



Newsletter of the Zilker Neighborhood Association

OCTOBER 2021

Established 1981 in
Austin, Texas

ZNA General Meeting Monday, October 25

Sign-in 6:30-7, Agenda 7-8 PM
Zilker Elementary School
1900 Bluebonnet Lane



Election of Officers (p. 2)
Holiday Families Kick-Off (p. 3)
D5 for Black Lives Presentation
Rewilding Zilker &
Zilker Park Vision Plan Updates (p. 3)
Zoning & Infrastructure Updates
(zilkerneighborhood.org/projects.shtml)

❖ ❖ **All Welcome** ❖ ❖

Newcomers, homeowners, renters,
business neighbors

A Message from ZNA President Bill Bunch Together Again, for a Better Zilker

DEAR ZILKER NEIGHBORS:

Please join us on Monday, October 25, at 7 PM, in the Zilker Elementary School cafeteria, for our traditional in-person ZNA fall general meeting. Please bring and wear a mask while inside and support our socially distanced seating. We want to see everyone, while also keeping each other safe and healthy.

ZNA has a full agenda, and we need your participation to help us shape the future of Zilker Park, the Zilker neighborhood, the City of Austin, and Mother Earth. Being good neighbors calls us to take personal action to strengthen our relationships with each other, with all of our neighbors, with our city, and with our home planet.

Social Justice for District 5

At our Oct. 25 meeting we will hear a presentation from D5 for Black Lives. This Zilker-led grassroots social justice group focuses its work in Austin's City Council District 5, currently rep- *(Continued on page 2)*

ZILKER VOTES—ZNA is always among the 'hoods with the highest voter turnout in city elections. This fall's special election is crucial. Don't miss it.

VOTE EARLY OCT. 18-29

Prop A: The ZNA Executive Committee recommends a NO vote. The full petition/ordinance is posted at zilkerneighborhood.org/elections.shtml. Saveaustinnowpac.com has info in favor of Prop A. NoWayPropA.com has info opposing Prop A.

Prop B: The 20-minute video of the Sept. 16 Travis County Democratic Party forum is highly recommended. Prop B starts at the 29:30 mark (<https://fb.watch/8bDPi-vfJL/>).

Eight state constitutional amendments will also be on the ballot. See LWVAustin.org for short videos on each one, and for a Voter's Guide.



Last Chance to Comment on New City Council Districts

ZILKER IS SPLIT ALONG KINNEY AVE. between City Council districts 5 and 9 in the maps proposed by the Austin Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, and Zilker Park remains separated from District 5. View the maps at speakupaustin.org/city-of-austin-redistricting. The ICRC plans to approve the maps at the end of October; the public will have three more chances to comment:

- Oct. 16, 11 AM–1 PM, at South Austin Recreation Center, 1100 Cumberland Rd, 78704
- Oct. 18, 6–8 PM, videoconference
- Oct. 20, 6–8 PM, Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart Ln, 78731

resented by attorney and long-time community leader Ann Kitchen. Come hear from D5 for Black Lives on their priorities, which include opposition to Austin’s Proposition A (one of two propositions on the upcoming special election).

The ZNA Executive Committee also recommends a “NO” vote on Prop A. If passed, Prop A would lock in a funding requirement for a fixed ratio of police officers per 1000 residents, taking over a hundred million dollars of additional police funding every year at the direct expense of all of our other City general fund needs, including EMS, fire protection, libraries, parks, and watershed protection. Learn more at NoWayPropA.com.

A Greener Vision for Zilker Park

We will also review and discuss the proposed *Rewilding Zilker* reforestation plan for Zilker Park, sponsored by SOS Alliance with support from ZNA, Barton Hills NA, and Bouldin Creek NA. See Robin Rather’s column on page 3 for details. We are excited about the *Rewilding Zilker* vision and are eager to hear your thoughts on it.

