

The Winter

Neighborhood Newsletter

An occasional printed publication of the South River City Citizens' Neighborhood Association, Established 1973



ANNUAL SRCC POTLUCK & ELECTION

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Potluck 6pm, Elections 7:30pm

Life in the City Methodist Church (formerly Grace UMC) 205 East Monroe

Once again we gather to cast votes for the South River City Citizens Officers and Area Coordinators who comprise our Executive Committee. This is the team that we as a neighborhood elect to represent us at City of Austin council meetings, board and commission hearings. They will govern the association and work diligently on our behalf for the next year! Our meeting will kick-off with our annual potluck meal at Life in the City United Methodist Church. This year the potluck dinner starts at 6pm. Following our social gathering, we will elect our new officers.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Anyone wishing to run for office is encouraged to contact Tune Outhavong, our current President, or any of the other officers prior to the March 8th meeting (see back page for contact information). Please note that our meeting is on a TUESDAY, so make sure you mark your calendars, join your neighbors, make new friends, bring a favorite dish, and vote. Disposable dinnerware will be provided, but feel free to bring your own reusable plates, utensils and cups. Children are welcome!

ELECTION NOTE: Feb. 9 was the deadline to become a new member and vote at the general membership meeting, but if your membership has not lapsed more than two years, you can pay your dues at the meeting and vote. Of course, we encourage your membership in the neighborhood association at any time. Please come in any event to meet your neighbors!

Our Candidates:

President:

**Gretchen Otto
Andy Cantu**

Vice President:

Diane Presti

Treasurer:

Nancy Byrd

Secretary:

Garret Nick



COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 20th,
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

The Park at Life in the City

*Free food! Activities!
Raffle! Bounce House!*

Life in the City

205 E. Monroe,

www.lifeinthecityaustin.org



Letter From the President

Greetings Neighbors! It almost feels like Spring already as we gear up for our annual Potluck and Elections in March. With me wrapping up my tenure as president, this year will be an exciting one with a few new changes in leadership.

As I step down next month, I would like to thank all of the incredibly passionate, intelligent, and kind people in our neighborhood for your support and guidance throughout the past two years. The challenge of being president was made easier with your help and patience. I hope we continue to show the same kindness and patience to each other as neighbors as well. There's no other place like home in the SRCC!



—Sounthaly "Tune" Outhavong, SRCC President

Volunteer!

Get Involved in Your Community

Looking for some fun volunteer work? Want to meet more neighbors? Interested in what's happening around and in our area? We have many volunteer jobs available! Here are some open positions:

Neighborhood Watch/Safety Chair: Receive training from city on neighborhood watch program, train neighbors to do patrols. Coordinate patrol block captains and make sure there is one in each area. Be the point-person for this committee, communicate any activities to SRCC officers, and provide any short updates to members at general meetings.

Communications Chair: Proactively push out content via social media, and main-

tain website and Monthly Review email system.

Newsletter Editor/Coordinator: Oversee production of newsletter, help create story ideas and assign writers, keep production on schedule, proofread and edit, and be the contact person with the printer to confirm costs, schedules, etc.

Area Coordinator (for Area 2): Recruit block captains to deliver newsletters to every residence in your area, maintain a contact sheet and provide updates to Newsletter Delivery Coordinator or VP, pick up newsletter and deliver to Block Captains, email the Newsletter Coordinator/VP

when these steps have been done, deliver to a route as needed, attend Executive Meetings 3 times per year, and General Membership meetings as often as possible.

Block captains: Deliver newsletters to your street or one nearby, or be a sub when someone is out of town. Contact your area coordinator (see back page) to learn more.

Schools Chair: Maintain open communication and flow of information between SRCC and our three area schools, attend SRCC meetings as often as possible, and write content for newsletter/website.

Special Events Chair: Organize annual potluck, and Fourth of July Picnic and/or Parade.

For more information, please contact Gretchen

SRCC Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

In November 2015, an ad hoc committee was formed to update the SRCC bylaws to reflect current practices and committees. The committee members are Carol Martin (*Chair*), Sarah Campbell, Marc Davis, Jean Mather, Gretchen Otto, Sounthaly Outhavong, and David Swann.

