

Bouldin Bulletin

BCNA General Association meetings **Cancelled** for April

The bimonthly meeting of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association, which was scheduled for Tuesday April 14 has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday June 9, at the High Road on Dawson, 700 Dawson Rd.

The Steering Committee and Zoning Committee meetings that would normally be scheduled for April are also cancelled, and we hope to resume in May.

This issue of the Bouldin Bulletin is to be distributed ONLINE ONLY – in order to prevent unnecessary contact among neighbors and delivery volunteers.

Please check the Association website bouldincreek.org, BouldinForum@yahoo.com, NextDoor and Facebook for further updates.

Additional resources regarding CoronaVirus:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/faq.aspx>

<http://www.austintexas.gov/COVID19>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

President's Message – Jesse Moore

Son of CodeNext: Some OK News for a Change?

Here's some not-so-bad news: Recent political and legal developments could help Bouldin avoid being unfairly targeted for displacement and up-zoning. Perhaps our system of government might yet prevent Austin from swallowing itself and getting dumped out as Dallas-on-the-Colorado.

To recap - things have not been going well in the CodeNext saga. Before the 2018 election, the zoning code re-write was heading towards broad but fair and moderate changes that would promote affordability and walkability everywhere throughout Austin. After the 2018 election, the Mayor and six Council members (but not Kathie Tovo, who represents Bouldin's Council district) ditched the broad-but-moderate-and-equal

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approach. This voting bloc instead opted for a narrow approach that targets Bouldin and certain other neighborhoods for intense upzoning and displacement while mostly leaving their own districts and neighborhoods alone. Quite convenient - like many politicians, they preach, but don't practice.

However, some of these politicians are currently trying to climb another rung up that ladder. Two are campaigning to represent Bouldin as county attorney and state senator. They know they will get more votes by supporting a zoning code that treats everyone fairly and equally rather than targeting only certain areas for additional displacement. Ward-boss behavior at Austin's City Council may be inevitable now, but it is not just or democratic, as we all know. Hopefully these politicians' own ambitions will lead to fairer results. What's good for one district must be good for all districts - no areas or groups of people should be targeted for displacement and unequal treatment.

But wait, there's more good news - last week, a Travis County district judge found that the law does not actually permit a small majority of Council to green-light demolishing the other half of Austin. While the same Council clique will likely appeal this ruling (at further expense to the citizens they are trying to ignore), this ruling will hopefully result in a version of CodeNext that is effective, fair, and supported by a broader majority of Council and Austin itself. A zoning code that promotes affordability and protects the environment everywhere in Austin can and must be achieved. All existing residential areas should receive the same treatment.

Lavender Sector – Robert Cantu

Let me say first that, I am honored to be the new Lavender Sector representative. I have enjoyed meeting the BCNA officers, sector representatives, and residents that protect our neighborhood's integrity and safety. I am a proud and grateful Lavender Sector homeowner who believes in putting our neighborhood first in our reasonable needs for security and the demands made by outsiders, including the City and non-resident developers.

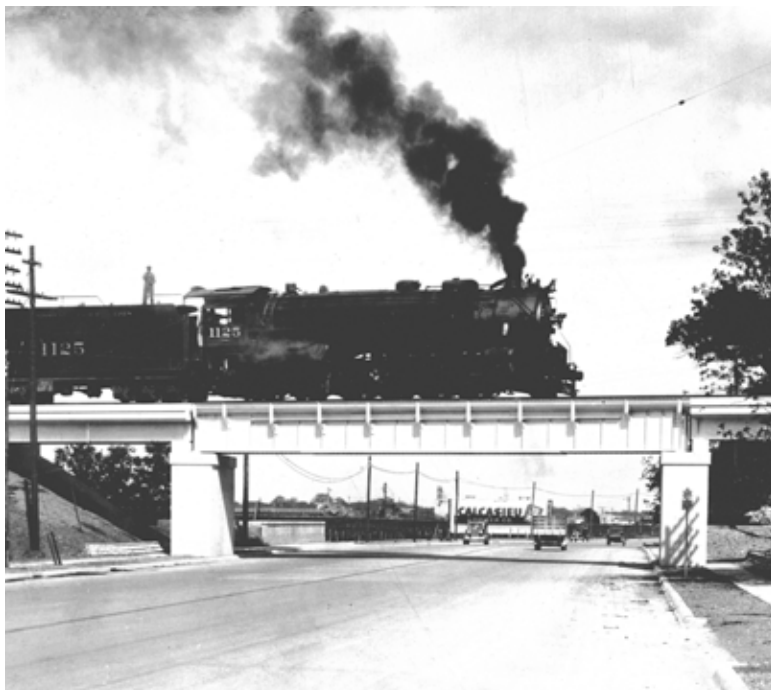
How can one begin to describe the impact of the recent CoronaVirus pandemic on us all? I want to acknowledge the anxiety and financial stress that many individuals and local businesses are now experiencing. That said, the space and social slowing we are experiencing today has brought back almost lost memories of Austin in the 90's. And supporting the many local businesses by purchasing takeout and getting familiar with

owners and employees still "running the store" has been a powerful experience.

On a lighter note, the recent rains have brought out the best in flowering plants for our sector and walking through the neighborhood (and on Congress Avenue) has been wonderfully sublime. As has been suggested and discussed in the BCNA Listserv, I hope we can continue to offer our neighbors and family-owned small businesses support and assistance, in whatever form we can afford, now, and after the acute crisis has passed.

