

Z-NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ZILKER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Message from our President

BY GARY HAMILTON, ZNA PRESIDENT

As I assume my role as ZNA President, I reflect on the path that brings me to this position.... In 2016 my wife and I decided to sell our house in Rollingwood where we raised our children and “down-size” to a condominium near downtown. We decided to move into the Barton Place condominium complex, which is next to the Pecan Grove RV Park on Barton Springs Road. One of the features we like about this complex is the bicycle/pedestrian trail that runs from Barton Springs Road to Toomey Street along a fence between Barton Place and the RV park. My wife and I used this trail several times each week to visit our son when he lived next door in the RV park.

Soon after we moved into Barton Place, a nearby business began blocking the pedestrian trail by using it to operate and store equipment. I met with the managers of the business several times, but was unable to convince them to stop blocking the trail. I decided to contact ZNA to request assistance to resolve this matter. Members of the ZNA zoning committee met the owners of the business and convinced them to stop blocking the pedestrian trail.

After the trail blockage issue was resolved, I met with the ZNA Executive Committee to thank them. They told me that I could thank them by serving as a member of the ZNA Executive Committee. I was surprised, but honored, and I agreed to serve. In the past six years I have served as Secretary, Executive Vice President, and as a member of the Zoning Committee. I am now proud to serve as ZNA President. I encourage you [to join ZNA](#) and work with me to keep our neighborhood a great place to live.

Calendar

MARCH 1

ZNA EXEC MEETING AT
7PM
ON ZOOM

MARCH 6

ZNA MEETING: 6:00 PM
ZACH THEATER WHISENHUNT
STAGE
1510 TOOMEY RD
EVERYONE WELCOME
AGENDA PAGE 4

APRIL 3

ZNA EXCOM MEETING: 7PM
UMLAUGH SCULPTURE GARDEN

APRIL 6

LAST DAY TO REGISTER
TO VOTE FOR MAY 6
ELECTION, SEE PAGE 5
FOR ELECTION PRECINCTS

APRIL 24 - MAY 3

EARLY VOTING, SEE
DETAILS AT
VOTETRAVIS.ORG

[SEE THE ZNA CALENDAR
ONLINE](#)

Drama Continues for the Zilker Park Vision Plan

BY ROBIN RATHER, VP PARKS AND ENV.

There is something shady going on with the Zilker Park Vision Plan – and it’s not the trees! What once seemed like a “fun” chance to participate in a planning process for the long-term future of our beloved Zilker Park has turned into something far different.

Concerns about the Vision Plan abound. Close Barton Springs Road down to one lane? Spend \$60 million on parking garages, including one underground garage threatening critical watershed features? Lack of equity? Lack of public safety? Lack of climate mitigation? Still no rewilding? These problems with the draft plan have all been expressed by your neighborhood Parks volunteers, who have joined with other neighborhood groups and environmental organizations to form www.Rewildzilker.org. Please visit this website to get all the latest news.

But perhaps the biggest concern is the hidden role of ACL/C3/ LiveNation/Ticketmaster, which, until last Friday, was completely cloaked. The city’s consultant adamantly told [the Austin Chronicle](#) that ACL/ Ticketmaster “was not at the table.” But, one week ago, the City suddenly published a list of five meetings held with ACL/Ticketmaster with just dates. No transcripts, video, or notes. When details were requested by the Parks Board, they were told to file a formal Public Information Request. All other meetings were posted with video.

Our worst fears were realized. ACL/Ticketmaster has the right to participate in the plan. But their needs should be public and taken into account alongside all other groups. And commercial interests should definitely NOT be put above the needs of everyday park people. The issue with the Zilker Park Vision Plan has turned into a battle between those who use the park to swim, play, commune with nature – and those who seek to make a buck.

Official Contacts

City Council Member for District 5

Ryan Alter
district5@austintexas.gov
512-978-2105

City Council Member for District 9

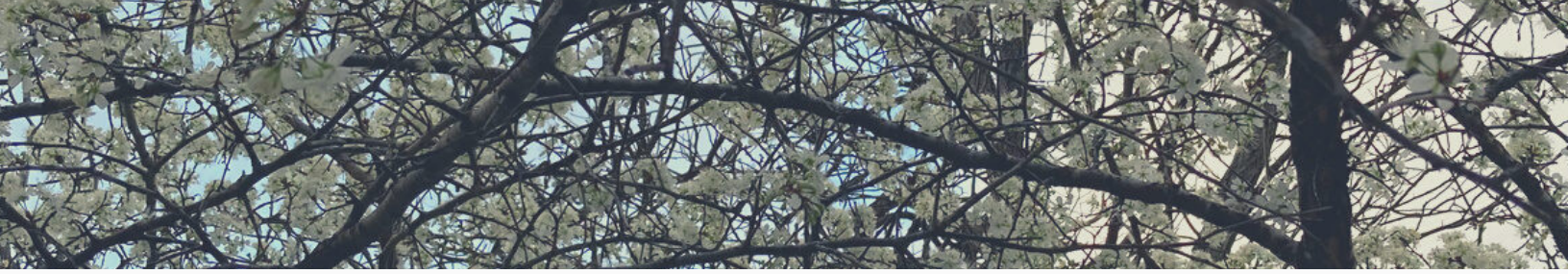
Zo Qadri
district9@austintexas.gov
512-978-2109

