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SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 3rd, 2024 MUNY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Lions Municipal Golf Course 2901 Enfield Rd, Austin TX 78703

WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

P.O. Box 5722 • Austin, Texas 78763-5722 • May 2024

Our next meeting is Monday, June 10, 2024 6 PM Howson Public Library, 2500 Exposition Blvd, Austin TX 78703 All neighbors are welcome! Please join us.

President's Message MUNY Turns 100! 1924-2024

By Holly Reed, President

This year the Lions Municipal Golf Course (MUNY) is 100 years old! Events are happening throughout the year to honor this historic public golf course in the heart of Austin. As the first public course to desegregate in the South (1950) MUNY is a nationally recognized Civil Rights Landmark. Yet despite its incredible history, essential open green space with hundreds of heritage trees, wildlife refuge and water recharge zone, needed now more than ever in this growing City, MUNY is still in danger of being closed and paved over as a luxury mixed use development. We must not let this happen!

Please join WANG in celebrating MUNY'S CENTENNIAL by supporting the effort to SAVE MUNY. Visit www.savemuny.com for information on how you can help!

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 3rd, 2024 for MUNY'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION sponsored by the Founder Lions Club of Austin and the Muny Conservancy. Parade, Proclamations, Music, Golf Tournament and MORE! WANG Board Member Mary Arnold has been working to SAVE MUNY for 50 years and has written this wonderful summary of how MUNY began.

IT'S JANUARY 1, 1924!

Calvin Coolidge is President of the United States. Pat Neff is Governor of Texas. William D. Yett is Mayor of Austin Texas.

Members of the University of Texas Board of Regents include Regents Stark (Chairman,) Caldwell, Cochran, 0'Hair, Royall, R. G. Storey of Tyler succeeding Marshall Hicks, (resigned,) Wooten, and Wroe. William S. Sutton is Interim President of the University of Texas at Austin.

The local newspaper reported that the New Year's celebrations in Austin were certainly **not as loud and noisy** as usual! The Society section reported many members and guests celebrating at the Austin Country Club.

And the Lions Club members in Austin were looking forward to continuing their efforts to

initiate and support projects that would benefit the citizens of Austin. One of the projects that the Lions Club helped with in 1923-1924 was raising funds for the University of Texas to build the Texas Memorial Stadium. Teams of Lions Club members were formed, and each team solicited funds.

Another group of Lions Club members had been working on a project to find land in Austin suitable for creating a Municipal Golf **Course for the City** of Austin. At this time, there was only one golf course in Austin and it was a private club....NOT open to the public, called the Austin Country Club.



The Lions Club

had examined several potential areas, but had decided to ask for land that was part of the Brackenridge Tract, belonging to the University of Texas. The Lions Club group approached the UT Board of Regents at their April 15, 1924 meeting.

The UT Board of Regents Minutes for that meeting report the following:

"BRACKENRIDGE LAND - MUNICIPAL GOLF LINKS - LIONS CLUB.

A committee from the Lions Club of Austin, Mssrs. A.W. Griffith, Johnnie Tobin, and Frank Rowe, came before the Board with a proposition to lease a portion of the Brackenridge Tract for the purpose of constructing a municipal golf links. After discussion, the Board, on motion of Mr. Jones, voted in favor of the lease, subject to the approval of the Attorney General, for a consideration of sixty dollars per year (which is an increase over present income) and the beautifying of the grounds and upkeep of the fences, with the understanding that the trees are not to be cut, only underbrush cleared off, and no concessions allowed on the grounds. The Chairman of the Board was empowered to execute the lease."

At the May 28, 1924, meeting of the UT Board of Regents, the Minutes report the following:

"MUNICIPAL GOLF LINKS - On the motion of Dr. Wooten, seconded by Dr. Storey, the Board authorizes the Chairman of the Board to sign the lease contract with the Lions Club of Austin for a municipal golf links on the Brackenridge Tract after carefully examining the contract and finding it satisfactory."

