

Z - N E W S

Austin, Texas

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Zilker Neighborhood Association

Planning for Zilker's Future

by Robin Cravey

A small group of your neighbors has set themselves the task of preparing the neighborhood for the City of Austin's neighborhood planning process. This volunteer group, informally known as the Greater Zilker Committee, has been meeting since August, chewing the fat over the neighborhood's future.

According to the City of Austin's website on neighborhood planning, "Neighborhood plans provide a process for concerned people to work together to improve their communities. Neighborhood planning involves people who live, work, own property, or own businesses in the neighborhood, and includes the major institutions in the neighborhood such as churches and schools. The results of individual neighborhood plans will become a permanent part of the City's planning and development process."

The impetus began in July when members of the city planning staff presented interested neighbors a schedule that would bring Zilker into the city's neighborhood planning process in Fall 2004. Shortly thereafter, the executive committee asked Robin Cravey to organize a committee to begin preparations for that project. With a year of lead time, the committee should be able to lay some extensive groundwork.

The committee has held two productive meetings. Members have clarified the goals and vision for the committee and pulled together a lot of necessary background data on the neighborhood. Even a group of less than a dozen has a broad variety of viewpoints on how the neighborhood should plan and what it should plan for.

The group is divided into four subcommittees: recruiting and outreach; research and information; drafting and organization; and process and procedure. Substantial work will be done in the subcommittees.

The committee has also established a group page at Yahoo! Groups under the name ZNPC 2003 where the public can read our messages and peruse our files.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the process contact Wendy Papasan at wendy@puddle-wonderful.com or (512) 383-1929. For more information on the City of Austin's neighborhood planning process visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/neighborhood/whatisnp.htm.

Next Meeting

Monday Oct. 27, 2003

6:30 p.m. - Meet & greet

7:00 p.m. - Meeting

Kinney Ave. Baptist Church

1801 Kinney Avenue

Homeowners, renters,
and business owners are
welcome!

MEET YOUR
NEIGHBORS, LEARN
ABOUT ISSUES
AFFECTING YOU AND
THE NEIGHBORHOOD
YOU LIVE IN...

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From the President



AUSTIN CITY LIMITS MUSIC FESTIVAL: YOUR EXPERIENCE?

From your perspective, was the Sept 19-21st ACL Festival in Zilker Park an unqualified success for all, a disaster for the neighborhood, or something in

between? In early November I will be meeting with the Director of the Parks and Recreation Dept. (along with representatives of the Barton Hills & Bouldin Creek neighborhood associations, and Rollingwood), and to prepare for that follow-up discussion about the ACL Festival, I need to hear from you.

What was your experience of the impact of the Festival on the Zilker neighborhood? Whether you wish to report problems or praise, the more specific your comments are, the more useful they will be in helping the ZNA Executive Committee to accurately understand and reflect your point of view. I'll be counting both complaints and positive comments received at the October ZNA meeting and/or by e-mail or phone. In e-mail or voice mail, please be sure to include your street address as well as your name.

* * * * *

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

I was delighted with the turnout for the quarterly ZNA meeting in July. How nice to see so many folks out enjoying the company of their neighbors on a beautiful evening! We will have a chairperson for the Social Committee in the coming year. I hope that some of you will work with her to help create a variety of opportunities for Zilker residents to get together.

* * * * *

KINNEY AVENUE HILL SIDEWALK

Since our July meeting I've heard from numerous folks willing to commit funds for the curb and gutter construction fund, and a business owner willing to hold a fund raiser. We put money collection on hold to do more research, seeking assurance that if we contribute half of

the money for curb and gutter construction, the sidewalk in front of the Lost Canyon condos actually would be built. I have more information and think the situation is looking very promising, but cannot be more specific at press time for this newsletter. If you are interested in this sidewalk, please come to the October meeting for an update and to participate in any necessary discussion.

* * * * *

LOOKING BACK, AND AHEAD

I've enjoyed my term as ZNA President. On behalf of Zilker residents, I want to express appreciation for the other members of the Executive Committee, several of whom devote many hours each month to serving the interests of the 'hood. I've had the perfect vantage point to see how much we all benefit from their efforts. Thank you, EC members!

