforth be neither required nor customary (PARD Cultural Affairs Office 12-13-2010). PARD continued to lease the Lodge to the sculpture group for three more years but decreed a name change. The Austin Sculpture Center was also told to discontinue use of exterior space as studio.

Advocates for the sculpture school pursued all possible means of surviving in the Lodge, and, failing that – to find a new home. PARD attempted to help, suggesting Sparky Park at 3701 Grooms or the Norwood Estate in Travis Heights on East Riverside.

But the new arrangement would be subject to rules which all city departments, including PARD, would follow for the use of city-owned properties.

The original arrangement with the sculpture conservatory was a “sweetheart deal” and that was no longer possible. It was a process issue.

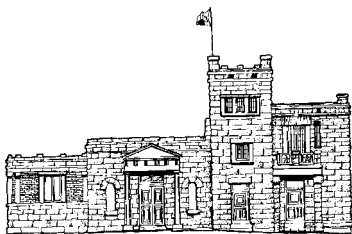
February 28, 2005 was the last day for classes in the Lodge which has sat boarded up and deteriorating for five years. That it is located in the 100 year flood plain poses a dilemma...but that is another story.

– Submitted by Mary Carolyn George

Notes:

Nancy Cardozier granted the author access to information about the Elisabet Ney Sculpture Conservancy later the Austin Sculpture Center). A notebook containing duplicates of these documents will be deposited in the Hyde Park Archives. David Conner and Wanda Penn are in the process of organizing materials gathered through the years about our historic neighborhood for the archives. Two albums of photographs concerning the sculpture program housed in the Lodge were also utilized for scanning courtesy of architect Bob Coffee. Stuart Strong provided insights concerning the evolving position of the Parks and Recreation Department in these matters.

Several friends for whom these classes were a source of enrichment and delight inspired the author to undertake research for this article : Carl Haas, Gene Kirksey, Bob Coffee and others. Bob Coffee is just one example of former students who have gone on to gain national recognition. How I wish I could have been involved. And one may surmise that Elisabet Ney would have appreciated this homage to her genius.



Good News for an Old House!



4308 Avenue F has new owners! This house, which has stood vacant for some years, causing worry that it might become another tear-down, has been bought by an intrepid couple who plan to restore and enlarge the house and make it their home. Karen Saadeh and David Matthis had been searching for some time for an old house to rescue and when I emailed them about it they called immediately and ran over to see it. They decided that it had such “good bones” that it would work well for them and they made an offer the next day.

Karen and David said this project will “fulfill a life-long dream of living in Hyde Park... We are looking forward to living in this wonderful neighborhood, which is an important part of Austin’s history, and meeting our new neighbors. In the meantime, please excuse the dust.”

The new owners have visited with Seller Fae Conner about the history of the house and want to learn as much about it as possible. So if you have lived here a long time and can add memories, they welcome them.

I love this story, as it illustrates the interest people have in old houses, even when they are in serious disrepair. Hyde Park is full of houses that were once thought beyond saving but are now lovely homes.

We will all enjoy watching this one come to life again and welcoming Karen and David to the neighborhood. I am pleased to have a hand in this happy transition.