But first, join us in attending the next **Zilker Park Vision Plan virtual community meeting set for Oct. 19** at 6 PM (see austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision). At this key meeting the City’s consultants will be laying out “design options” for the park. If you are unable to attend, you may participate in a public comment period following the meeting.

New Faces for a New Year

On Oct. 25 we will elect officers for 2022 (nominees are listed below) and welcome two newcomers, Cat Cooke and Tanya Payne. We will also kick off our holiday fund drive (see page 3). If time permits, we will hear updates on immediate development challenges, including the on-going water problems at Heather and South Lamar.

We hope to see you Oct. 25, and please invite your neighbors. All Zilker residents are welcome (and encouraged to join or renew your membership in ZNA). Watch your ZNA email news for more updates on these and other issues. Stay tuned and stay active! And please, don’t forget to vote.
Your neighbor, Bill Bunch

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN



ZNA Officer Nominations, 2022

THE OCTOBER 25 MEETING will begin with the election of ZNA officers. These persons have been nominated to serve as officers beginning Jan. 1, 2022:

President: Bill Bunch
Executive Vice President: Gary Hamilton
Secretary: Dave Piper
Treasurer: Open
Vice President Communications: Tanya Payne
Vice President Parks & Environment: Robin Rather
Vice President Social: Cat Cooke
Vice President Zoning: Bill Neale
Austin Neighborhoods Council Delegate: Bobby Rigney

Under ZNA’s bylaws, nominations were closed Sept. 27. The search for a treasurer will resume after the election. If you are interested, please email excom@zilkerneighborhood.org.

Going Wild for Zilker Park

New Report from ZNA and SOS Out Now

by Robin Rather,
ZNA VP for Parks and Environment

ZNA AND SAVE OUR SPRINGS ALLIANCE, along with Barton Hills NA and Bouldin Creek NA, are releasing a beautiful new vision of Zilker Park for your consideration, called *Rewilding Zilker*, available this month at sosalliance.org and zilkerneighborhood.org.

Prepared by Elizabeth McGreevy, restoration ecologist and owner of LandSteward.net, the report calls for a minimum of 75 acres to be returned to a natural state using the principles of rewilding to increase biodiversity, reduce erosion, and mitigate the urban heat island effect while improving the experience for park users. The recommendations support the newly adopted Austin Climate Equity Plan, since rewilding helps to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

Rewilding means restoring forests, wetlands, and prairies. In the urban context here, it also means creating more shade and a more deeply natural experience for people to enjoy. It brings a far greater emphasis on climate mitigation, water protection, biodiversity, and the dang “heat island effect.”

The report boldly calls for a “move away from the status quo and toward a regenerative future.” We hope it will jump start a dialog with our ZNA members, with other neighborhoods, and the entire Austin community as the City’s Zilker Park Vision process is underway (see austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision).

And we’re starting with YOU. We ask that you review the report and give us all of your candid and imaginative comments.

Most important, please attend the upcoming City of Austin virtual **Community Meeting #3, October 19**, at 6 PM, where national consultants will unveil their Zilker Park “design alternatives.” Please give them your opinions on our rewilding vision as well as your input on traffic, public safety, climate, water, and over commercialization.

Register for the City’s Zoom meeting through austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision.

More information about ZNA’s top ten priorities for the Zilker Park Plan can be found at zilkerneighborhood.org/zilkerpark-mp.shtml.

ZNA’s Parks and Environment Committee is working hard on this and other eco issues and always welcomes your involvement! Feel free to reach out to parks-env@zilkerneighborhood.org.

ZNA Holiday Families Program

Harmony Grogan, Coordinator

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS the ZNA Holiday Families Program has provided gifts to families nominated by the Zilker Elementary School counselor. ZNA members have been so generous that we are hoping to expand our giving this season. Zilker elves will once again deliver gifts to at least ten Zilker school families, and additional cash donations will be delivered to Meals on Wheels. See zilkerneighborhood.org/holiday-families-program.shtml for details. If you feel you and your family have been blessed, please think about sharing your blessings through the ZNA Holiday Families Program.