Stay informed on neighborhood meetings, events, street closures, and more at Bouldincreek.org

More Than 84 Years Ago, It was Brand New — Matt Coldwell



The railroad right-of-way that serves as the western boundary for the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association has been in use since at least 1881. The 60' bridge shown in the photo above is still in service today. For those wishing to explore, a dedication plaque is inset into a concrete pylon that supports the deck plate girder bridge. The old bridge that preceded the current overpass was limited to only 20' wide and created a bottle neck for traffic on Barton Springs Rd. Interestingly, in 1931, the current bridge over West Bouldin Creek (shown behind the overpass) was built to the 60' wide standard.

*Photo courtesy City of Austin History Center.
file: A352-9AuEn33a-1936*

Looking east on Barton Springs Road, a steam locomotive pointed south pauses atop the newly modernized railway overpass, circa 1936

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The 29th Annual Creek Cleaning Spring 2020

On March 7, we held what was surely one of the last “mass gatherings” in the neighborhood. About 80 neighbors and community members got together for the 29th Annual Bouldin Creek Cleaning Party. This year we met in Ricky Guerrero Park to draw attention to the recent upgrades the City of Austin had performed: new sidewalks, improved lighting and bathrooms, a new playscape, a renovated splash pad and a new rain garden for stormwater runoff.



We had coffee and snacks, then dispersed crews to different sections of East and West Bouldin Creek: some stayed in Ricky G.,

others went to Nicholas Dawson Park and the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt. Together, we hauled out about 60-70 bags of trash plus larger items; in addition, we widened trails, weeded beds and removed cats claw.

When we were done, we enjoyed tacos donated by El Mercado (they have been supporting our efforts since the very first creek cleaning; please be sure to thank them when you visit – they



are open for take-out orders, including your favorite drinks) and pizza contributed by the BCNA Parks fund. We also had the pleasure of previewing GiGi Miller’s art and creating tiles that she will use in her Art-in-Public-Places installation at Ricky G.



Altogether, it was a beautiful day. And while it might be a while before we can meet again for these activities, you can always go and enjoy our wonderful green spaces on your own – and

pick up some trash, if you happen to see any. (Please see how that can help.)



Neighborhood Partnering Program Grant Approved BCNA to chip-in work hours and \$1,500 from Parks Fund

In October of 2018, the BCNA Parks Committee applied for a City of Austin Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) Grant to improve the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt Entrance at Post Oak. Our stated goal was to “make the entrance to the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt at Post Oak Street more visible to residents by providing a clear demarcation to the adjacent private property (an apartment complex); a paved road leading up to the trailhead; directional and informational signage; designated parking spaces and an altogether inviting environment.”

Specifically, we asked for these steps:

Replace the fencing around the trailhead entrance; install a kiosk with signage, a map and general information; remove the existing fencing

and concrete pillars at the entrance to the parking lot and place signage pointing to trailhead at location of that fence and pillar. We also proposed revamping the parking lot with either crushed gravel or asphalt overlay and to install a "Greenbelt Visitors Only" sign.

NPP grants require neighborhood partners to contribute both financially and through volunteer hours to a project. Our grant was approved this January with the following stipulations: the City will provide the requested signage, road improvements, a kiosk and a new split rail cedar fence, with materials and labor valued at \$67,000. BCNA in turn committed to 450 volunteer hours through annual creek cleanings and quarterly trash pickup, as well as maintenance of the information in kiosk and greenspace at the southern border of the parking lot, and painting the fence with protective sealant as needed for the life of the project. In addition, we will contribute \$1,500 in cash. The money will be taken from the \$5,750 the General Association had approved in February 2019 for parks spending; none of had been used yet, since we were waiting for the approval of this grant.

As far as our required volunteers hours are concerned, we will have to be creative in view of the current social distancing that prevents large groups from getting together. Our March Creek Cleaning already counts (80 people x 3 hours = 240 hours); we can also have a few people at a time paint the fence, after it is built, or do maintenance in the greenbelt.

The City expects work to get started "soon", though we have not yet received a timeline.

In the meantime, if you are doing anything to help maintain our greenbelt or any of our parks, whether it is weeding, trail clearing or picking up trash, please send me a note with your hours; they all count. This grant is a great opportunity to enhance the greenbelt and it is solely due to this neighborhood's continued engagement – thank you all!

Blue Sector – Angie Sauer

We notice a lot of our neighbors are outside gardening and growing food. Do you have any interest in a webinar or video series from local farmers showing simple techniques to build a home garden? Bouldin resident Carolina Reid works with a local farm that has an educational mission to help you succeed. If you are interested in learning more, contact Carolina Reid at 512-827-7343, email Carolina.Reid@gmail.com



Sector Information



Discover which BCNA Sector you reside in at:
<http://www.bouldincreek.org/sector-map/>

BCNA Officers as well as your sector rep and his/her information are always listed on the back page of the Bulletin. Or here: <http://www.bouldincreek.org/contacts/>

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: 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: May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7.

Zoning Committee:

2nd Monday of each month, subject to change for Holidays, etc. (same time/place as General Association meetings).

2020 dates: May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14.



BOULDIN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.BouldinCreek.org

OFFICERS

President – Jesse Moore jtmooore624@yahoo.com

VP Neighborhood – Kate Francis - kmfrancis@gmail.com

VP External – Paul Strange strange20@msn.com

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Zoning Chair – Paul Strange strange20@msn.com

Parks Chair – Ingrid Weigand parkscommittee@bouldincreek.org

Traffic Chair – Thom Parker tnkparker@aol.com

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Blue – Angelika Sauer - angie.sauer94@gmail.com

Brown – Stephanie Scholten stephanielscholten@gmail.com

Green – Nick Sargologos nick.sargologos@gmail.com

Lavender – Robert Cantu rcan2@me.com

Orange – Sue Mercado Vincent - sue@mercadovincent.com

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Yellow – Jeff Seiden - jeff@techbizdev.com

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Bulletin Coordinator – Ronnie Dittmar rdittmar@gmail.com

Publisher – John Shobe 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

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.

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