

June Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 4, 2007

Where: Hyde Park United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Who: YOU and your neighbors

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for June 4th

- ❖ Travis County Appraisal District to discuss recent appraisal increases
- ❖ RG4N Update: *possible vote*

See you there!

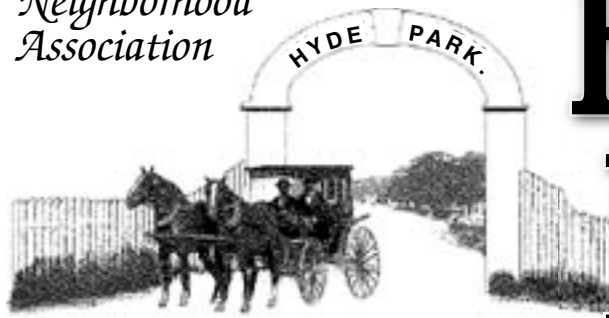
Update: Herons of 49th Street

Back in the April, 2005 issue of the *Pecan Press*, I wrote an article about the Herons of 49th Street. I told about how the yellow-crowned night herons first showed up in our backyard on 49th Street in the spring of 2001, built a nest, laid eggs, raised their chicks, and ultimately flew off. I mentioned how thrilled we were when the herons and their offspring came back over the next couple of years to nest. And I ended the article with a sad update that only one heron returned in 2005, only to leave after a couple of lonely days of hanging around. I later learned that a pair had nested down the street in a neighbor's backyard, and another pair had nested across the street. But still, I really wanted to see the birds again.



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*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

June, 2007 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 33, No. 6

Looking Forward to the 2007 Homes Tour



On the morning of June 16, the beautiful grounds of the Austin State Hospital (see photo), with their verdant grass and shady canopy of mature trees, will be buzzing with activity. Music, in a variety of genres, will flow from a stage in the corner near the porch of the Administration building. Artists and craftsmen will display their works on tables scattered across the grounds. Vendors ranging from Nile Valley Tea to Taco Deli will be providing freshly prepared food and beverages. The Austin Children's Museum will host a children's activity.

Climb the front staircase of the Administration building to begin your tour. On the front porch, buy a tour ticket and browse the other tables, including one devoted to the Hyde Park Local Historical District and several devoted to organizations supported by ASH. After exploring the ASH administration building, catch an air-conditioned minibus to its first stop, between the two tour houses on 41st Street, the Curl-Crockett house and the Schenken-Oat-

man house (see tour article in last month's issue for more detailed information about these and other featured homes on this year's tour). The bus will then turn south one block and continue on 40th Street to its second stop, at the Crutchfield house on Avenue G. (If you are walking the tour, you may prefer to continue down 41st Street; routing the bus along 40th Street eliminates excess traffic along the main tour thoroughfare.)

Continued on Page 4

From the President's Desk: _____

What's Going On? - Lots!

The Homes Tour is only a couple of weeks away. We still need volunteers for a variety of duties – from ticket sales to docents. If you can help, please e-mail John Williams at <jawilli@grandecom.net>. Remember, all volunteers receive a free ticket to the event. Tickets can be purchased this year at NeWorldEli and Dolce Vita. They can also be purchased on-line via our homes tour website at <www.hydeparkhomestour.org>. Advance tickets are \$14. Children 13 and under are free.

The initial work on the Local Historic District has been completed by Terri Myers in May. This project was a windshield survey to determine if we had enough contributing structures to be eligible to be a LHD. The area surveyed was in south Hyde Park – roughly Avenue A to Duval, 38th Street to 45th Street. The good news is that this area has enough contrib-

uting structures to qualify as a LHD. The city requires that 51% of our primary structures be contributing. The survey showed that 67% of its structures are contributing in this area. The next steps of this initiative are to educate our property owners on what being in a LHD means, as well as to begin creating the design guidelines. Sharon Majors is looking for block captains to help educate neighbors as well as volunteers to be part of the design guidelines team. I urge everyone who has the time and inclination to become involved in this worthy project.

The HPNA recently received notice from the City that a demo-

lition permit was requested for 511 W. 41st Street. The property contains a duplex and office building. A special meeting of the HPNA was held on May 20th to allow the association to officially take a position on this request. A resolution was passed by the 20 or so members in attendance to oppose the demolition of this property and to request that historic zoning be initiated. On May 21st, the Historic Landmark Commission heard the case. A large group of concerned neighbors attended the hearing to oppose the demolition of these structures. The HLC voted unanimously to initiate historic zoning – going against the city staff recommendations to demolish the property. HLC staff will do additional research on the property and readdress the request in June. In the meantime, the HPNA will try to meet with the property owner to develop a more amenable plan for the buildings.