Donate via Paypal at the zilkerneighborhood.org web site, or make checks payable to Zilker Neighborhood Association and write “holiday program” on the memo line. Donations may be mailed or delivered to: 1608 Treadwell Street, Austin, TX 78704.

Thank you to the many neighbors who volunteered and donated to make this program a success throughout the years!

Please note, donations are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions because we are not organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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BECOME A ZNA MEMBER TODAY

Membership is open to Zilker residents (renters or homeowners) 18 years old or older.
 Nonresident property owners are not eligible for membership.
 Annual dues are **\$7 per person**. Please list each member's name and e-mail address below.

Name _____ Email _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Dues amount: _____ Donation: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to Zilker Neighborhood Association and mail with this form to:
 ZNA Memberships, 1510 Oxford St, Austin, TX 78704
 or join online at zilkerneighborhood.org.

ZNA Officers for 2021

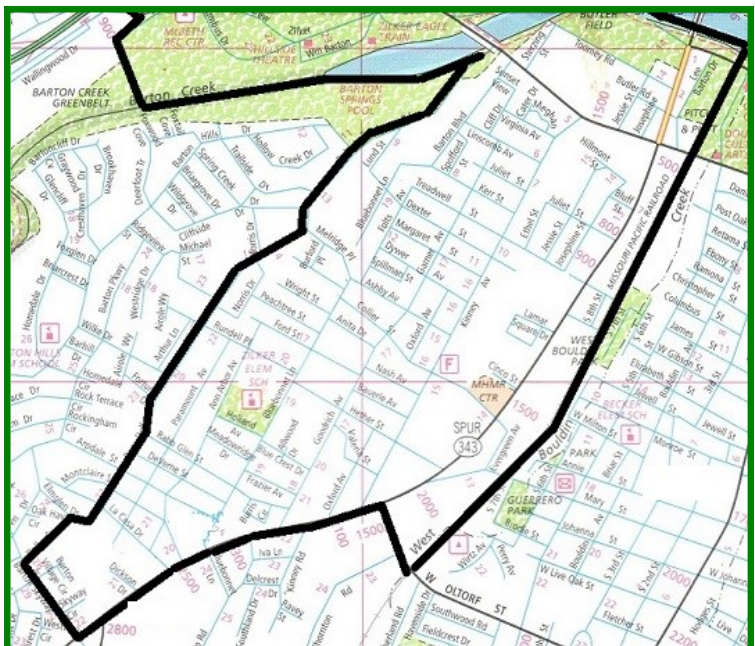
- President:* Bill Bunch
- Executive VP:* Gary Hamilton
- Secretary:* Dave Piper
- Treasurer:* Bruce Wiland
- VP Communications:* Open
- VP Parks and Environment:* Robin Rather
- VP Social:* Open
- VP Zoning:* Bill Neale
- ANC Delegate:* Bobby Rigney

The Executive Committee meets the first Monday of most months, at 5:30 pm, at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden, 605 Azie Morton.

Email ZNA@zilkerneighborhood.org

For ZNA bylaws and to join online, visit

www.zilkerneighborhood.org



ZNA boundaries include Zilker Park and Rabb Road on the west, from Lady Bird Lake to Barton Skyway, and the railroad tracks on the east to Oltorf and then south along South Lamar.



Editor: Lorraine Atherton,
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 512-447-4437

Advertisers: ZNA reserves this newsletter's limited advertising space for businesses within the boundaries of the association.

E-mail: ZilkerNeighborhood@gmail.com

ZNA is in **City Council District 5**, represented by Council Member ANN KITCHEN, at district5@austintexas.gov or 512-978-2105

Our **Austin Police District Rep** is Officer Shawn Rougeou, at 512-974-5490 or Shawn.Rougeou@austintexas.gov

Zilker residents vote in Travis County precincts 340 (Butler Shores and east of Kinney), 332 (west of Kinney), and the Skyway Circle portion of 342