New Police District Rep

Officer Chris Bartsch
512-974-5490
chris.bartsch@austintexas.gov

At the Parks Board meeting on Monday, February 27th, upwards of 100 speakers told the Board in no uncertain terms that they wouldn’t stand for this kind of shady business. The Parks Board responded with a vote of 6-2 to remove the mysterious “umbrella management nonprofit” that would have likely reduced accountability and transparency for Zilker Park and put its fate in the hands of unknown donors and their commercialized interests.

The planning draft will continue to go through boards and commissions until it finally reaches the City Council. And we’ll be there every step of the way. Want to join us? Have questions or comments? Email zna@zilkerneighborhood.org



517 South Lamar Development Updates "The Bike Shop PUD"

BY LYDIA ZAIDMAN, VP ZONING

The current location of the Trek Bike Shop, St. David's Urgent Care and ATXFOODCO is under contract to be bought by a developer. The developer will be using a process called a Planned Unit Development (a "PUD") used by large developers all around Austin to get direct access to the City Council to request rezoning of specific properties (spot zoning). A PUD allows big developers to write their own zoning rules, with zero regard for the existing Land Development Code.

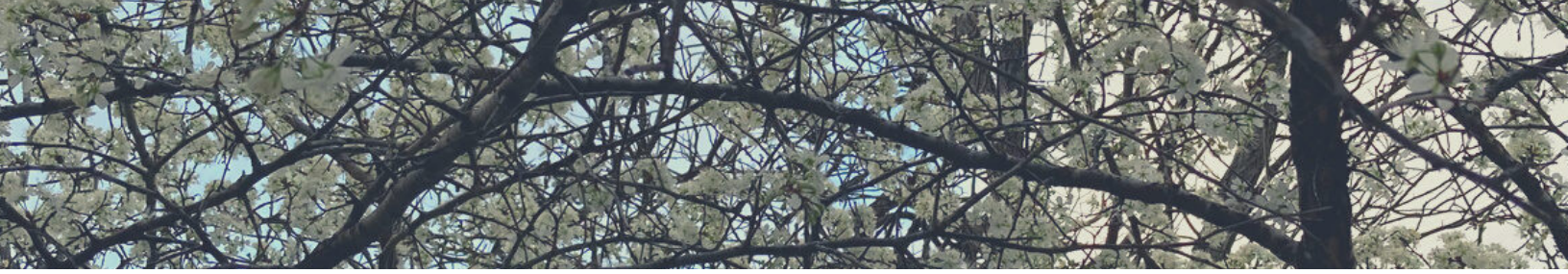
ZNA is concerned about this development because the developer for the Bike Shop PUD is requesting a minimum of 102 feet in height, which is massively higher than current buildings on Lamar. This building will tower over our neighborhood, even with the natural bluff behind it. It will overburden the infrastructure in our area, and represents nothing more than special-favor paybacks by the City to developers. The developer is also requesting special waivers and exceptions for increased density, floodplain, water quality, massing and natural buffer zones. Further, the developer professes to provide superior affordable housing, while actually providing much less than would be required if they went through the currently approved Land Development Code. The Bike Shop PUD would set a precedent for the rest of Lamar. In other words, it's a golden ticket for big developers. What can you do? Sign the petition at 787coalition.com and email your City Council member to request that they vote NO to the Bike Shop PUD. With new council members in Districts 5 & 9, now is the time to have your voice heard.

Neighborhood Email List

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE
ZILKER NEIGHBORS
GROUP, SEND
AN EMAIL TO
[ZILKERNEIGHBORS+SUB
SCRIBE@GROUPS.IO](mailto:ZILKERNEIGHBORS+SUBSCRIBE@GROUPS.IO)

MEMBERSHIP IS LIMITED TO RESIDENTS WITHIN ZNA'S BOUNDARIES (SEE MAP ON PAGE 5, AND OPEN COMMUNICATION IS ENCOURAGED IN A FRIENDLY SOUTH AUSTIN SPIRIT. THERE ARE NO TOPIC RESTRICTIONS, BUT PERSONAL ATTACKS, HARASSMENT, THREATS, VULGAR LANGUAGE, BEHAVIOR INTENDED TO DISCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUP, COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS OR OTHER FORMS OF SPAM ARE NOT WELCOME. ZNA DOES NOT CONTROL THE GROUP. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF ZNA TO JOIN AND JOINING THE GROUP DOES NOT MAKE YOU A MEMBER OF ZNA.