In conversations over the past year I've learned a bit of history about conflicts between Zilker folks regarding various projects. Also, several people have told me about a negative experience they had with ZNA officers, or a perception that the neighborhood association "does not represent my point of view" on some issue—often as an explanation for why the person does not participate in the ZNA now. Before I give up the privilege of the president's column, I want to share two thoughts in response.

First, it's no more likely that all Zilker residents will agree on the best choice in a given situation, than it is that all the residents of a small town would agree. There are over 3,000 households plus many businesses and a variety of institutions within the ZNA boundaries. One of the significant features of our neighborhood is the fact that residents span a wide range of ages, occupations, education and income levels, and length of time in the 'hood. Apparently we have a relatively high proportion of independent, thoughtful, active, and strong-willed people here, and we often have

continued on page 4

Monday, October 27th Meeting Agenda

- 6:30 Social time: Meet and greet your neighbors
- 7:00 Call to order, introductions and announcements
- 7:05 Community Service Award to Clare Barry
- 7:10 Election of ZNA officers
- 7:20 Zilker Holiday Family Project
- 7:30 Mentoring opportunities at Zilker Elementary
- 7:40 APD District Rep, Officer Dawn Leonard
- 7:45 Austin City Limits Music Festival follow-up
- 8:10 Kinney Ave Hill sidewalk update
- 8:40 Report of ZNA Bylaws Committee (proposed revisions)
- 8:45 Envision Central Texas survey
- 9:05 Updates and news
- 9:15 New business
- 9:20 Adjourn

**Make your neighborhood a better place by
becoming a ZNA member today!**

All residents of Zilker are welcome,
not just homeowners.

October 2003 Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____ Austin TX 78704

Phone _____ Email _____

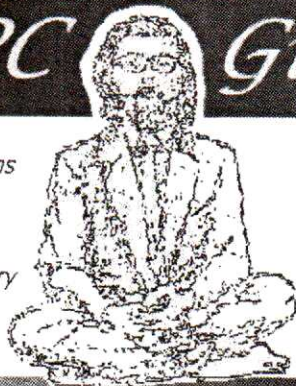
Annual Dues: \$7 per person or \$25 Sustaining member

Circle One: New Member Renewal

Please make checks payable to Zilker Neighborhood Association and mail with this form to Zilker Neighborhood Association, Memberships, PO Box 33546 Austin TX 78764-0546.

continued from page 2

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divergent interests. In truth, about the only thing we all have in common is living in the best neighborhood in Austin! We should expect differences of opinion, and plan for how to resolve them, when it is important to do so, in amicable ways.

Second, the best way to make sure that your point of view is represented is to speak up, and continue to participate even if things don't always go the way you prefer. If you want to influence outcomes, you need to be in on the discussion or make sure that your representatives know what is important to you. Everyone is so busy these days, it can be challenging to make time for everything we would like to do. Fortunately, ZNA general meetings occur only four times a year, and we have the Z-News and Zilker Yahoo!Group to help spread news. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Your neighbor,

Deborah Bice-Broussard
znaEC@yahoo.com, 689-6724

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Gordon R. Bergstrom, Pastor

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Zilker's New Principal: Brenda McCullar

By Andrew Murphy

Brenda McCullar was recently appointed the new principal of Zilker Elementary School. The classroom is where she has spent much of her career and she feels that the classroom experience should remain the focus of the school. "I love the classroom and I miss teaching," she said. "But my philosophy is that if I ever stopped missing the classroom, then I would have no business being the principal."

It is this enthusiasm for teachers and teaching that helped McCullar win a battle to keep a class recently. When Zilker was in danger of losing a sixth grade, Principal McCullar teamed up with the PTA to convince the AISD board to retain the class and the teacher.

"We all need each other," McCullar said. "The teachers, the parents, and the community need a very strong bond."

Hosting events like the Zilker Neighborhood Association's July's Watermelon Social on the school grounds is a great way to build those bonds," said McCullar. "It was great to have the neighborhood come into the school; after all, the school really belongs to the neighborhood."

McCullar would like to be more active with the neighborhood in the future. "The school is an anchor in the neighborhood, and having more events here would be wonderful," she remarked.