FOLLOW THE STORY OF WHAT COMES NEXT: **CONSTRUCTING THE FIRST NINE HOLES!**

West Austin Neighborhood Group



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REED PARK NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Friends of Reed Park is making a major push to spread news about the Watershed Protection Department's proposed plan to permanently change Reed Park!

You may have heard about this plan over the last year, however our group recently had the chance to dig into the detailed designs of the plan. We've analyzed their plan technically and had calls with the folks at Watershed to learn more. Most recently we re-visited a similar Watershed project that is farther along at Battle Bend Park in South Austin, as we were told it is most comparable to what they envision for Reed Park.

Our conclusion after investigating the Watershed Plan closely: WE ARE ADAMANT THAT IT IS NOT A **GOOD THING FOR REED PARK!**

The Watershed Plan will drastically change the use and character of Reed Park forever. We are firmly of the opinion that the City can and should find a better way to meet their goals than by drastically changing a significant portion of Reed Park. The Plan is still in its design phase and we are hopeful that if the Watershed Department faces significant neighborhood opposition, it can be stopped!

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO STOP THIS PLAN!

- 1. Watch the 3-minute video at https://reed-park.org/watershed/ to learn more about the Watershed Plan and why we oppose it.
- 2. Sign the **petition:** https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-proposed-watershed-plan-at-reed-park
- 3. Email the people in charge: Mayor Watson, Council Member Alison Alter, and at Parks & Rec and the Watershed Protection Department.
- 4. **Find suggested email addresses on our website at https://reed-park.org/watershed/ **
- 5. Spread the word please forward this information to your networks in Austin! We need everyone who loves and cares about Reed Park to know about this.
- 6. Visit Friends of Reed Park at https://reed-park.org/ and SUBSCRIBE so you can stay up to date on the proposed Watershed plan and all things Reed Park.



WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP Minutes of Board Meeting May 6, 2024, 6 pm **Howson Public Library**

• Call to Order by Holly Reed at 6:06 pm. Present: Holly Reed, Cathy Kyle, Blake Tollett, Joe Bennett, Joyce Basciano, Mary Arnold, David Bolduc, Sarah Hawthorne Cain

• Minutes from April 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

• Neighbor Communications/Announcements

• Reed Park update: City's plan would change the playfield to a detention pond. WANG agreed to support the Friends of Reed Park's proposals for alternate WPD project. Plans for the WPD project and a petition to oppose the plan are available here: https://www. change.org/p/stop-the-proposed-watershedplan-at-reed-park

• Casis Shopping Center has come under new ownership leading to some rumored changes. No plans have been confirmed, but we will continue to watch.

• Ashika Ganguly is running for City Council D10 spot after CM Alter's term expires. Ashika came to the meeting to introduce herself to the Board and neighbors.

• Land Matters

• H.O.M.E. Phase 2, Compatibility Changes, ETOD, went before Planning Commission on 4/23 and 4/30. President Reed invited the neighbors attending the Board meeting to give their thoughts about the H.O.M.E. ordinance, asking whether they supported the ordinance. They uniformly oppose it. The proposed ordinance calls for a minimum lot size of 1500-2000 sq ft, and could build house on each lot zoned SF 1, 2, or 3. Setbacks would also have to be reduced -0-5' for side setback and zero front setback are being discussed. The neighbors expressed a significant concern for loss of green space and loss of trees. HOME will also stress the city's existing infrastructure.

 WANG has recommended that the ordinance include a "small lot" category to allow builders to apply for a development with greater density. President Reed circulated a letter sent to the Planning Commission by WANG on 4/22/24 expressing concerns about the proposed ordinance.

at Battle Bend Park. This is what is planned for Reed Park's play field.