I recently received notice from Willie Rhodes from Solid Waste Services regarding trash pickup in our alleys. One of the conditions of having our garbage picked up in certain alleys is that we maintain these alleys so that garbage trucks are able to navigate through the side streets. Since it's springtime, that means that the trees and vegetation in our alleys are overgrown. We are working to schedule a neighborhood alley cleanup, but in the meantime, please spend a few minutes trimming the trees and bushes in your alley so that this service can be continued.

– Elaine Meenehan
HPNA President
<elaine.meenehan@gmail.com>



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Hérons of 49th Street...

...cont'd from page 1

As spring came and went that year, my family and I wondered if we had seen the last of our friends. We thought that maybe they had finally realized they were coastal birds, and really weren't supposed to come this far inland to nest. Or maybe they liked our neighbor's trees better. Perhaps the cycle of nesting in our yard had been broken. We didn't know if we would ever see them again.

When March rolled around in 2006, we started looking up in the trees and listening for the old familiar "Skwaaak." Every day when I came home from work, I'd look for our friends in the bare branches of the pecan trees. Imagine our delight when a nesting pair returned in 2006! We eagerly observed as they built their sketchy nest of twigs in the most unlikely of nooks, and began to settle back into their summer home on 49th Street. Soon, we had heron chicks walking around and pooping on the trampoline, and everyone was happy. I was so glad that they were back that I didn't even mind shoveling the heaps of cracked and processed crawdad shells that were piling up under the nest. With our hearts in our throats, we watched the happy family prepare for their annual journey to their fall and winter home. And then one day, they were gone.

Fast forward to 2007. It's spring break, and we're looking in the trees. Not just my family, but neighbors up and down the street are all looking, hoping that the herons would come back, and liven things up. We all love the herons. Everyone wants them to roost in their yards. Some even schemed about putting some crawdads in the kiddie pool in a pathetic attempt to lure the birds back to our, I mean their, yard.

On the second day of spring break, a single heron returned, hung around a couple of hours, then left. He came back the next day with his mate, and they immedi-

ately set to repairing their nest, which has actually had held up pretty well over the year. Over the next week, six more herons returned! We now have four pairs of nesting herons in our backyard, and this seems to be a particularly vocal and active gang of birds. They fly around in big circles, squawk at each other, strut around and display their lovely plumage, and don't seem the least bit bothered by our family, friends, and neighbors, who spend a lot of time looking, pointing, speculating, and generally enjoying our fine feathered friends.

Over the next several months, they will lay and sit on their eggs. With any luck, the eggs will hatch, and the heron chicks will grow, and start flying around the yard, getting into trouble. Then they'll get their full feathers and one day, they will all leave on their big flight back to the coast. I wonder how they know where to fly off to, then in the spring, how do they find their way back to the same yard on 49th Street. Out of all the available land, why do they pick our yard? I don't know why these birds like 49th street so much, but I sure am glad that they do.

— Russell Duke
608 E 49th St

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All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.		
	Make checks payable to HPNA. Bring to HPNA meeting, or send to:	
	Doris Coward	
	HPNA	
	4810 Red River St.	
	Austin, TX 78751	

HPNA Membership Info
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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Looking Forward: Homes Tourcont'd from page 1

From there the bus continues to stops at the Dickinson house and the Rhodes house, both on Avenue H, and the Wright-Dunlap house on Avenue G. Buy a lemonade along the way from one of Hyde Park's youthful entrepreneurs and explore the range of architectural, decorating, and restoration styles – Victorian, bungalow, Oriental-influenced, and ecologically conscious.

This year, for the first time, you can buy an advance ticket to the tour online. Go to the tour website, HydeParkHomesTour.org, and click *Purchase Tickets* in the navigation area on the left. Follow the prompts, which will lead you to PayPal and assist you in making a payment. You do not need a PayPal account to buy a ticket. If you prefer to pick up a ticket locally, visit either Dolce Vita or NeWorldeli during the two weeks prior to the tour. Advance tickets are \$14; tickets on tour days are \$17.