The intent of the ad hoc committee is to update the bylaws to reflect improved practices that have been operating successfully in recent years. Items currently on the agenda include:

- 1) Add the current Finance Committee to the list of standing committees, and clarify its responsibilities for financial policies and procedures.
- 2) Review the standing committees and discuss their relevance to SRCC's needs.
- 3) Add references to SRCC's use of secure online cloud based tools for storing records and documents of SRCC business, providing access to documents for collaboration, and preserving our organizational history.
- 4) Discuss expanding Executive Committee to include committee chairs and representatives.
- 5) Identify language that is inconsistent or ambiguous.

The first monthly meeting was held 1/22/16. The committee will meet monthly, consider issues, and not rush to meet an arbitrary deadline. Meeting agendas and minutes will be available to the SRCC General Membership.

Recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee. The process for approval will follow requirements stated in the bylaws. For questions, contact Carol Martin, membership@srccatx.org

—Carol Martin,
SRCC Membership Chair

Redevelopment Planned for The Heights on Congress

The Heights on Congress is a 10 acre apartment complex south of Oltorf that has 172 affordable units. The owner of the property, Doug Gurkin, and his representatives met with SRCC Area 5 representatives in December to present their initial plans to redevelop the property, which was built in the 1970's, into new affordable units and a luxury development. Mr. Gurkin has owned the property for almost two decades and owns another property in the Bouldin neighborhood, Oak Creek Village, that was recently redeveloped. Marty Christman, SRCC Environmental Committee Co-chair and Elloa Mathews, Area 5 Co-Coordinator, toured the property along with neighbor and landscape architect John Gleason. The owner reported that he has completed a survey of the many heritage oak trees on the

property, and that a few were in bad condition. The engineer for the project provided the group with a survey of the property which shows a current impervious cover of 60%. The site is zoned CS (Commercial Services) which allows 95% impervious cover and the owner plans to apply for MF6 (Multi-Family Zoning), which also allows 80% impervious cover. In addition to building new four-story units to maintain the existing 172 currently affordable units, the owner wants to add a luxury tower with 300 units on the north side of the property.

There was a discussion of the necessity of a traffic study, but their representatives stated that a traffic study wasn't required by the city. Also discussed was the owner's desire for the entrance to the property to be realigned to meet Cumberland

Road, across Congress Ave and the City's recommendation that the property have access to St. Edward's Drive for emergency vehicles. The property's southeastern corner backs up to single family homes on Carnarvon, and the dead end of St. Edward's Drive, the location for the future St. Edwards Police Department headquarters. This project has many issues related to its location next to a correctional facility, traffic, affordability, height, and runoff. Representatives from Austin Interfaith, and Travis Heights Elementary School whose students live at the Heights, have been invited to the discussion to ensure that the neighborhood gets a good project, and that students aren't displaced from Travis Heights in the redevelopment. Reports on this project will be posted on the SRCC meeting agenda.

—Elloa Mathews, Area 5
Co-Coordinator

SRCC Parks Update

Stacy Park Playfield Stormwater Controls

The City Watershed Protection Department (WPD) has teamed up with PARD to correct chronic erosion of the Stacy Park trail at the western approach to the wooden pedestrian bridge that connects the elementary school and the park playfield areas. WPD designed a solution and recently completed construction of a set of improvements that are intended to divert playfield runoff that normally drains over the trail on its course to the creek, and promote water infiltration into the drainage layers that underlie the playfield. Recently completed improvements include a system of shallow earthen berms and new playfield turf that was enhanced to promote soil infiltration. When finally established, most of the playfield runoff will find its way (below ground) to the creek through natural alluvial formations into the creek channel. *Note:* the playfields lie on a floodplain terrace of Blunn Creek. Floodplain terraces typically have alluvial soils that were deposited by flooding and often contain layers of well-draining rock and soils.

Clayton Ernst, city engineer, says, "Active construction is complete, including decompaction and amendment of existing site soil, construction of berms to promote infiltration, and installation of new grass sod onto the field. The project is now entering the Establishment Phase, during which time the field will remain closed to allow the sod to grow without disturbance. All trails are open. We anticipate opening the field up for use by late spring/early summer."

