

# Bouldin Bulletin

## Parks Update — Ingrid Weigand

### 29th Annual Creek Cleaning – March 7, 2020

The Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association's Annual Creek Cleaning will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2020 in conjunction with the Austin Park Foundation's It's My Park Day celebration. (Rain date: March 14)

Since 1991, neighbors have met once a year to collect trash in both East and West Bouldin Creek. Together we have removed car parts and tires, carpets and appliances, small electronics, cans, bottles and plastics as well as mountains of Styrofoam fast food containers and cups. In addition, many pieces of found art went home with their happy finders.

We have been keeping up with trash both in Nicholas Dawson Park and in the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt throughout the year; however, with recent rains, a lot of debris has swept downstream in both places. We are also looking to remove some more Nandina and Cats Claw from the greenbelt, at least in areas that are relatively poison-ivy-free.

We'll meet at 8:30 am at the entrance to Nicholas Dawson Park on the corner of Gibson and South First for coffee and snacks provided by neighborhood restaurants, then send teams of people to different parts of the two creeks. Around 11:30 am we meet back in N. Dawson Park for lunch, again courtesy of our business friends.

Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Please dress in long sleeved shirts and long pants to guard against possible contact with poison ivy and wear sturdy shoes. Be prepared to get muddy and dirty and have a very good time. Kids, dogs and family friends welcome.

And if you register on the Austin Parks Foundation's site - <https://givepul.se/k4uf27> or

<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/159981-29th-Annual-Bouldin-Creek-Cleaning-Party> - you'll get a t-shirt in the bargain.

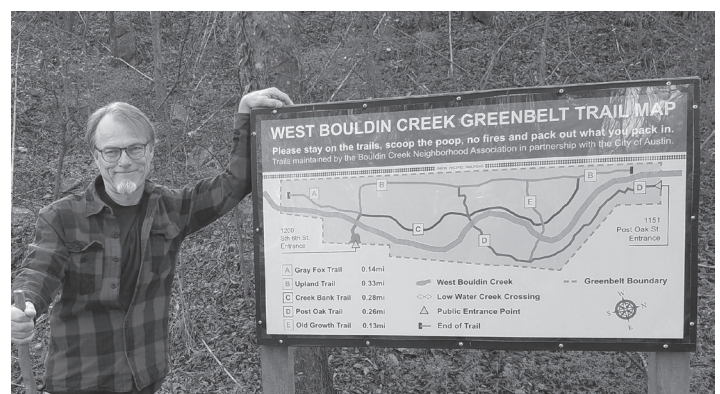
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### In other park news:

Our grant application to the Austin Neighborhood Program to improve the Post Oak entrance to West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt was approved in December; however, we have not yet received any specific information regarding the actual components of the work to be done.

We are working with the Parks and Recreation Department on a Grand Opening ceremony of the newly improved Ricky Guerrero Park and hope to announce a date in the next newsletter.



*Matt Coldwell, BCNA Parks Committee member and new BCNA Secretary, with the map of West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt, which he and other Parks Committee members installed in 2019 at the Post Oak Street entrance to the greenbelt.*

# President's Message

## Here Comes Code NIMBY

– Jesse Moore

2020 is shaping up to be an ugly year for politics, including at Austin City Hall. An aggressive yet narrowly-targeted re-write of the Land Development Code is being hawked by the Mayor and six of Austin's ten Council members as a miracle cure for the entire town. Increasing density & chopping trees in other neighborhoods in other districts will somehow be the panacea that provides affordable housing and environmental protection for all of Austin, these politicians tell their constituents - just not in their back yards.

NIMBYism - the "not-in-in-my-backyard," beggar-thy-neighbor mentality - has become the defining characteristic of the current Land Development Code proposal. Six Austin Council members are happy to drastically increase building size and reduce parking availability and cut down trees in other neighborhoods as long as their districts go relatively unscathed. Sure, doing something about affordability and the environment is important - just in other districts. So it goes.

Bouldin's Council member Kathie Tovo proposed several amendments to make these changes more fair and equal for everyone in Austin. While other Council members voted against providing fair, equal treatment for all Austinites, they did support at least one amendment giving a few super-affluent neighborhoods a break. Presumably that check is in the mail. So it goes.

Speaking of money and politics, 2020 will also likely see the Council vote to drastically increase building height for the new owners of the Statesman site without making sure the City is adequately compensated for that give-away. In June 2016, Council adopted the South Central Waterfront Vision Plan, which envisions more affordable housing, connectivity, green spaces and great streets as the waterfront is developed. However, more than three years later, Council STILL has not implemented the development, financing, and regulation frameworks needed for the Waterfront Plan to become reality. Developer lobbyists will argue that the Council should prioritize up-zoning more waterfront tracts ahead of implementing the comprehensive Waterfront Plan. And Council will probably agree, because, well, money and politics. So it goes.

## Brown Sector – Stephanie Scholten

Not-so-fun fact: the narrowest sidewalks in Brown Sector are a mere 35 inches wide. As many of you are aware, they both occur on the stretch of South 1<sup>st</sup> adjacent to the Viewpoint Condominiums. One segment of sidewalk is narrowed due to a tall retaining wall, while the other is constricted by an elevated concrete platform containing a utility access hole. Both sidewalks are precariously adjacent to vehicular traffic traveling at, and often exceeding, 35 miles per hour. Conflicts between pedestrians, scooters, cyclists, and cars are frequent. In addition, the sidewalk is not accessible for people who use wheelchairs.