Remember, a volunteer shift will enable you to enjoy the tour for free, and we still need volunteers in these areas:

- Docents
- Tour Guides
- Ticket Sellers

Enjoy the tour, but be a good Hyde Park neighbor as well. Please get in touch with volunteer coordinator John Williams (jawilli@grandecom.net) and commit a couple of hours to making the 32nd annual Hyde Park Homes Tour a rousing success!

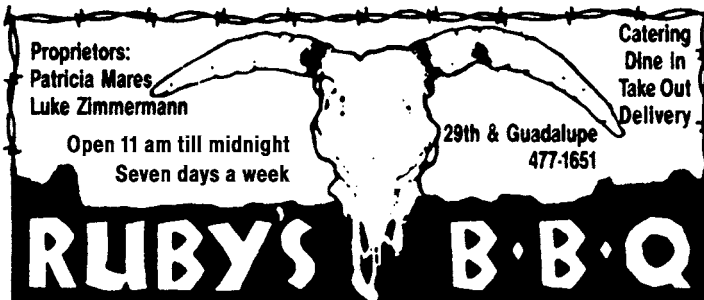
– Lorre Weidlich, 2007 Homes Tour Chair
<lweidlich@mail2sevensseas.com>

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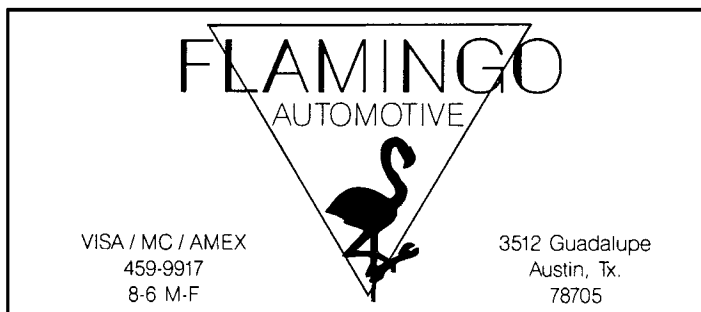
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HPNA General Meeting Minutes: May 7, 2007

Neighbors arrived at the Hyde Park Neighbor Association General Meeting held on Monday, May 7, on the gracious grounds of the Hyde Park United Methodist Church, to find a lengthy agenda of interesting business. President Elaine Meenehan presided.

Lorre Weidlich, Chair of the **2007 Homes Tour**, gave an update about the 32nd Annual Hyde Park Homes Tour to be held June 16 & 17. This year's theme is "Hyde Park – A Shady Sanctuary." Lorre needs tour guide volunteers. She also noted that for the first time, you can purchase tickets online at the tour website: <www.hydeparkhomestour.org>.

John Paul Moore, Chair of **Tree Preservation Task Force**, and the U.T. graduate students who did the tree study for the neighborhood presented their report, "A Participatory Approach to Urban Forest Management: A Case Study of Hyde Park, Austin." The purpose of the project was to develop a model for management of trees in an urban area. They conducted surveys of neighbors and prepared digital maps of some of the important trees in the neighborhood. Neighbors responding to the survey noted that our trees are important due to the age and large size of trees. Members thanked the students for developing the model that we can use in the future.

Jason Meeker from the Brentwood neighborhood, representing **Responsible Growth for Northcross**, gave an update on their issues with the planned Wal-Mart development at Northcross Mall. The website is <www.RG4N.org> . He noted that they are not against Wal-Mart. Rather, they want a good development at the location. He asked that HPNA vote to take a stand to boycott Wal-Mart and to send a letter of support for them to the City Council. No HPNA member made such a motion.

Next, Ann Graham and Jaclyn Pryor reported on the success of the **floodlines** theater project held on April 22. They presented slides of the event, and encouraged all of us to watch for the project next year.

Mary Collins Blackmon, curator of the **Elisabet Ney Museum**, informed us about the planned restoration of the museum and grounds. Tere O'Connell, AIA, with Volz & Associates, Inc., told us about the work needed on the historic museum. Heritage Landscapes will recapture the landscape back to the natural and native state favored by Ms. Ney. They are working on a Comprehensive Master Plan and should have it available in about six months. Mary Collins thanked HPNA for its past and continuing support of the museum.

