

# **Barton Hills Neighborhood Association**

## **Minutes for July 24, 2012 quarterly meeting**

All board members present except for Kerry Price

### **President's Report**

Melissa Hawthorne. Meeting agenda at entrance table. Two issues to talk about. Brief announcement from neighborhood citizen regarding the elimination of bus route 29. Bus goes through Barton Hills and Zilker neighborhoods, goes through downtown and goes out to UT. This is a bus worth saving and Barton Hills and Zilker has the voting power to save this bus route.

Approval of Minutes. Motion forwarded, second, no opposition, motion carries.

Mary Ann Neely of the Barton Hills Garden Club announces a meeting on September 23.

No further comments or issues from the president's report.

### **Membership Committee**

Kay Killen, VP. In 2011 there were 275 members, in 2012 there are now 428 members. Listserv is a good community voice as far as sharing neighborhood info and happenings. There were 675 email addresses registered on the listserv. On September 15 all dead emails will be removed.

### **Treasurer Report**

Melissa Hawthorne, in place of Kerry Price. Report available at table. \$2,000 committed towards park drinking fountain not noted on report. \$14,333 current balance in account.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

John Luther. Map of BH showing types of crimes since January 2012 displayed on stand. From Jan to July there were 12 home break-ins, not good news, but at least it is getting better and much lower than the past 3 years. There were 12 vehicle burglaries, which is typically a nighttime event. 6 thefts including stealing of a bicycle and lawn

ornaments. 3 criminal mischief events being graffiti, vandalism, etc. The neighborhood patrol is endorsed by the Austin Police Department. There are currently 25 people on neighborhood patrol. The only item carried by patrol members is a phone, no weapons.

### **Greenbelt Guardians**

Glee Ingram. Last work day, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Gus Fruh trail was resurfaced with staylock, and there was general clean up and invasive species removal. Austin Discovery School had 25 students that helped out with a class program that integrates math and science with the natural world. Next work day is September 29<sup>th</sup> which is National Lands Day. Work day will be done with members from Hill Country Conservancy.

### **Membership Outreach**

Sunny Luther. Thank you cards being sent out to all sponsors of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and picnic. Picture of firetruck #11 being presented to Austin Fire Department Station #11. Winter sing along being discussed to sing holiday songs, have hot cider and chocolate, in coordination with the school.

### **Area Development**

Peter Hess. Melissa Hawthorne speaking on Peter's behalf as he is on vacation. Site plan was filed for the piece of land next to Reds Porch. Lot development and density is possible on South Lamar, not on creekside/neighborhood side. Traffic Impact Analysis and neighborhood traffic hard to project with new apartments being built. Question/suggestion about lowering speed limit on Lamar.

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Susan Donaldson. Recent news is that the City of Austin and the Fire Department got together to make a website regarding fire conditions and what you can do to improve conditions at your house. You will be able to log into the site and it will tell you about the area and your house. Handouts available on table for different situations and fire useage. Map of evacuation plan showing main routes and alternative routes in the neighborhood. There are different reasons to evacuate, SWAT, apartment fire, creek

fire, etc. Have a bag ready to go with any medicines or pet supplies. Austin is a hub for hurricane evacuation, in particular the Galveston area. Barton Hills neighborhood has mapped all fire hydrants between Robert E Lee and Barton Hills Drive in preparation for ACL festival. There will be no parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant and 30 feet of a stop sign. Two websites to look at to make your home safer; [www.prepared.ly](http://www.prepared.ly) and [www.texaswildfirerisk.com](http://www.texaswildfirerisk.com)

### **Austin Neighborhood Council**

Tom Nuckols. Focus on 3 major issues. Imagine Austin 30 year plan. Most interesting calls for total rewrite of city land development code and more urban density. Single member district being voted upon. Currently all 7 members are elected at large. Whole city votes for all council members and mayor. Under single member district there would be 10 single member district elections and one city wide election for mayor. Alternative proposal is a hybrid with 10 single districts, 2 at large, and at large mayor election. Third issue is short term rentals. There has been passionate dialogue on the listserv regarding the STR issue. This is a council agenda to be voted on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Nomination Committee**

A nominations committee needs to be created opposed to the current volunteering for any available positions. Stan Ostrum, Peter Hess and tom Nuckols volunteered to head committee.

### **Barton Hills Park**

Kathleen Schneeman and Stefan Pharis. Initial meetings and planning began for the Barton Hills Park project in January of 2012. Info began being posted regarding possible projects and all details of plan were vetted with the Barton Hills Elementary School. Contact with City of Austin has been initiated although it is somewhat slow. Outreach phase needs to be stronger and more community support is needed.

Stefan Pharis: Plan is conceptual and in its first phase which there will be changes as things go along. We are going with the matching plan where the neighborhood contributes 20% of the funds and the city kicks in 80%. It is a 5 year plan but can be extended if needed. The maximum contribution from the city is \$150,000. The Barton Hills Elementary PTA has contributed \$12,000 and the neighborhood has put in \$2,000 so far. In kind services are counted such as Stefan's design work can be billed towards

the project and volunteer labor hours count towards the neighborhood contribution. Tree folks have committed to donating 100 trees.

The most current project, the rain garden is used for water quality and erosion control device used to divert water flow and let the water soak into the ground. Erosion is the worst problem on the park grounds. A natural amphitheater is going to be built using the sport court as the main stage. There will be a wildlife habitat area on the back side of the school. A baseball and soccer field will be built on the back corner. This park plan provides the best bang for the buck for our neighborhood.

Motion to support 5 year plan, seconded, no opposition, motion passed.

Motion to pledge \$2,000 towards plan, seconded, no opposition, motion carries.

MEETING ADJOURNED