



Newsletter of the
Zilker Neighborhood
Association

APRIL 2021

Established 1981 in
Austin, Texas

A Message from ZNA President Bill Bunch
Post-Pandangit Priorities

Dear Zilker Neighbors,

There may be light at the end of the tunnel. The officers of the Zilker Neighborhood Association hope that this coming meeting on Monday, April 26, at 6:30 pm, will be our last virtual general meeting. Ever.

Everyone is invited, but we ask that you fork over a whopping \$7 per adult household member if you have not already, so that you will be a certified, card-carrying member of ZNA.

Despite the pandangit, it's been a busy quarter for the ZNA Executive Committee. Major development proposals on South Lamar and on Sterzing behind Chuy's, a total redevelopment of the Brodie Oaks shopping center, and a push to take over a large swath of Butler Shores parkland with a new City arts center are only a few of the issues facing our neighborhood. These projects were summarized in the February *ZNews*, and detailed information can be found on the ZNA website at zilkerneighborhood.org.

City Ballot Propositions

In a special called meeting last month, the attending ZNA membership voted overwhelmingly to oppose Proposition F, the "strong mayor" ballot measure in the current City election. The meeting can be viewed on YouTube, through the ZNA home page. Early voting runs from April 19 to 27, and election day is Saturday, May 1. We urge all Zilker voters to educate themselves about the other ballot measures before voting. For more info, see page 2 and zilkerneighborhood.org.

Although the ZNA Executive Committee has taken no action on Proposition B (dubbed the "camping ban"), in the course of a sometimes heated discussion, the officers realized we need more input from our neighbors and the general membership on both the scope of ZNA's work and what our priorities should be.

ZNA Priorities

ZNA began 40 years ago, on the night of the Memorial Day flood. A lot has changed since then, but the

ZNA General Meeting
Monday, April 26
6:30-8:00 PM

As pandemic precautions continue, ZNA meetings will be held via Zoom. Visit zilkerneighborhood.org for further instructions.

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Meeting agenda:

- 6:30 Welcome and introductions
- 6:40 Membership and financial reports
- 6:45 Land development updates
- 7:00 Discussion on neighborhood needs and priorities
- 7:30 Proposed ZNA bylaws amendments (to be voted on at the next general meeting)
- 7:40 Parks & Environment Committee report

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Newcomers, homeowners, renters, business neighbors

❖ ❖ **All Welcome** ❖ ❖

A circular logo with a red top half and a blue bottom half, separated by a white horizontal line. The word 'VOTE' is written in white, bold, sans-serif letters across the center. There are five white stars in a horizontal line above the text and five white stars in a horizontal line below the text.

Page 2 lists the eight City of Austin propositions on the May 1 general election ballot. See lwaustin.org for ballot language.

Early voting runs April 19-27. Visit votetravis.com or call 512-238-VOTE for locations.

sense of environmental and social crisis has intensified. And so we have set aside time at the April 26 meeting to hear your

thoughts on what our neighborhood needs the most from ZNA and its leaders.

Please join us and tell us what you see as the most important issues facing Zilker or your own part of the neighborhood. We want to hear from you as we try to navigate the many crises facing our city.

ZNA Bylaws

One of those crises, the pandemic, has caused us to consider whether the ZNA bylaws can accommodate, for instance, changes in electronic communications. A bylaws committee was formed earlier this year, and it will be presenting its proposed amendments at the meeting on April 26. Under the bylaws, amendments must be presented to the membership at a regular meeting and then voted on by the membership at the next meeting. That means any amendments presented at the April meeting will be voted on at the next quarterly meeting, probably in July. The current bylaws are posted at <https://zilkerneighborhood.org/bylaws.shtml>.

The Future of Zilker Park

We also want to hear from you and share our thoughts on the future of Zilker Park. As Robin Rather reports on page 3, the Parks and Environment Committee has been working

overtime to be ready to engage in the Zilker Park Vision Plan process. That process is about to kick off. For a wealth of information, see the “Zilker Park Master Plan” pages at zilkerneighborhood.org.

Some elements at the City want more amusements and commercial activity in Zilker Park. Our prevailing view is the opposite: we want more green, more park, less parking, and less pavement. The current struggle over the future of Butler Shores park (just across Barton Creek from Zilker, from the creek over to Zach Theatre and between Toomey Road and Lady Bird Lake) is a precursor to the larger struggle over whether our parks will be restored and kept green or used for more parking and more buildings.

What do you want from Zilker Park (other than a clean and flowing Barton Springs)?

Please do join us Monday, April 26, at 6:30, from the comfort of your own home. The meeting announcement on the front page of this newsletter includes the full agenda. If you can't attend the meeting live but want to share an opinion or have a question, contact me at president@zilkerneighborhood.org.

Your neighbor, Bill Bunch

Hurry up and vote: Camping ban plus 7 charter amendments on your ballot now

EARLY VOTING HAS STARTED on these eight City of Austin propositions:

- A**, Charter amendment from the firefighters association regarding binding arbitration
- B**, City ordinance regarding criminalizing sleeping outdoors and camping in public areas
- C**, Charter amendment from the City Council regarding Director of Police Oversight
- D**, Charter amendment moving Austin's mayoral election from gubernatorial election years to presidential election years
- E**, Charter amendment creating ranked choice voting for City elections
- F**, Charter amendment changing Austin to a strong-mayor form of government
- G**, Charter amendment adding a geographic council district
- H**, Charter amendment repealing City Code sections on fair campaign financing and adopting a Democracy Dollars voucher program

The voter's guide from the League of Women Voters (<https://lwvaustin.org>) contains the ballot language and an explanation for each proposition. The site also has videos of two Zoom sessions, called Understanding the Eight Propositions on the Ballot this Spring (lwvaustin.org), presenting the pros and some cons, but it was clearly a struggle to fill in the gaps for the propositions that have received very little attention.