• 2614 Exposition - Rawson Saunders Re-zoning and Neighborhood Plan Amendment-the applicant seeks to change the zoning from SF-3-NP to GO-MU-NP (general office/mixed use) and would increase the building footprint from 17K sq ft to 70K sq ft. Initially, the church and Rawson-Saunders said that they were staying, but now that's in dispute based on the rezoning application. Blake Tollett described an alternative process to rezoning using variance to SF-3 for more building entitlements. Schools and churches are allowed uses for SF zoning category. The proposed rezoning would give more entitlements to the owner and will increase the value of the properties. We would hope for greater transparency; no one has been provided any site plans or drawings.

- The neighbors have received notice from Thrower Design of a zoom meeting with the developers on 5/21. The developer/ applicant has not contacted WANG.
- Newsletter/E-Newsletter/Website

• Spring Newsletter, E-Newsletter – Mary Arnold will write an article about Muny's Centennial Celebration. The deadline for submission is 5/8/24.

• ANC Report

• Representatives from the Austin Transit Partnership came to ANC's 4/24/24 meeting. They gave a presentation on the current status of the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan. It was reported that the planning is ongoing, but nonetheless, they are moving full steam ahead in applying for a Federal grant. Also, a full analysis of the plan's impact under Title VI (1964 Civil Rights Act) is underway.

• Cara Bertron with the City's Planning Dept. Preservation Office is working on Equity Based Preservation Plan with a group of 26 residents from 19 different zip codes, representing a diverse group. This is an initiative of the Historic Landmark Commission. The plan is at www. publicinput.com/ATXpresplan and the digital toolkit is at www.bit.ly/austinpresplan.

• ANC adopted a resolution regarding the HOME ordinance.

• Barbara McArthur gave an in-depth update on HOME Phase 2, Compatability and ETODs.

- Treasurer's Report
 - Frost Business Checking \$ \$9268.71
 - Business Savings\$1228.00
 - 4thof July Tarrytown Parade
 \$ 515.00
- Items from Board Members
- Important Upcoming Dates:
 - 5/10 -- Forever Green Tournament benefiting Muny Conservancy.
 - 5/9 -- 19th Hole Party at Charles Johnson House (American Legion House)
- New Business Next meeting is June 10, 2024, at Howson Library.
- Adjourn meeting at 7:45 pm.

Land Development Code Amendments Affecting Neighborhoods: H.O.M.E. Phase 2, Removal of Compatibility and ETODS

On May 16th the Austin City Council will have voted on three Land Development Code Amendments that will have an unprecedented impact on Austin's neighborhoods.

The "H.O.M.E." Phase 1 & 2 Amendments to the Land Development Code were brought forward as solutions to providing more affordable housing in Austin neighborhoods by allowing 3 units by-right to be built on each single-family zoned lot and reducing the minimum lot size to 2000 sf. Front and side setbacks are reduced and greater impervious cover allowed. Despite thousands of neighborhood residents speaking in opposition these amendments, and multiple studies reporting that the amendments would NOT add affordable housing to neighborhoods, the Mayor and majority of the City Council have rushed the proposals through, in a process that does not include working with the citizens who will be most impacted by their decisions.

Community not Commodity noted "The giant deregulation push is being done under the mask of "middle-income empowerment," "affordable housing," and "support for transit."

Planning Commissioner Grayson Cox (District 10) tried to pull off that mask, asking the following:

"It seems like all the things we are passing here ... are tailored to the development community, the people that have banks, and loans and big money behind them to take advantage of this. ... Can regular people take advantage of these [things we are passing]?"

The city staff's answer: "I think we don't know." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWAd378DSv8

In reality, the council is conducting a giant experiment on an entire city, with winners and losers. The losers are the people who live in neighborhood homes and apartments, and the winners are land speculators, investors, tech billionaires, and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Modeled after mutual funds, REITs pool capital investors and own, operate, or finance incomegenerating real estate.

Austin Mayor Kirk Watson claimed that the policies are "essential to realizing the community version for light rail." But the "H.O.M.E." proposal for 20-foot-wide lots has nothing to do with transit ridership and is actually about creating high-dollar condos, townhomes, and rowhouses miles from any proposed light-rail station. The proposed transit-oriented overlay is so large that over 80% of the properties proposed for upzoning are more than a quarter-mile from transit stations.

