

Barton Hills News

Goings-on in our neighborhood

P.O. Box 2042 • Austin, Texas • 78768-2042

Election of BHNA Officers For 2008

We will be electing officers to serve on the 2008 Executive Committee at our October meeting. Officers are elected from the active membership and serve for a one year term beginning with the January meeting. Officers shall not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Nominations may be presented to the membership by the Nominating Committee or from the floor at the October meeting.

The following is a list of elected positions on the Executive Committee and a brief summary of the responsibilities for each position.

President:

- Presides at all meetings of the Association.
- Serves as an ex-officio member of all standing committees.
- Co-signs checks drawn on the Association account.

Vice President:

- Fulfills the duties of the President in his absence.
- Chairs the Membership Committee.
- Serves as Parliamentarian of the Association.

Treasurer:

- Responsible for collection and disbursement of Association monies.
- Maintains records and receipts of expenditures.
- Prepares a year-end report for distribution at the first meeting of the year.
- Maintains current membership roster
- Serves as network administrator for mail service.

Recording Secretary:

- Keeps an accurate record of all Association business.
- Responsible for accumulation and maintenance of the central permanent file of Association records.

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BHNA General Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

(Corner of Barton Hills Dr. and Barton Skyway)

6:00 – 7:00 pm - Social/Dinner Hour

Pizza, pasta, salad and drink:

\$6.00 per person

7:00 pm - General Meeting

October Meeting Agenda

- Opening Business
 - Minutes
 - Treasurers Report
 - ANC Representative Report
- Vote on Park Funds Expenditure
- Election of Officers for 2008
- Committee Reports
- Adjourn

Message From The President

There are so many good things to report to the membership this time. We have increased our membership, expanded National Night Out to several more streets in the neighborhood, received funds to improve our parks, added a very successful Social/Dinner hour to our quarterly meetings and had a fantastic Fourth of July parade and celebration. We can be proud of our neighborhood and our association members for making these things possible.

The Fourth of July Parade was great. What a turnout we had. There were decorated bikes, trikes, strollers, dogs, babies, and politicians. There was food, games, a fire truck, policemen, constables and seed spitters. And most of all there were neighbors; lots of neighbors. It gets better every year because we are a neighborhood of participants. Some walked in the parade and some cheered the marchers on. But all were part of this great day in Barton Hills.

On behalf of BHNA I would like to express a very special thank you to our parade sponsors: **Rockin Tomato, La Feria Mexican Restaurant and Wells Fargo Bank.** We also owe a special thank you to **Run-Tex** who provided all the water, lemonade and the coolers and ice as well. Not only did they provide these wonderful drinks, they delivered and set them up for us. We love you all.

The next time you see Kay Killen, our 2007 BHNA Parade Coordinator, give her a big hug. She is the one who organized the event. Well done Kay.

We also owe our thanks to the many folks who brought cookies, watermelons and treats of all kinds. I wish I could thank each of you personally because I sampled all the goodies and loved them.

I am already thinking of next Fourth of July. See you there. – John



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Executive Committee Recommendations For Expenditures Of Park Funds

After reviewing the parks project proposals submitted to the membership at the June 26, 2007 general meeting and considering the questions and comments from that meeting, the Executive Committee is of the opinion that all of the proposals submitted for the Barton Hills Neighborhood Park and the Barton Creek Greenbelt address the needs of each park as identified by the ad hoc committee. For those of you who were not present for discussion of the parks proposals at the last general meeting, you can find more information on line at <http://www.steckler.org/BHNA>

We have some great proposals, but we do not have enough money available to fund all of the projects. The Executive Committee recommends providing \$20,000 to the Greenbelt Guardians for use in the Barton Creek Greenbelt and \$11,250 for use in the Barton Hills Neighborhood Park. Due to the nature of the projects proposed for the Barton Hills Neighborhood Park and the unclear division of the park between the Austin Parks Department and the Austin Independent School District, the Executive Committee will retain the right to revisit the needs of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Park on or after June 2009 for possible reallocation of then remaining funds to other parks projects in the neighborhood.

We look forward to seeing you in October for the vote.



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Corresponding Secretary:

- Responsible for communication within and outside the Association.
- Responsible for the BHNA newsletter.
- Responsible for posting notices of all meetings.

Community Partnerships Coordinator:

- Responsible for marketing and advertising for the newsletter.
- Responsible for obtaining business sponsorships of BHNA activities.

Delegate to the Austin Neighborhood Council

- Attends all meetings of ANC.
- Report significant activities of ANC to BHNA membership.

Dinner/Social Hour

We extend a warm invitation for all in Barton Hills to join us on October 9 at 6:00 pm for our Social/Dinner hour. We can promise plenty of good food and a terrific opportunity to catch up with your neighbors.

Please remember: we order food based on attendance expectations so once the food is gone, it's gone, so try to arrive as close to 6:00 pm as possible. Dinner is only \$6.00 per person, which covers hot pizza, pasta or green salad, dessert and a drink. This menu is subject to change if our friends at Rockin' Tomato have something new they would like to share, but it will always be fantastic.