Mr. Ernst also notes, "We

are aware of the persistent ponding that has occurred behind the berms along the trail. We are closely monitoring the ponding behavior to determine if there is any improvement in drawdown time during the establishment period. The problem will be fixed if performance does not improve, and we have several solutions in mind."

For more information, please contact Clayton Ernst, Stream Restoration and Stormwater Treatment.

—Jeff Kessel,
SRCC Transportation Co-Chair

Little Stacy Park Improvement Project

This project to improve Little Stacy Park is being implemented through PARD's Capital Improvement Program. The project anticipates improvements to correct erosion issues, comply with accessibility standards, address maintenance, and provide a more enjoyable and inclusive play experience. The city has hired contracting firm, Asakura Robinson, to create the new design. The project is in the community input stage where community stakeholders have been sharing their thoughts and ideas regarding improvements to park areas like the tennis courts, wading pool, and playground. Thus far, the project team has held three public meetings, in addition to presenting at two SRCC meetings, using feedback to adjust their design sketches accordingly. Next, the consultants will create a more firm, detailed design plan and begin phase one of the improvements. Proposed improvements include: resurfacing the tennis courts, adding rain gardens, improving the basketball court, adding a

hillside slide, replacing some out-of-code play equipment with nature play-based materials, and making improvements to the entrances and the shelter house. You can see the various stages of design proposals online, as well as detailed notes on their presentations and what public input they have received at: <https://austintexas.gov/departments/little-stacy-park>

If you have questions or feedback to give the design team, please contact Brendan Wittstruck, Senior Associate Designer for Asakura Robinson, brendan@asakurarobinson.com.

—Gretchen Otto,
SRCC Vice President

Blunn Creek Nature Preserve

Blunn Creek Nature Preserve is seeing a lot of work towards its ecological restoration. The Austin Fire Department, Texas Forest Service, PARD, Plateau Land and Wildlife, and volunteer, Jerry Levenson, have partnered this winter to remove invasive plants such as ligustrum, china-berry, paper mulberry, and nandina. An opened canopy will provide room for native groundcover, bushes, and trees later this spring.

If you would like to help out, please join us for *It's My Park Day* on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

—David Todd,
SRCC Parks Chair

Heritage Oaks Park

Great progress has been made in Heritage Oaks Park (HOP). The installation of trails, benches, and picnic tables is complete. The beauty and special topography of the site is enhanced by the positioning of benches for the best views and shade. The next phase of the grant work will focus on re-vegetation to stop erosion along the trail, containment of bamboo, and protection of a no-grow pond area. Support from Austin Parks Foundation and PARD was very positive in recognizing the value and unique characteristics of HOP. They also expressed appreciation for contributions made by the SRCC neighborhood residents, and volunteers to the project. APF has walked the site with SRCC representatives Carol Martin (who administered the grant), and David Todd, Chair of SRCC Parks Committee. All agree it has been a successful project. The neighbors have responded positively with a few comments:

"We have added the trail to our local jogging routine."

"Our family lives right on the park and I can't tell you how happy we are about it. Our four-year-old and his friends get to ride their bikes on the path"

"I like the sloping path, the benches and the picnic tables. All were well placed and they made excellent use of the space. We've taken guests on short walks to the park, stood at the crest of the hill and enjoyed the view, especially viewing sunsets from the heritage oaks on the knoll."

"I'm grateful for everyone's efforts to transform the park and better the community."

The outcome has been tremendous considering a developer once owned it and wanted to pave over it. Thank you."