The city's staff has also released false data to justify the development of huge buildings near existing houses, claiming in a recent report that Dallas allows 90-foot-tall buildings next to homes. In reality, Dallas's compatibility standards require 90-foot-tall buildings to be at least 271 feet from residential properties.

These deregulatory proposals will overtax Austin's ailing infrastructure, reduce our shrinking water supply, produce "heat islands" in our communities, increase local flooding, and hurt the environment. They will displace people because of the rising taxes and upzoning of affordable rental housing, worsening gentrification."

The Central West Austin Neighborhood Plan Contact Team proposed a compromise, which was supported by the majority of the WANG Board in a letter to the Planning Commission (April 23) and City Council (May 16) asking that Council postpone action on Phase H.O.M.E. Phase 2 amendments and direct staff to create a new Zoning District that incorporates the elements of H.O.M.E. (Phase 1 and 2) to replace Ordinance No. 20231207-001. Applications for this District and Neighborhood Plan Amendments could be considered contextually on a case-by-case basis through the regular zoning process This would accommodate both the Council's objectives for greater density opportunities and the community's interest in having contextual decision-making in which the public can participate.

WANG Letter to Planning Commission and Council https://www.westaustinng.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/0 WANG-Letter-to-PC-HOME-042224C.pdf

We are not alone in our concern for the reasons and consequences of giving away so many entitlements to developers and builders within Austin's historic older neighborhoods. In fact, WANG is not aware of any other neighborhood association in the City that supports the H.O.M.E. Amendments. Many have written similletters of opposition to no avail.

It is vitally important that neighbors continue to void their concerns to our Mayor and Council regarding the consequences of upzoning all single-family zone property in the city. Our safety, environment, quality of life, city infrastructure, trees, green space, parkland ar water quality have been put at great risk because of the policies which were NOT evaluated for impact prior Council vote.

Questions Raised by the Re-subdivision of Existing Lots

• How will my property taxes be affected? Taxes we increase on the land because land gets taxed based of entitlements. In Mueller, small-lot land taxes range from \$183 to \$275 per square foot. Standard residential lot northwest (by the Arboretum) are valued at \$27 p square foot, while closer to downtown (south of the river they are at \$42 per square foot. Montopolis is \$17 p square foot. Mueller's small lots are appraised at 1,620 of a standard lot in Montopolis per square foot.

- Does existing infrastructure and water support the 300%+ increase in density?
- Are there adequate public safety facilities, such as fin police, and EMS stations, to support the increase?
- With more paving allowed in front yards and more density, how will inadequate stormwater infrastructure handle rain events?
- How many trees will be lost to decreased setbacks?

West Austin Neighborhood Group

ss. ves y's ch	Please ask those who have made these decisions, without consulting or engaging with the communities who live in Austin neighborhoods, who these amendments are meant to benefit?
	WHAT YOU CAN DO:
<u>)4/</u>	Write and call Mayor Watson and Austin City Council Members with questions about how H.O.M.E. Phases
nd	1 & 2 will impact your neighborhood.
to ler ner he lar	 Mayor: Kirk Watson 512-978-2100 District 1: Natasha Harper Madison 512-978-2101 District 2: Vanessa Fuentes 512-978-2102 District 3: Jose Velasquez 512-978-2103
	• District 4: Jose "Chito" Vela 512-978-2104
	• District 5: Ryan Alter 512-978-2105
ce	 District 6: Mackenzie Kelly 512-978-2106 District 7: Leslie Pool 512-978-2107
ng ed	 District 7: Desire 1001312 570 2107 District 8: Paige Ellis 512-978-2108
of	• District 9: Zohaib "Zo" Qadri 512-978-2109
nd	• District 10: Alison Alter 512-978-2110
to	Read how these three CODE AMENDMENTS will affect our neighborhoods: <u>H.O.M.E. Phase 2 https://communitynotcommodity.</u> <u>com/2024/04/23/h-o-m-e-next-phase-2/</u>
rill on om ots oer er), oer 9%	How City Hall's Compatibility Changes Will Allow Huge Structures to Rise Throughout Austin https:// communitynotcommodity.com/2024/05/07/how- city-halls-compatibility-changes-will-allow-huge- structures-to-rise-throughout-austin/How City Hall's "ETODs" Will IMPACT Austin's Neighborhoodshttps://communitynotcommodity.com/2024/05/07/how- city-halls-compatibility-changes-will-allow-huge- structures-to-rise-throughout-austin/
nis	<u>com/2024/05/07/how-city-halls-etods-will-impact-</u> austins-neighborhoods/
re, ore ire	Please consider becoming a member! Join us every Second Monday of each Month. Stay informed on local & neighborhood topics Email us! at Membership@WestAustinNG.com