Holiday Fund Thank You!

BY HARMONY GROGAN, HOLIDAY FAMILIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

In 2022, we donated over \$5,000 worth of gifts to ten families with children who attend Zilker Elementary School. Each year our team of Zilker Elves give their time and energy to shop, wrap, and deliver presents to the families themselves. Thank you to these neighbors for their support as donors or volunteers!!!

VOLUNTEERS

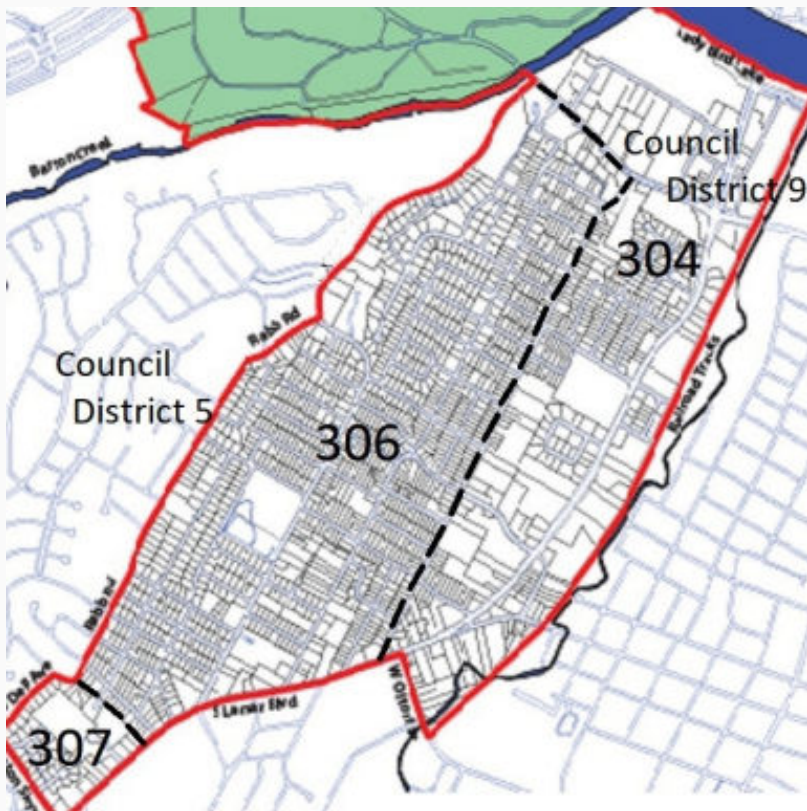
Brandie Baker, Paula Beird, Robbie Bulmer, Ba Cossie and Kaye Trybus, Diane Dahm, Shelly and Stephen Eager, Harmony and Jacob Scheick, Jessica Hargest, Jill Rhoden and Family, Jill Robinson, Joan Saidel, Bratten Thomason, and Sarah Tower

DONORS

Adam Honhera, Amanda Peterson, Amelie Treuting Parks, Becky Lang, Bobby Rigney, Bondell Zeugin, Brigid Finley, Bruce and Lori Griggs, Catherine Redpath, Charles Borgeson, Craig Parker, David Ward, Daniel Carroll, David Saidel, Diane and Robert Stonecipher, Dorothy Marchand, Eleanor McKinney, Emily Bubolz, Ed Gonzales, Gail Rothe, Genevieve L Duncan, Glenda Brown, Gregg Vunderink, Gwen May, Harriet Gonzales, Heather Way, Ingrid Spencer, Jan Castleberry and Michelle Martin, Jennifer Schaefer, Jill Kempf, Jo Ann Grantham, Joan Boikess, Joan Hughes, Joan Mosch, Jonathan Brown, Keith Kreitman, Laura Agnew and Hill Abel, Linda Boxberger and Awad Abdelgadir, Lois Vajgert and Linda Stubblefield, Luis Guerra, Lynn Robbins, Mary Barnett, Mary Reed, Nicole Younts, Pam Geiger, Paul Reidy, Paul Rutecki, Paula Beard, Paulette Gravois, Peach and Cynthia Reynolds, Robert Price, Susan Whyne, Sterling King, Susan D Tedter, Tanya Payne and Mark May, and Toni Teel

March 6 Quarterly Meeting Agenda

6:00 - 6:30PM SOCIAL
6:30 INTRODUCTIONS, INCLUDING COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER AND POTENTIALLY MAYOR WATSON
7:00 "THE ABC'S OF PUD'S" AND AN UPDATE ON THE BIKE PUD



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 VOTING PRINCINCTS 304, 306 AND PART OF 307