—Carol Martin,
SRCC Membership Chair



Area Coordinators

Area 1 Claudette Lowe	512-447-1514
Area 1 Diane Presti	512-217-6651
Area 2 Russell Fraser	512-771-9736
Area 2	— <i>Volunteer Needed!</i>
Area 3a Jo Webber	512-441-3117
Area 3a Sara Newsom	512-444-8292
Area 3b Brooks Kasson	512-444-8100
Area 3b Tim Boswell	512-589-5593
Area 4a Sam Martin	512-441-5222
Area 4a Mary Friedman	512-619-5773
Area 4b Kris Asthalter	512-443-4963
Area 5 Neal Nuwash	512-462-9093
Area 5 Elloa Mathews	512-442-6986
Area 6 Rachel McClure	512-326-5572
Area 6 Laura Gass Weaver	
	gassweaver@sbcglobal.net
Area 7 Kelvin Glover	512-415-2027
Area 7 Jackie Hatfield	
	jackie.hatfield@gmail.com
Area 8 Maria Martinez	512-443-9784
Area 8 Kim Lanzillotti	512-658-8565

Standing Committees

Planning & Zoning

Jean Mather	512-444-4153
Kent Anschutz	kent@kentanschutz.com
Marc Davis	marc.davis@gmail.com
Russell Fraser	russell_fraser@msn.com
David Swann	swanito@att.net

Parks, Schools & Environment

David Todd (Parks)	512-416-0400
Sherri Ancipink (Schools)	512-707-2627
Marty Christman (Environment)	512-912-0724



**1st Monday every month at 7:15pm at
Life in the City United Methodist Church,
205 E. Monroe**

SRCC Meetings

We thank all our officers, area coordinators, committees, and representatives for their dedication to our community!

Call your coordinator for SRCC questions, volunteer opportunities, or to help deliver newsletters.

Transportation & Public Safety

Mike Sledge	transportation@srccatx.org
Jeff Kessel	jeff@impactpro.com

Neighborhood Patrol Chair

—*Volunteer Needed!*

Communications

—*Volunteer Needed!*

Membership

Carol Martin	membership@srccatx.org
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Financial

Sam Martin	512-441-5222
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Newsletter

Maia Reeves	newsletter@srccatx.org
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Ad Hoc Committees

Norwood House

Wolf Sittler	512-447-2150
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TH-FP Historic District

Michele Webre	512-422-1262
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Representatives

Austin Neighborhood Council

James Bilodeau	ancrep@srccatx.org
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City District 9

James Bilodeau	ancrep@srccatx.org
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East Riverside (EROC)

Toni House	512-447-8090
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CodeNEXT

Russell Fraser	russell_fraser@msn.com
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St. Edward's

Elloa Mathews	512-442-6986
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South Central Coalition

Danette Chimenti	512-912-8290
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Travis Heights Art Trail

Charlotte Bell	512-447-2150
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Travis Park Apt/Austin Interfaith

Terry Franz	512-447-8786
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SRCC Officers

President

Sounthaly "Tune" Outhavong	president@srccatx.org
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Vice President

Gretchen Otto	vicepresident@srccatx.org
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Treasurer

Nancy Byrd	treasurer@srccatx.org
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Secretary

Garret Nick	secretary@srccatx.org
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Join Your Neighbors in SRCC

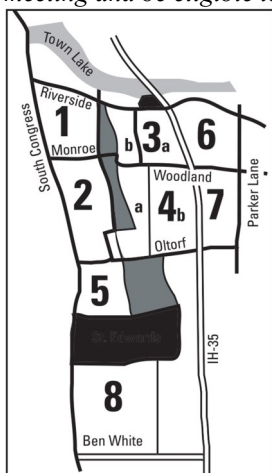
Become a member and be eligible to vote!

Join or renew online (www.srccatx.org) or at membership table at meetings.

Membership Levels		
No. Of Years	Individual	Family
1	\$20	\$35
2	\$35	\$65
3	\$50	\$95

To pay via PayPal, go to www.srccatx.org/membership-dues/. You can also send a check made payable to SRCC, along with this completed form to: **SRCC, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 40632, Austin, TX. 78704.**

Notes—Dues and contributions are not tax-deductible. If dues lapse, renew at a SRCC meeting and be eligible to vote. New members can vote after 28 days.



Number of Years (circle one):

1 2 3

Membership (circle one):

Individual Family

Date:

Name (s):

Address:

SRCC Area (See Map):

Phone (s):

Email (s):

Membership Fee Due: \$

Add'l Donation to

SRCC General Fund: \$

TOTAL: \$