The principal received her undergraduate and master's degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches and her administrative certification from the University of St. Thomas, Region IV.

When asked about concerns facing the school, McCullar said her top priorities are making sure that every child succeeds to the best of their ability and providing a safe place for learning. "We have strong staff, heavy parental involvement, and a community that cares. That can't be beat for helping our children succeed," said McCullar.

In addition to her concerns about success

and safety, the school faces two sets of standards to meet: the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test and the new federally mandated No Child Left Behind (NCLB). These requirements don't seem to daunt McCullar, however. "We are an exemplary school," she said. "We will do whatever is needed to maintain that standing."

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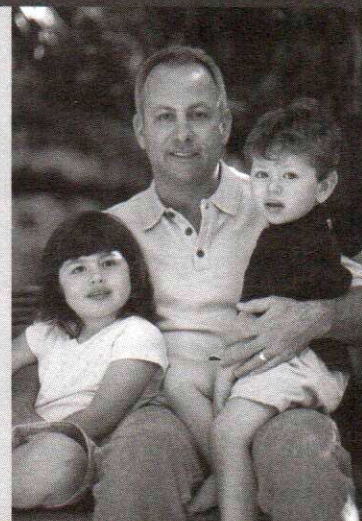
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NEWS BRIEFS

"The Heart's Eye"

October 2-November 8, 2003

artists' reception October 11, 6-9pm

photo images from the heart

Deborah Poisot, Kathryn Watts-Martinez

Erika Kjørlie and Terri St. Arnauld

"Circles"

November 13-December 20, 2003

artists' reception November 13, 7-10pm

mixed media sculpture and painting

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ZILKER ZAMBOREE COMING SOON!

Zilker Zamboree will be on Saturday, October 26, from 12:00-4:00 PM at Zilker Elementary. This event, which is geared toward all members of the community, not just the kids, is one of the top fundraisers for the school. EMT, Firefighters, CrimeStoppers, LCRA and many more local organizations will be represented at the carnival. There will be food, games and an outstanding silent auction.

ZILKER'S NEWEST POLICE PARTNER

Our neighborhood has a new, albeit temporary, district representative, Officer Dawn Leonard. She has Southwest Austin background and will serve Zilker well. Officer Leonard replaces Mike Summers. In an emergency always call 911. But if you need police help or information, call Officer Leonard at (512) 974-4405. Sector District Representative Coordinator Sgt. Rick Reyna is a good backup at (512) 974-8527.

Austin Police Department Commander's Forum meetings provide residents an opportunity to meet with commanders, lieutenants, sergeants, district representatives, patrol officers and their neighbors. Anyone may attend the next public forum held in December. Call Bobby Rigney for info or directions at (512) 471-3758.

Z-NEWS AD DEADLINE

The ad space reservation deadline for the February issue is January 10th. Contact Fontaine Maverick at 443-3290 for more details.

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Envisioning Central Texas' Future

by Jeff Jack

How would a million more people living in central Texas impact the Zilker Neighborhood?

Envision Central Texas (ECT) is a non-profit organization developing a growth management vision for Travis, Hays, Williamson, Caldwell, and Bastrop counties. While ECT's process has no regulatory authority, its recommendations will be important when local jurisdictions, such as the City of Austin, make policy decisions, including those that will affect our neighborhood.

The next step for ECT is asking central Texas citizens their preferences on how our region should grow. During the week of October 6th, ECT distributed through local newspapers an information pamphlet and survey; copies have also been distributed along with this newsletter. Your survey responses are important because they will help shape the final growth management vision prepared by ECT.

The ECT survey asks respondents to choose from one of four growth scenarios, and also asks for the community's preferences on such things as transportation systems, types of housing, and new job placement. I would like to call your attention to five survey questions in particular that directly relate to our neighborhood and how it would be impacted by doubling of the population over the next 20 to 40 years: #1, 7, 8, 13, and 16.

Question #1 indicates where the new population growth would go. Scenario A (continuing to grow as we have for the past ten years) would have the least impact on current neighborhood land use and character with only about one square mile of existing developed land redeveloped with higher densities. At the other extreme, Scenario D (directing almost all growth into areas already developed) would have the most existing developed land redeveloped with 16 sq. miles redeveloped with much higher densities. Scenarios B and C fall in-between.