ZNA OFFICERS

President:	Gary Hamilton
Executive VP:	Bill Bunch
Secretary:	Open
Treasurer:	JD Leonard
VP Comms:	Tanya Payne
VP Parks & Env:	Robin Rather
VP Social:	Patti Amaya
VP Zoning:	Lydia Zaidman
ANC Delegate:	Jeff Jack

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS THE FIRST MONDAY OF MOST MONTHS

See the website for contact information

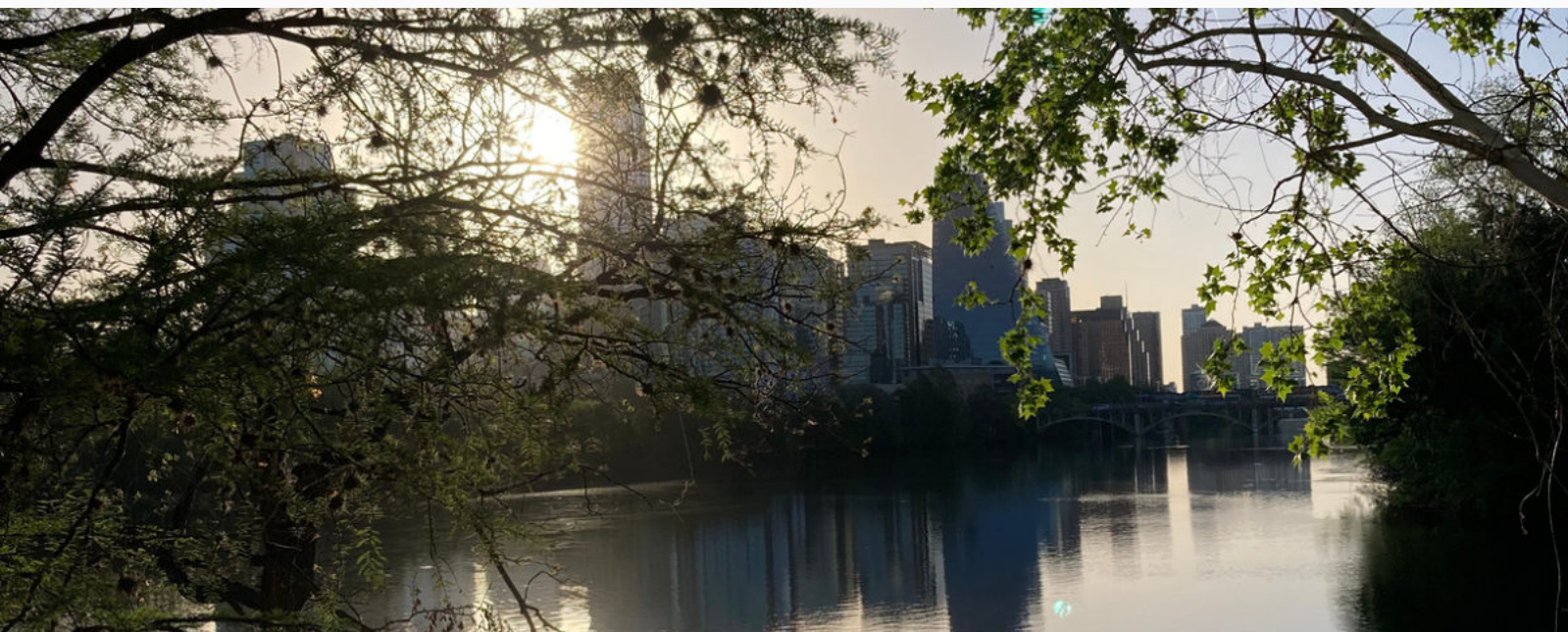
zilkerneighborhood.org

Instagram:

[@zilker_neighborhood](https://www.instagram.com/zilker_neighborhood)

Email

zna@zilkerneighborhood.org



Become a 2023 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. List each member's name and e-mail. Email treasurer@zilkerneighborhood.org to request hardship dues waiver

Please save paper and volunteer hours by paying online:
zilkerneighborhood.org/dues-and-donations.shtml



Make checks payable to: Zilker Neighborhood Association and
mail with this form to:

ZNA Memberships
c/o JD Leonard
2109 De Verne St
Austin, TX 78704-3927

or bring this form to a quarterly meeting
ZNA bylaws, events and neighborhood info:
zilkerneighborhood.org

Today's date: ___/___/2023

Member 1

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Member 2

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Dues: \$7 / \$14 (**please circle** based on 1 or 2 members)

Donation: \$_____ For ZNA General Fund

Total: \$_____ Cash / Check (please circle)

Please circle whichever apply:

Member 1 / Member 2 Was a member last year

Member 1 / Member 2 List name of publish lists of ZNA members

Member 1 / Member 2 Contact about getting involved with ZNA committees and initiatives