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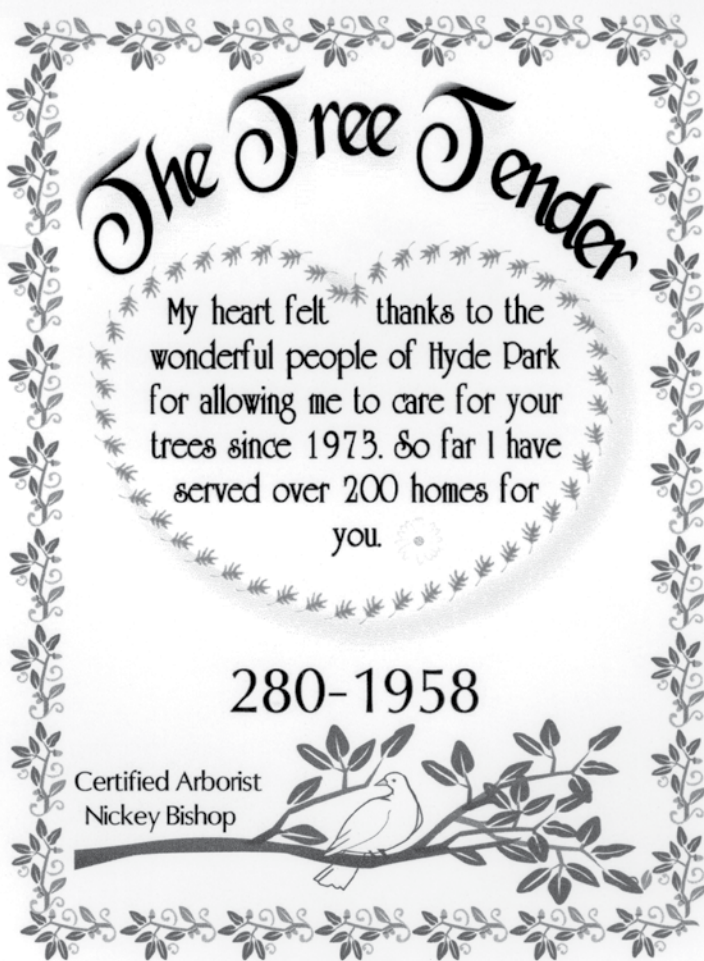
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December Seventeen Sticks and Stones

Or maybe you'd rather hear twigs and pebbles? 'tis the season for them as trees have dropped away their greenery, and grass has given way to stone beneath, the season of tans and grays, of rough textures, a sense of respite, a big north-winded breath, shoulders sagging, toes curled in, waiting while we scurry around adding bling to our houses, to our yards, to our bodies, making like tulips in spring, somehow lacking appreciation for the days of sticks and stones, all down to earth, to the core of things, where secrets are revealed, honest forms bared. those bones that hold all the other seasons, naked for our appreciation, our awe.

—Nancy Taylor Day



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Hyde Park Poets —

December 2010

The marbles huddle together
 like people in an elevator.
 Are they going up or down?
 In the room they just left,
 donkeys are braying.
 And outside the ghosts of trees
 wander through the weeds.

— David Campbell,
E. 48th St.



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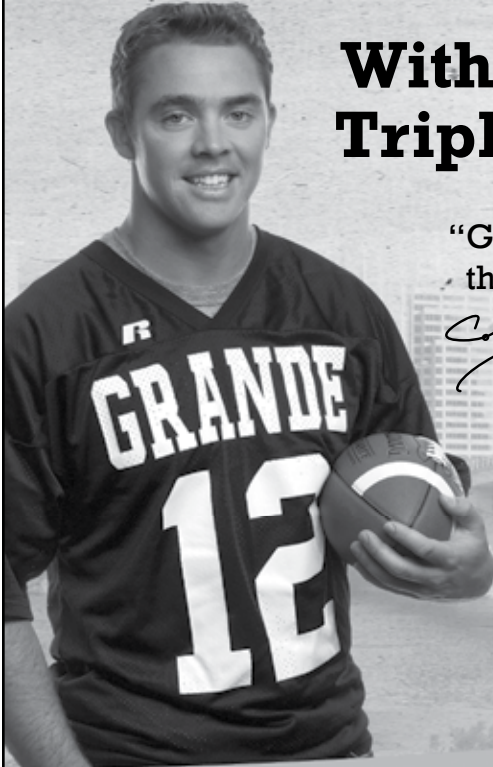
Local Historic District Corner... ...cont'd from page 1

Park needs your energy and intelligence.

If you have questions about the Local Historic District, direct them to me. I'll answer them in this--now irregular--column. Aside from that, I look forward to a happy retirement from neighborhood projects--at least for a little while!

— Lorre Weidlich
 Chair, Hyde Park Local Historic District

Writer's note: This column will appear irregularly now that the Local Historic District project is finished. If you have any questions or concerns about the Hyde Park Local Historic District that you would like addressed, please get in touch: <lweidlich@mail2sevens.com> or 300-2228.



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