If none of the proposed scenarios seems to work or present a pattern of growth that is acceptable, you can indicate to ECT that they need to develop a different approach by checking the last box, "I do not like any of these scenarios," on Question #7. Question #8 is the only one that allows citizens to express their opinion on whether or not the amount of population growth ECT projects in central Texas would be good for our quality of life.

As we have seen over the last few years, Austin has become the most expensive large city in Texas. Question #13 allows the community to let our planners know that this is a serious issue when addressing growth management. If you like the character of Zilker and other close-in older neighborhoods, then Question #16 allows you to tell the planners to respect our neighborhood. This is especially important as we develop our Zilker neighborhood plan and for validation of all the other neighborhood plans that have been completed in Austin.

If you have questions about the data presented in the ECT pamphlet or the issues behind the survey questions, you can get more information at the Austin Neighborhoods Council website at www.ANCweb.org or call Jeff Jack at (512) 447-5877. The deadline for filling out the surveys is October 26. An online version of the survey is available at www.envisioncentraltexas.org.

SOUTH AUSTIN FARMER'S MARKET

Saturdays 8-1

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Zilker Park Fun Facts...

Compiled by Wendy Papasan

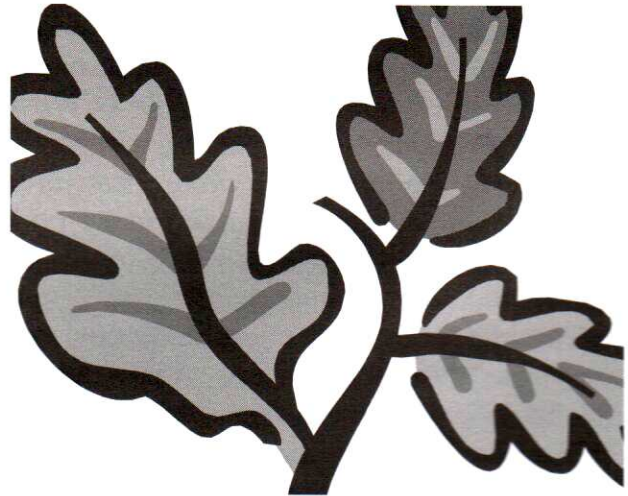
Austin's long-term love affair with Barton Springs probably began with the area's first settlers—Native Americans who were attracted to the natural springs.

In 1917 Barton Springs became city property when A.J. Zilker offered 50 acres to the City of Austin in exchange for the City paying the Austin School District \$10,000 per year for 10 years, to benefit children. A similar transaction in 1931 added another 250 acres; Zilker's final donation of 25 acres was made shortly before his death in 1934.

Although Barton Springs has been a recreational area longer, many early 20th-century Austinites thought Deep Eddy was more accessible. One could take the street car to Deep Eddy, but Barton Springs was "way out in the country."

A.J. Zilker came to Austin as a young man in 1876 with 50 cents in his pocket. He began earning money in Austin by washing dishes in

local restaurants. Soon he landed work in an ice factory on the river for \$1.25 a day, and within three months he was leasing the plant himself. His ice business spread throughout Texas, and he became one of Austin's earliest millionaires.



Spanish explorers wrote in 1714 that wild horses were numerous at Barton Springs.

Clare Ogden Davis, newspaperwoman and author, born in 1892, was perhaps the first woman to cover police assignments in Texas and worked as Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson's press secretary. She also adds helping found the garden center in Zilker Park in Austin to her lengthy list of accomplishments.