Continued on page 8

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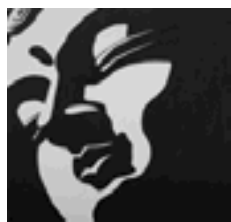
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October Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 4

Elaine thanked everyone who helped with the recent **Shipe Park cleanup**. Ann Graham moved that HPNA formally adopt Shipe Park, and John Paul Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Elaine explained that by HPNA's adopting the park and committing to cleaning it, the City of Austin may be more willing to provide extras.

Sharon Majors provided an update on the **Local Historic District** project south of 45th Street. She thanked Catherine Moore and Celeste Cromack for developing the educational brochure. For additional information about the project, please refer to past newsletters.

Stan Kozinsky noted that the **Texas Parks and Wildlife offices** on 51st Street will be moving. As chair of the Development Review Committee, he plans to start a dialog with appropriate officials regarding the fate of these four acres of land.

Larry Freilich, Chair of the **Beautification Committee**, reported that a portion of the Austin Energy Mitigation Funds will be used for planting trees and shrubs along Guadalupe. He also encouraged all neighbors to call 311 to report graffiti.

Karen McGraw, Chair of the Planning Team, presented their recommendation regarding the **Vertical Mixed Use (VMU)** planned by the City of Austin. She noted that our NCCDs had accomplished many of the same goals. In keeping with the Planning Team's recommendation, Doris Coward moved that HPNA not opt into the VMU and recommended that the properties just east of 47th and Red River not opt into the VMU. Debbie Volker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. All present thanked Karen and the Planning Team for their hard work.

Elaine then adjourned the meeting.

— Pam Whittington HPNA Co-Secretary
<pamw46@yahoo.com>
452-9776

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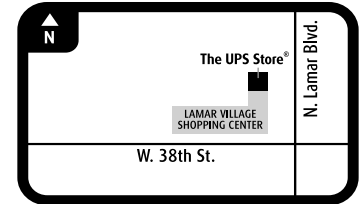
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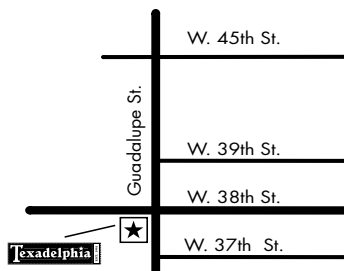
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Local Historic District Committee Update

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association has undertaken the task of establishing a Local Historic District (LHD) to provide guidelines for maintaining the historic character of the neighborhood. The LHD is a recently adopted City of Austin zoning category.

The historic preservation consultant has completed a survey of the neighborhood indicating that more than 51% of the structures meet the city standards for a local historic district.

Committee members are now contacting property owners within the boundaries of the proposed district to deliver a brochure outlining the process and to assess the probability of obtaining the approval of 60 % of the property owners for the LHD.

Chosen because of the number of historic properties in this section, district boundaries are 38th Street on the south, 45th Street on the north, Guadalupe on the west and Duval Street on the east. If we can obtain the consent of 60% of the property owners, we shall begin developing design guidelines and documenting historic properties in the area to meet the City's criteria for a LHD. If you are interested in being a block captain or if you know property owners who live outside of Hyde Park and would be willing to contact them, or if you are willing to do some research, please join the LHD Committee by contacting Sharon Majors at <sharonmajors@gmail.com>.



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Grande Spearheads Special Fundraiser for HPNA

Contributes \$2,400 to Association Coffers

Special thanks and kudos to Linda and Nick van Bavel for hosting a highly successful May 16th fundraiser for the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association. The van Bavels moved into the beautifully restored Curl-Crockett House at 213 W. 41st just one day prior to the event, and were still busy unpacking boxes moments before the first guests arrived. Linda and Nick were the epitome of gracious Hyde Park hosts as residents were treated to a sneak preview of their stunning Victorian era home, one of the oldest houses in the Hyde Park National Register Historic District and a featured stop on the upcoming Hyde Park Homes Tour on June 16 and 17.



Co-hosts Linda and Nick van Bavel and Grande VP and General Manager are all smiles at May 16th fundraiser.

The fundraiser was the unique idea of neighborhood association volunteers Deaton Bednar and Elaine Meenehan and Grande Communication Community Relations Director Libby Malone. Grande Communications, a Central Texas-based telecommunications company, focuses its corporate community outreach on local grassroots activities in areas of the local community where it provides Internet, phone and cable services. Grande, an active supporter of the Hyde Park neighborhood since 2004, was looking for a creative way to introduce their new Austin Vice President and General Manager Hutch Bass to Hyde Park residents, and the neighborhood association wanted to raise funds and awareness for its mission and events including the Homes Tour. A preview reception at the van Bavels' underwritten by Grande was an ideal solution!