Sunday, June 9th 8:00am - 2:00pm **Tarrytown United Methodist Church** 2601 Exposition Blvd Austin, TX 78703 Blood drive held in the Fellowship Hall



Scan QR code to make an appointment or go to reblood.org and use group code C428 Drive Contacts - Jenny Monahan onahan@tumc.church or information about eligibility email:

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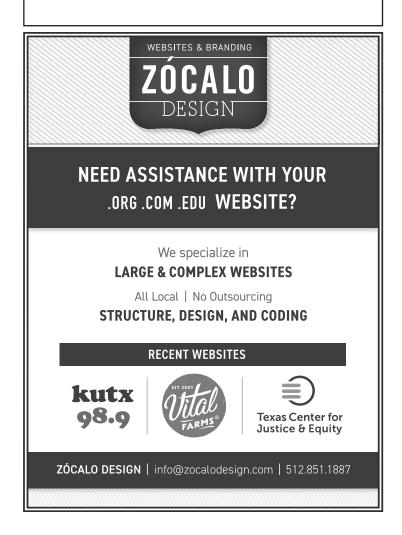
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Texas A&M GRILIFF **EXTENSION**

Saltmarsh caterpillars

by Wizzie Brown

Saltmarsh caterpillars seem to be a common sight in gardens, lawns and traveling across roads and sidewalks. These caterpillars are a particular species, Estigmene acrea, and turn into saltmarsh moths. They are often mistakenly called "woollybears" which are a different species, Pyrrharctia isabella, that turn into Isabella tiger moths. The two species are related and in the same family Erebidae.

Saltmarsh caterpillars are extremely variable in color and have many setae in the late instar which creates a hairy or fuzzy appearance. They have striped or mottled bodies varying from black to brown to yellow and reaching lengths of 2.25 inches. Hairs, or setae, also vary in color and are mostly soft when touched. Hairs are not venomous and do not sting, but some people may be sensitive to the hairs.



Saltmarsh caterpillars actively disperse, and late instar larvae can be seen moving quickly across lawns, landscape beds, sidewalks, roads, and other locations. These caterpillars can move easily into areas and begin to feed on plants. Their chewing mouthparts cause damage to plants by defoliation. They have a wide host range feeding on numerous broadleaf plants including trees, shrubs, crops, and others.

Adult saltmarsh moths are medium sized and have white forewings with black dots. Hindwings are white in females and peachy yellow in males. The adult's head and thorax are white, and abdomen is peachy yellow with black oblong spots.



Pupae occur in the soil or in leaf litter. Caterpillars spin a cocoon using silk and hairs from the body. There are multiple generations each year in Texas.

Management can be as simple as removing caterpillars by hand; wear gloves while doing so. In backyard gardens, this typically is a feasible method of control. Pesticides such as Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki, spinosad, or botanicals can be used against smaller stages of caterpillars (these are not as hairy as the late instars), but will not kill off late instar larvae.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at ebrown@ag.tamu.edu.

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