South 1<sup>st</sup> is a major urban corridor used by thousands every day. Why is this dangerous sidewalk acceptable in a city of almost a million people?

## Sector Information



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## Pink Sector – Scottee Downing

In case you missed it . . . we have a new neighbor. He's about 25 feet tall, bronze, and was all dressed up for the holidays. I am, of course, talking about the giant giraffe statue in front of the Warren property (Bouldin Ave & Elizabeth St). There were a number of neighbors who reached out with concern about our sub-Saharan friend, but according to the City of Austin, he is here without any known restriction.

Additionally, the duplex that used to exist at 1407 & 1409 Bouldin (both owned by Warren) now appears to be a parking lot, behind a privacy fence and automatic gate.

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## Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association Meeting Schedules

### General Association:

2nd Tuesday every other month, 6:45 pm at The High Road on Dawson (700 Dawson Rd)

**2020 Dates:** February 11, April 14, June 9, August 11, October 13, December 8.

### Steering Committee:

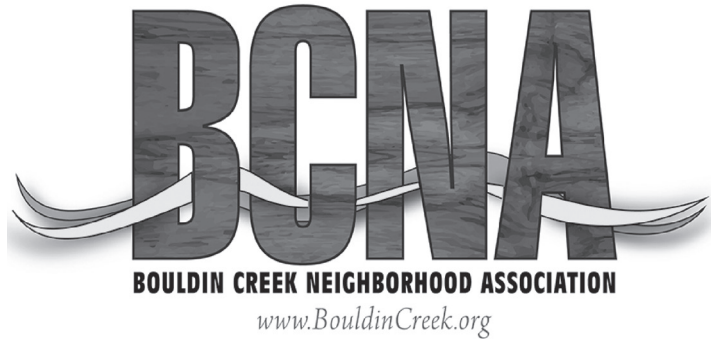
1st Monday of each month, subject to change for Holidays, etc. (same time/place as General Association meetings)

**2020 Dates:** February 3, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 1.

### Zoning Committee:

3rd Monday of each month, subject to change for Holidays, etc. (same time/place as General Association meetings).

**2020 dates:** Feb 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20.



## OFFICERS

**President** – Jesse Moore [jtmooore624@yahoo.com](mailto:jtmooore624@yahoo.com)  
**VP Neighborhood** – Kate Francis - [kmfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:kmfrancis@gmail.com)  
**VP External** – Paul Strange [strange20@msn.com](mailto:strange20@msn.com)  
**Communications** – Mimi Martinez McKay - [pinkhouseiphone@gmail.com](mailto:pinkhouseiphone@gmail.com)  
**Treasury** – Ronnie Dittmar - [treasurer@bouldincreek.org](mailto:treasurer@bouldincreek.org)  
**Secretary** – Matt Coldwell - [e.bouldinfriend@icloud.com](mailto:e.bouldinfriend@icloud.com)  
**Zoning Chair** – Paul Strange [strange20@msn.com](mailto:strange20@msn.com)  
**Parks Chair** – Ingrid Weigand [parkscommittee@bouldincreek.org](mailto:parkscommittee@bouldincreek.org)  
**Traffic Chair** – Thom Parker [tnkparker@aol.com](mailto:tnkparker@aol.com)

## SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

**Blue** – Angelika Sauer - [angie.sauer94@gmail.com](mailto:angie.sauer94@gmail.com)  
**Brown** – Stephanie Scholten [stephanielscholten@gmail.com](mailto:stephanielscholten@gmail.com)  
**Green** – Nick Sargologos [nick.sargologos@gmail.com](mailto:nick.sargologos@gmail.com)  
**Lavender** – Robert Cantu is current candidate  
**Orange** – Sue Mercado Vincent - [sue@mercadovincent.com](mailto:sue@mercadovincent.com)  
**Pink** – Scottee Downing - [scottee.downing@gmail.com](mailto:scottee.downing@gmail.com)  
**Yellow** – Jeff Seiden - [jeff@techbizdev.com](mailto:jeff@techbizdev.com)

## NEWSLETTER

**Ads** – Kristie Sorenson-Hyatt [kris@evastreetproperties.com](mailto:kris@evastreetproperties.com)  
**Bulletin Coordinator** – Ronnie Dittmar [rdittmar@gmail.com](mailto:rdittmar@gmail.com)  
**Publisher** – John Shobe [jshobe2400@gmail.com](mailto:jshobe2400@gmail.com)

The Bouldin Bulletin, published every two months, is hand-delivered by your neighbors to approximately 2500 households. Please reach out if you would like to contribute to the distribution effort or if you would like to place an ad. (Ads are due one month prior to the GA Meeting.)

## MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join the Neighborhood Association to be able to vote or pledge a candidacy, please send your name, address, phone, and email to:

Ronnie Dittmar [treasurer@bouldincreek.org](mailto:treasurer@bouldincreek.org)  
BCNA Treasurer  
PO Box 3683  
Austin TX 78764-3683

If you would like to make the optional dues payment, please include \$25 payable to BCNA.

## BOULDINFORUM LISTSERV

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