Grande also offered to honor each adult guest with a donation of \$25 to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and this twist has proved to be a real winner! Ninety-five people attended the reception at the van Bavels', and Grande will contribute a check for \$2,400 to our community coffers! Thank you to the residents who attended on May 16th; they were the real winners as guests for a very special and memorable Hyde Park gathering.

Anyone interested in contacting Grande about its services is invited to call Steve Harman at 512/220-0425. Steve is Austin Sales Manager for Grande and was the friendly bartender for the May 16 fundraiser.

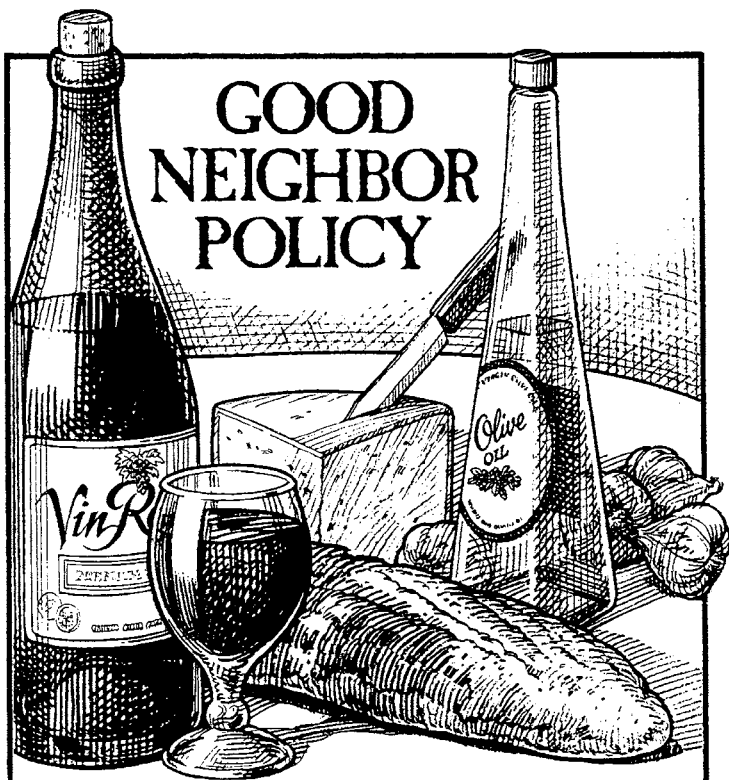
— Libby Malone
<libby.malone@corp.grandecom.com>

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Letters Dept.

AGE Nears the Century Mark

Dear Neighbors,

Guess what? – The Historic AGE building at 3710 Cedar Street is turning 100 years old in 2008! Please help us celebrate this momentous milestone: We are looking for volunteers to be on our Building Celebration Committee, and/or to volunteer for maintenance or event projects. Starting this summer we will begin planning for a year-long celebration. The AGE building has taken care of people in Austin for almost a century, so please help us continue that tradition.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact me!

— Nicole Daspit, Director of Development and Outreach
451-4611 ext 14, <ndaspit@ageofaustin.org>

Recognition for Karen McGraw

Friends and Neighbors,

I want everyone to know that the Austin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects granted Karen McGraw the AIA John C. Nyfeler, FAIA Community Service Award on Saturday night. It is a very high honor, and one that is very richly deserved. Many of us have benefited from her generous use of her vast knowledge of arcane city zoning rules and regulations. When I moved to Hyde Park in 1990 she was already at work chairing the committee working on the NCCD, a project that took more than ten years to complete. From the AIA nomination process I gleaned this overview of her many volunteer contributions to our city.

- Chairman, Hyde Park Planning Team (Neighborhood Plan)
- Drafted the Hyde Park NCCD zoning overlay.
- Regularly provides pro-bono consultation with Hyde Park residents on compatible infill, new design, and residential additions.
- Neighborhood Convening Committee, City of Austin Neighborhood Planning
- Member, Single Family Residential Regulations Task Force, City of Austin
- Developed and achieved adoption of zoning for artists studios in the City of Austin rezoning of 1985
- Directed a City-funded Cultural Arts program that provided technical assistance to artists and non-profit arts organizations.
- Founder and Executive Director of Designer's Space, Inc., an arts organization that established and managed arts facilities in three older commercial buildings from 1980-1987
- Established the Austin Women in Architecture Group in 1980 with Natalie DeBlois, Laurie Limbacher, Sheron Smith-Savage, and Laura Montllor.