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association social hour is a wonderful time to enjoy great food, meet new neighbors and catch up on the local buzz. We look forward to seeing you on October 9 at 6:00 pm!

Kimberly White Erlinger, BHNA Secretary



Barton Hills Neighborhood Association 2007 Membership Form

Join or renew your membership. Annual dues are \$10.00 per family. Make checks payable to BHNA.
Mail your membership check to:

BHNA
P.O. Box 2042
Austin, TX 78768-2042

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household 18 years or older
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Friends of Barton Hills Association

The BHNA expresses its gratitude to the following members who have contributed over and above the established membership fee for 2007. These funds may be used to support the activities of the association that benefit the neighborhood during the year. Thank you.

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Call for Volunteers

Did you get this newsletter? Excellent, then you are eligible to join the Barton Hills Neighborhood Executive Committee. Why join? Because a few years ago a lady rallied the neighborhood around a single cause: keeping the city from finishing Barton Skyway. She recognized the power of organization, and like that guy on the television commercial, she had a network to stand behind her. What have we done lately? Well, last year we got the city to stop charging vehicles to park by the baseball fields on Robert E. Lee Rd. because it caused people to park on Barton Hills Dr. We also got the city to build the filtration pond further in the "soccer field" to keep it out of sight and so it does not interfere with the kids and parents who use that area for soccer. More? We got the city to build a sidewalk on the west side of Barton Hills Dr. Parents are now more comfortable walking their kids to school and the market says they get more walkers in the store. We maintain trails in our area of the greenbelt for our neighbors and the people of Austin. We have relationships with the principle at Barton Hills Elementary, police officers including commanders, the parks department, the Austin City Limits Festival, city council members, and others. Why did she start all this? Because Betty Brown found a home in the neighborhood.

Join the Barton Hills Neighborhood Executive Committee today.

—Eddie Torres, Vice President

B.H. Garden Club Invitation

The Barton Hills Garden Club extends an invitation to everyone in the neighborhood to join the group or just come and visit. The group meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, September through May. If interested call Bernice Billings at 442-8597.

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Greenbelt Guardian Gleenings

Report on 7/7/07 Work Day at Gus Fruh Trail

There was a short, magical break in the record summer rains that created our coolest, most pleasant summer work day yet. We got a great start with Maria's tacos provided by BHNA. Then we set to work taming the emerging rain forest, and repairing the trail erosion damage caused by the record rains. We continued removing alien invader plants, and hauled out trash. Trailside weeds and giant 10' tall Ragweed stalks were uprooted. As always, it felt great to see the results of a day's hard work and to feel the camaraderie of shared effort toward a common cause. We had 26 volunteers who offered their efforts and ingenuity to the Greenbelt, for a total of 91 hours of donated time, at an in-kind value of \$970.00.

Invasive Species Removal Boon

In June, the "Green Corps" Pilot Project initiated by Johnny Barnett was completed. Three teenage boys and one to three adults wrenched, mattoxed, wrestled, and "rock and rolled" large Ligustrums out of the ground. The wet soils, combined with teenage energy and adult mentoring, resulted in the removal of some 75 Ligustrums up to 24' tall and 5" in diameter. With 51 hours of creative labor, a dark and dense 45 square foot area near the creek was liberated, and sun shone in revealing three large, stately Pecan trees.

Serendipitously, the Austin Parks Foundation then referred the Environmental Corps crew of American Youth Works to the Greenbelt Guardians, to help support our invasive species removal initiative. For two days, a supervised crew of 10 to 20 trained high school youth expanded the newly cleared area to the size of a kid's soccer field! They cut up the felled trees and formed filtering windrows on the entire upside slope, forming a continuous vegetative pile 3' tall and 6' wide, and 100 feet long! Next we revegetate the area with native plants that will stabilize this fragile riparian area. We are very grateful for this extremely generous volunteer donation of 232 crew hours, at an in-kind value of \$3,381.

Upcoming Work Day: Saturday, October 20, at Homedale Trail

We are planning to work at Homedale Trail on Saturday, October 20, from 9:00 to 1:00. It is very important that we make our presence felt at this trail and bring it into more active and protective guardianship.

The flowing waters and the wide, flat rock "beach area", combined with lax City enforcement of the alcohol, fire and camping prohibitions, have allowed a careless culture of abuse to develop. A graffiti tagging competition seems to be going on, with the kiosk and park signs and foot bridge and rock flats used as the "canvas". Beer cans are strewn carelessly along the trail. Illegal encampments are set up on both sides of the creek, with active fire pits. It is very disturbing to see.

John Cook and his assistant are doing their best to remove the trash and encampments, but it is going to take a larger team effort to make a difference. A group of us are working to get the attention of city leaders and law enforcement and parks staff, to help bring things back into control. We hope to have high participation at the work day to bring the beneficial energy back!

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Greenbelt Guardian Coordinator



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Barton Hills News

The newsletter of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association is published quarterly and is supported by the advertisements of our generous sponsors. It is distributed in print to homes in Barton Hills in February, June, April and October.