

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

Fall Meeting- October 18, 2011

All executive officers present.

Call to meeting at 6:50

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes, seconded, no opposition, motion carries

Treasurer's Report

Ellen Pitluk. Balance of account, \$14,107.87. Paypal account, \$304.12.

Donations towards fire signs totaled \$460.00 of which \$267.44 was used. Extra funds came about as C3 productions paid for 15 signs. Kay Killen has recommended extra funds be used for printing of additional signs or rolled into Disaster Preparedness funds. Motion to keep money and roll in Disaster Preparedness Committee, seconded, no discussion, no opposition, motion carries.

The upgrade of the speakers for the PA sound system turned out to be \$175 per speaker (and stand) and not for both as originally discussed in July 26, 2011 meeting. Motion to reimburse Art Stone \$375.00 for upgraded PA speakers. Seconded, no opposition, motion carries.

Fire Prevention and Disaster Preparedness Committee

Patricia Wilson is chair but not present. Members of committee participated in getting certified for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Susan Donaldson spoke noting CERT is geared towards neighborhood and residents. CERT people are responsible for directing emergency actions until Fire Department or other City or State officials show up. CERT Classes are free to everyone. November 3rd 6pm next Disaster Meeting at Susan Donaldson's house at 2217 Barton Cliff Cove. Jim Disher, a former Long Beach CA resident, has dealt with numerous Los Angeles wildfires. He brought waterproof document bags (available at entrance table) which were provided by TexasPrepares.org – linked to the BHNA website.

Firewise Program

Guest speakers Keith Worley, national representative for Firewise and Josh Porshay from Austin Fire Department. Biggest thing in the Firewise program revolves around community effort. Get out and keep in contact with all your neighbors. During wildfires most homes catch fire from burning embers and brands, which typically the fire starts on the roof. Do firework on your property, remove the fire fuel, to reduce risk to everyone around you.

Keith noted the following: Main thing is awareness and personal responsibility. Keep your yard free of fire hazards. The Firewise program helps to get you organized and to stay that way. For official Firewise certification a neighborhood board must be formed – which Barton Hills has in the Disaster Preparedness Committee. Work with Austin Fire Department to have a neighborhood/community assessment done. Sponsor a Firewise day for the community. Completion of official paperwork and having all phases checked off and approved.

Josh advised to go to the Firewise website and educate yourself. Complete the Ready Set Go program. Simple things to do to reduce fire danger at your home. Make sure gutters are cleaned out. Get rid of dead brush, otherwise known as ladder fuel. Get dead brush out from and away from wooden decks.

Election of BHNA officers for 2012

The BHNA would like to thank the following officers who are stepping down, for their duty this past year. Craig Smith, President; Ellen Pitluk, Treasurer; Jennifer Cook, corresponding secretary; Jeff Embree, Austin Neighborhood Council rep.

The following residents were nominated and approved for the BHNA officer positions 2012:

Melissa Hawthorne – President

Kay Killen – Vice President

Kerry Price – Treasurer

David Poisson- Recording Secretary

Leah Golden – Corresponding Secretary

Tom Nuckols – Austin Neighborhood Council Representative

Sunny Luther – Membership Outreach

Congratulation to all the newly elected members !!!

Outreach Activities

Sunny Luther chair. BHNA considered doing a fall event but both the church and elementary school were unavailable. Spring Fling and potluck dinner being planned for late March/early April. Movie night also being considered. Sign up sheet for 4th of July parade and outreach committee assistance being passed around.

Neighborhood Improvement Projects

School water fountain. Stephan Farris, neighborhood resident, has acquired a multi level, stainless steel, water fountain. Bid for the installation work is guaranteed not to exceed \$1325.03. City of Austin would also like for the BH

neighborhood to adopt the park through the Adopt A Park program. Austin Independent School District will pay for the water use through the fountain.

Motion to Adopt Barton Hills playground through the Adopt A Park program, seconded, no opposition, motion carries.

Motion for AISD agreement to relieve school of responsibility to maintain water fountain. Motion seconded, no opposition, motion carries.

Motion to appropriate \$1325.03 towards water fountain permitting and installation. Motion seconded, no opposition, motion carries.

Doggie Poop Bags. Craig Smith. First dispenser was installed at the intersection of Wilke and Barton Parkway. Within first few weeks 300 bags were used. \$600 was appropriated from last quarterly meeting to buy 4 dispensers, so additional 3 units are now ordered. One will be installed near the BH market/ Barton Hills Park Place apartment complex, other locations to be determined.

Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness. Meeting set for November 3, 6pm at Susan Donaldson's house at 2217 Barton Cliff Cove.

Short Term Rentals

Peter Hess, Committee chair for Neighborhood Development. There are approximately 50-60 short term rental properties within the Barton Hills/Zilker neighbor area. Long term rentals are defined as a year long lease, short term rentals are continually changing clientele, daily, weekly, monthly. Commercial enterprises, such as Home Away, are renting these homes out on a short term basis. New Language coming out in proposal from the Austin City Council focusing on properties bought for a business, which would be homes not homesteaded on the property tax records. Argument is these houses take children away from school district. These types of rentals are against deed restrictions, but the city will not enforce it. It is up to the home owner to take private legal action against Short Term rental owner. There are no neighborhood wide restrictions, there are over 100 sets. The BHNA can take a position but cannot enforce anything as we are not a Home Owners Association.

Motion for BHNA to adopt position against short term rentals. Seconded, opposition set forth. Vote had to be taken. 21 to 9 in favor of motion.

Neighborhood Watch Committee

John Luther. Neighborhood watch is growing, 4 new volunteers since last meeting. APD gave certificate of appreciation to Rabb Rd resident who assisted in stopping a robbery in progress.

Greenbelt Guardians

Glee Ingram. Walter Passmore gave the Greenbelt Guardians a green light for more invasive species removal work as well as fire danger signs down in the creek.

Barton Hills Gardening Club

Speaker giving a presentation on Day Lilies at the Zilker Botanical Gardens on October 25th

Neighborhood Association was approached by the Austin Parks Department about allowing a charity concert to take place on the polo fields (grounds near the Christmas tree) in April/May 2012. Motion made to oppose additional event. Seconded, no discussion, no opposition, Motion carries.

Meeting Adjourned