I am proud to know Karen and count her as a friend.

— Lin Team
<lteam@austin.rr.com>

Oops! Dept.:

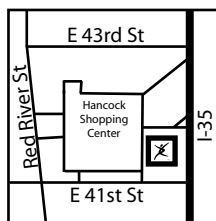
In our January '07 issue, we ran a photo of Michael Klug and Michele Grieshaber in front of their award-winning home at 42nd and Ave. D, but neglected to note that the photo appeared originally in the American-Statesman, and had been snapped by freelance photographer (and Hyde Park resident) Amber Novak. Our apologies to the Statesman and Ms. Novak for the oversight.



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Conspirare To Present Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

On Sunday, June 24, at 7:00 p.m., Felix Mendelssohn's famed oratorio *Elijah* will be presented at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church by the well-known Austin based choral group, Conspirare. The symphonic choir will present the oratorio in Victoria on Saturday, June 23, as the culmination of the annual Victoria Bach Festival. Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson has directed the festival since the early 1990s. Dr. Johnson founded Conspirare at about the same time (its original name was New Texas Music Festival).

Conspirare's smaller chamber group has won national recognition, and was nominated early this year for Grammy awards. Recently Conspirare organized a children's choir, which has just completed its second season, and has received high acclaim for the quality of its music.

Long-time Hyde Park resident Merle Franke, who for nine years, has sung with the symphonic choir, will be at his usual place in the Bass II section at the Victoria Bach Festival as well as in the Austin performance. For tickets or information, call the Conspirare office at 476-7557.

HPNA Special Meeting

Minutes: May 20, 2007

Catherine Moore, HPNA Co-Treasurer, called the May 20, 2007, Special Meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to order. The meeting was attended by 20 members of HPNA. Catherine explained that the Historic Landmark Commission was scheduled to meet Monday, May 21, and that the Commission was scheduled to vote on a demolition permit for 511 West 41st Street. The City Staff had recommended approval of the demolition request. Catherine presented a Resolution for submission to the Commission for HPNA members to approve. This Resolution opposed the demolition of the structures at this location.

The Resolution noted the following information: This property contains two buildings which are designated Potentially Contributing Structures to the Hyde Park National Register District and have been designated Contributing Structures to the proposed Hyde Park Local Historic District. These buildings, constructed in 1900 and 1930, are characteristic examples of small commercial buildings in Austin's earlier history. Further, these buildings were owned and used for a significant period of time by Willie Kocurek and the Kocurek family, prominent members of the Hyde Park and Austin communities.

Doris Coward moved approval of the Resolution. The motion was seconded by John Kerr. After discussion, Pam Whittington called the question. The members present voted unanimously to approve the Resolution. Karen McGraw moved that the members adopt a second resolution that HPNA work with the owners of the property to create zoning for office use similar to the existing use and to retain the fabric of the existing buildings. Pam Whittington seconded the motion. It passed unanimously, and then Catherine adjourned the meeting.

— Pam Whittington, Co-Secretary

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Tell me
The next time you see a mother
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And a baby in a stroller

Tell me
The next time you see two friends
Laughing, skateboarding

Tell me
The next time you see two lovers
Walking and holding hands

Tell me
The next time you see smiles
Not fake smiles
Real smiles
The ones that shine through the crowd

Then, tell me
Everything will be alright.

— Evie Bodenschatz, 13
(born 4109 Ave. F)

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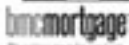


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— Albert Huffstickler
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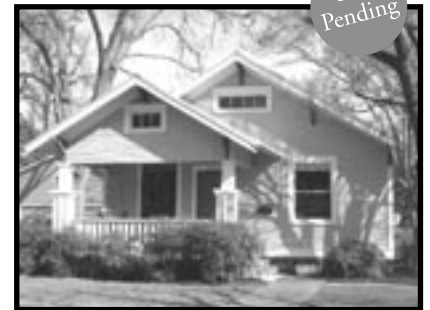
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