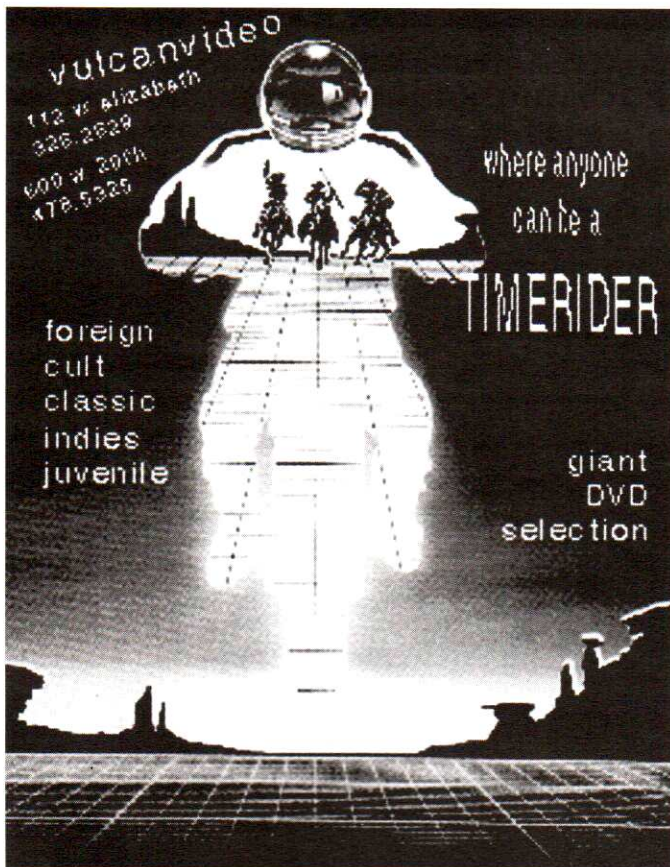
Barton Springs is the fourth largest spring in Texas.

Isamu Taniguchi, a Japanese man from California later sent to a federal internment camp in Texas during WWII, built the Japanese Garden in Zilker Park.

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Helping Zilker Families in Need

By Barbara Cossie

Four years ago at a ZNA Executive Committee meeting, the idea was brought forth to assist some of our Zilker families at the holidays. But since it was a last minute decision, only one family could be sponsored. However by the next year, with better planning, two families received assistance through the ZNA Holiday Family Project. Each year, with the help and support of our Zilker neighbors, the ZNA has been able to increase the number of families as our tradition of giving has continued.


This year, the ZNA is sponsoring four families for the holidays. As in the past, the families will have children that attend Zilker Elementary. Once school counselor Vicki Samuelson sends the ZNA each family's wish list, we will begin contacting volunteers.

If you are interested in donating time, specific gifts, or money, please contact Barbara Cossie at (512) 447-4437 or send a check marked Holiday Family Project to ZNA P.O. Box 33546, Austin, TX 78764-0546. You can do as little or as much as you can afford, but every donation will be helpful.

We're not sure if any other neighborhood association in the city offers this kind of service in caring for its families, but our Zilker residents can be proud, knowing we've made the holidays happier for a few families.

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Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The official printer of Z-News, your Zilker neighborhood newsletter

The Spit was Everywhere

By Wendy Papasan

In twos and in threes, they wandered into the night.
A few even came solo in the fading daylight.
One by one, neighbors snuck out like felons
To sample the tasty free watermelons.

What was this treat? This night happy & gay?
'Twas the watermelon social held by ZNA.
The melons were chilly thanks to Bluebonnet Food Mart.
Slices of juicy sweet goo, got us off to a good start.

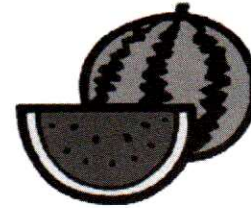
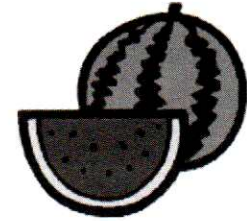
There was a good mix of folks, from all over the 'hood.
Those that didn't come, sure wished that they could.
There were the chitters, the chatters, the minglers, the talkers.
And the ceremony to honor all the Z-walkers.

Almost 200 showed up at the final tally.
Probably thanks to tea donated by the generous Nile Valley.
The children, they spat to win a free pizza pie.
Even the mosquitoes obliged, and didn't fly by.

Thanks to Domino's for the pepperoni and cheese.
They gave us the certificates - said "Do what you please!"
Later as people wandered back to their own biz.
Someone said to another, what a nice place Zilker is!