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, the process behind all of these charter amendments (not just the strong-mayor proposal) has been rushed, and vital information that *ZNews* would normally provide to Zilker neighbors (such as links to the actual charter language) is not readily available to voters. The ZNA website has posted the full language for Prop F at Full Language of Charter Amendment Changes (PDF), along with links to the websites of groups for and against the strong-mayor proposal. Wish we could have done more.

*We'd Love to Learn,
What's Your Vision for Zilker Park?*

*By Robin Rather,
ZNA VP for Parks and the Environment*

THE CITY OF AUSTIN PARKS and Recreation Department and its contractors have recently initiated the dynamic new Zilker Park Vision Plan. There is still time to give your input at the City's survey here: <https://publicinput.com/ZilkerVision>.

Meanwhile, your ZNA Parks and Environment Committee has been preparing to offer perspective and recommendations over the next year (see <https://zilkerneighborhood.org/zilkerparkmp.shtml>). We have focused on nine key issues:

- Process and public engagement
- History and culture
- Systemic racism and inclusivity
- Climate mitigation, ecological restoration, water, trails, and flora/fauna
- Public safety and enforcement of park rules during a time of "reimagining" APD
- Transportation, including parking, bridges, bike/ped, and blocking the Mopac extension
- Key sources of revenue, funding, volunteers, and partnerships
- New visitor center and amenities
- Overall vision for the future

Thus far, the ZNA committee has focused primarily on process and public engagement, homeless camping, public safety, and enforcement of everything from dog leash laws to homeless camping, dumping trash in creeks, parking on fragile areas, and disorderly conduct. If you'd like to read our draft position papers on these topics, email us at: parcs-env@zilkerneighborhood.org.

We'd like to thank our colleagues at D5 for Black Lives (www.d5forblacklives.com) for engaging in initial discussions with our committee about public safety. We will be jointly examining recent Zilker Park crime statistics provided by District 5 Council Member Ann Kitchen's office in an effort to make recommendations to help PARD and APD make sure that Zilker Park is a model of twenty-first century innovation and inclusive public safety.

Thanks also to the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association for joining with us on the Vi-

TBA: Don't Forget to Celebrate Your Neighborhood, Despite the Pandemic

AT THIS POINT IN THE PANDANGIT, we are all looking for something to celebrate. ZNA President Bill Bunch is anticipating the end of virtual meetings, and other ZNA members are looking forward to neighborhood happy hours, maybe by this fall, along with a return to classes at Zilker Elementary. When COVID conditions allow, we will have to catch up on some other neighborhood celebrations, such as the completion of 120 new affordable apartments at the Pathways at Goodrich Place, marking the return of old friends and welcoming new residents; last year's increase in voter registration and turnout; the completion of the first full election cycle for the 10-1 City Council; and the fortieth anniversary of the first meeting of ZNA (May 31, 1981). Stay tuned to **ZilkerNeighborhood.org**, for announcements on the return of neighborhood social events.

sion Plan and to the Austin Neighborhoods Council for helping vet our recommendations to be sure they are good for all of Austin.

Over the next several weeks, we will be delving into climate, ecological restoration, and watershed questions along with key transportation strategies, such as:

- Should Zilker Park go "car free"?
- Should there be a park "shuttle" service?
- How much parking is needed?
- What is the capacity of the park and are we loving it to death?
- How much climate mitigation can the park offer?
- What can we do to protect our beautiful watersheds and ecological features?
- How can we make the park even more family friendly?

Please feel free to email us at parcs-env@zilkerneighborhood.org with your thoughts and ideas on what is important about Zilker Park now and in the future. What's your vision for Zilker Park? Let us know! We would love to have you join our efforts. Just reach out if you've got time to help on any issue that you are passionate about.

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

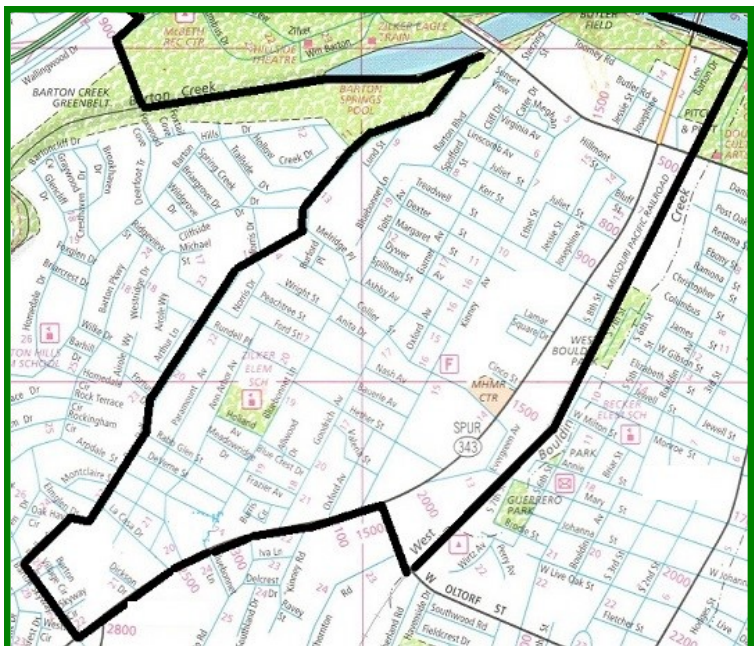
In December, the ZNA membership elected these officers to serve in 2021:

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

The Executive Committee meets the first Monday of most months, at 6:30 pm, via Zoom until further notice.

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.



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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