Where neighbors come together just to have some fun.
Where neighbors band together to get important things done.
Where neighbors care what happens to others down the street.
And where neighbors reach out and take time to meet and greet.

No matter where I travel, and no matter where I roam,
in the end I'm glad that I've made South Austin my home.



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HEY ZNA! VOTE!

By Wendy Papasan

It's that time of year again, when ZNA members elect a slate of officers to represent them on the Executive Committee. There's a list of nominees below, but it's not too late to add your name to the list. Deborah Bice-Broussard is taking officer nominations until October 20th. Call or email her. We especially could use another secretary.

When this newsletter went to press, the ZNA officer nominations were:

President: Robin Cravey

First vice-president: Elizabeth Yevich

Second vice-president: Deborah Bice-Broussard

Co-secretary: Steve Barnick

Co-secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Jane Kurzawa Cravey

Austin Neighborhood Council representative: Lorraine Atherton

Social chair: Wendy Papasan

Z-News editor: Vanessa McNamara Long

These neighbors have volunteered for unelected positions:

Austin Police Department's Commander's

Forum representative: Bobby Rigney

Holiday Family Project: Barbara Cossie

Website: Richard Gravois

Zilker Elementary School liaison:

Andrew Murphy

Z-News ad sales coordinator:

Fontaine Maverick

Z-News distribution coordinator:

Andrew Murphy

Zoning and code chair:

Michael Heffernan

The ZNA Executive Committee can always use more help. If you have a neighborhood project you'd like to work on, a great idea, a way to bring people together, a way to organize something better - we'd love to hear from you. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the monthly Executive Committee meetings. They are held on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. Even if you don't like what you hear, because they're usually at Artz Rib House, you'll like what you eat!

Mentor and Make A Difference

By Vicki Samuelson

Some things just shouldn't happen. For example, no kid should be on a waiting list for a mentor. No student should have to wait to find someone to help him study. No child should have to wonder if there will be someone to listen to her read.

But that is exactly what is happening at Zilker Elementary School. Several students are waiting for mentors to help them with their school work, listen to their problems and guide them down a positive path.

If you ever wanted to make a difference in a child's life, here is your opportunity. Zilker Elementary is inviting all caring adults to be mentors for students ages 4 to 12.

Is it hard to be a mentor? Not at all. First, and foremost, you need to be a caring friend, a good listener, and a positive role model to your mentoring child. Here are some other things you need to know before you sign up:

- 1) All mentor visits are to be conducted on school grounds during school hours.
- 2) Agree to visit with your assigned child at Zilker for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year.
- 3) Commit to meet the student for 30 minutes to one hour once a week at Zilker.
- 4) Most mentors visit during the lunch period.
- 5) Agree to a background check conducted by the Department of Public Safety.
- 6) Attend a one-hour mentor training session at Zilker, or another nearby location.

For our children and our neighborhood, please consider becoming a mentor. It could be the best thing you ever did. For more information about the program, contact the Zilker counselor Vicki Samuelson at (512) 414-3319.

Zilker Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 33546
Austin, TX 78764-0546

ZNAec@yahoo.com

Visit us on the Web:
znaweb.tripod.com

Executive Committee

President

Deborah Bice-Broussard, 443-8755

First Vice President

Elizabeth Yevich, 462-2859

Second Vice President

Open

Secretary

Steve Barnick

Treasurer

Jane Kurzawa Cravey, 447-8014

Z-News Ad Sales and Distribution

Fontaine Maverick, 443-3290

Z-News Editor

Wendy Papasan, 383-1929

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

Lorraine Atherton, 447-7681

and

Bobby Rigney, 471-3758

Committee Chairs

Holiday Family Project

Barbara Cossie, 447-4437

Website

Richard Gravois, 441-3430

Social Chair

Open

Zoning and Code

Michael Heffernan, 448-2801

About the Zilker Neighborhood Association...

ZNA holds general meetings the 4th Monday of February, April, July and October. The executive committee meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month usually at Artz Rib House.

Our Purpose: To improve the quality of life in the neighborhood in matters of land use, environmental protection, public services, consumer protection, preservation of the historic and unique character of the community; to provide support in other matters of neighborhood concern and to promote and participate in the civic life of the city.

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