

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
4-26-2011

Committee Members Present: 7; Jennifer Cook absent

Members Present: 51

Commence: 6:42

Recognition of Art Stone:

Art Stone, a 54 year Barton Hills resident, is leaving the neighborhood and moving to Colorado after the 4th of July parade. Art provided the PA system for 4th of July parades and neighborhood meetings. When Greenbelt Guardians was started Art cut down cedar trees from his own backyard which were used to line the Homedale greenbelt trail access.

Call to Volunteers for 4th of July Parade:

Sign up sheet at entrance table and one passed around for volunteers needed for preparations for the parade and following neighborhood party at the Barton Hills Elementary school playground and park. BHE choir expected to provide music.

Departure of Recording Secretary:

Meredith Weiss is resigning her position due to the imminent arrive of the third child to her family. Meredith is thanked for her outstanding service to the association.

Elections:

Nomination for Recording Secretary: David Poisson. Motion made, seconded and approved by vote.

Approval of January 25, 2011 Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes (with correction to Craig Smith's name), seconded and approved by vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Copy of treasurer's report available at entrance.

Funds being transferred from Paypal account to BHNA checking account in \$500 increments per month. Paypal balance at \$930.44. Checking account balance at \$13828.84. Total balance of \$14759.28.

- Projected expenses estimate on second page of report.
- Unknown/variable estimates were 4th of July parade/party expenses, incoming revenue from newsletter advertising payments, and ACL tickets.
- Very bottom of back page, less estimated expenses there will be approximately \$7891.84 available for use.
- Future neighbor projects and resulting expenses to be talked about in meeting

Motion to approve minutes, seconded, and approved by vote.

Austin Fire Department Presentation - Wildfire Prevention:

Battalion Chief Jeff Pine (a Zilker resident) and Josh Anderson give *Fire Wise* presentation regarding fire safety to educate home owners living next to wild land areas how they can protect their home from wildfires in drought situations.

Main thing is to reduce the 'fuel' available around your home. Low budget, sweat equity things that can be done around your home to make it more fire safe:

1. Trim overhanging branches
2. Remove dead leaves from around home and yard, at least 3 ft clearance from house.
3. Mow tall dry grass and water lawn to prevent a fire path.
4. Prune overgrown shrubs.
5. Remove leaves and debris from gutters and roof.
6. Remove any tree branches that are close to the ground.
7. Yard Equipment maintenance. Proper use of tools so sparks are not created.

*Store any gas containers a minimum of 30 feet from home.

Wind, Fuel, and Topography are the main fire elements. The only element we can control is the fuel element by doing the above listed items. Fire department's number one priority is getting people and pets out of the path of the fire. The fire department needs a 30 foot buffer zone to make a stand against a wildfire threatening a house. Fires in the greenbelt are typically fought with hand tools and water carried in, since hydrant access is unlikely.

911 dispatchers are not familiar with Barton Creek access points, but the fire department is, so ask to speak directly to the fire department to give exact map location. Cell phones have GPS reporting if 911 is called. Best way is to give your home address and then direct fire department to fire location upon their arrival. Use terms like 'Upstream' or 'Downstream' and 'River Left' and 'River Right' (when looking down stream) when describing creek locations.

4th of July Parade:

Executive committee discussed the budget for July 4th parade and has asked for authorization from the membership that no more than \$1000 be put forth for the parade. Craig Smith will chair the committee to handle the details and expenses related to the parade and after party. A motion is set forth to appropriate actual expenses for the parade for up to, but not to exceed \$1000. Motion is approved and seconded and approved by vote.

Save Barton Hills Elementary Campaign:

Kelly Tagle, president of BHE PTA. On May 16th AISD superintendent is supposed to release a 10 year master facilities plan for moving forward and finalize it by the end of 2011. Status of Barton Hill Elementary is unknown in the big picture, but school is not subject to closure through the 2011-2012 school year. PTA has formed 8 new committees to strategize and address problems. PTA plans to have discussions with AISD trustees and board members regarding school boundaries, transfer policy, and the vertical alignment of the schools. Barton Hills elementary has lost 1 teacher and 2 teacher assistants.

Cheryl Anne Campbell, Friends Of Barton Hills, neighborhood task force coordinator. All documents produced and presented to AISD in regards to countering arguments to close BHE and discrediting the task force can be seen on Save Austin Schools website. May is the AISD master plan and June is the AISD budget. Barton Hills ranked 10th by Children At Risk Organization, which it was 1 of 2 Austin elementary schools in top 10 ranking.

Neighborhood Improvement Projects

A January call on the list serve netted a number of neighborhood improvement projects that were suggested by area residents. The executive committee reviewed all ideas and divided them into two categories; those that could potentially be funded by the BHNA with volunteer labor and expertise, and perhaps matching funds from the city or parks department, and the projects that could not be done without substantial city or government assistance. A committee is being led by Melissa Hawthorne to address the projects that require city assistance.

Seven projects are set forth on a list that was sent out on list serve and available at sign in table. The executive committee is asking the members of the BHNA to vote on the projects that they consider most important to them. This vote merely starts the process and each project will be researched regarding the costs and labor involved, and will not begin until authorized by the BHNA. Voting will be done to reduce the number to 3 or 4 projects that will fit within the budget. Voting also available on list serve until May 6th for those members not present.

Budget of \$6,000 suggested by Executive Committee for neighborhood improvement projects, of course depending upon cost of projects when researched. Suggestion brought forth to executive committee to use funds to sponsor events for the BHNA that will attract more members and participation in the neighborhood association, such as a fundraiser or neighborhood fair separate of the annual 4th of July event.

Motion set forth for overall budget and seconded and approved by vote.

Development Committee Report

Peter Hess, committee chair. Red's Porch filed for an outdoor music permit. Neighborhood previously voted against giving them a permit in 2009. Enforcement and notification of actual sound ordinance involves properties within 600 feet of venue, which there are only 3 houses. Problem exists of noise traveling down the greenbelt and question of whether it warrants special protection with any of the habitat and species within the area. One half to one third of vacant adjacent lot next to Reds falls under Balcones federal protection.

The Terrace office building on Mopac frontage road is about to begin the Phase III build. The build manager has reached out to neighborhood association on input for a building exterior that will be acceptable.

There is a proposed sidewalk improvement project that will widen the existing sidewalk on the west side of Robert E Lee up to Barton Hills Dr, and possibly as far as the Rabb Rd/Melridge intersection. The one dissenting party is a Zilker resident/developer who wants the sidewalk to be on the Zilker side.

Greenbelt Guardians

Glee Ingram committee chair. Next workday is June 4th, Saturday. Notice of workday will be sent out 2 weeks in advance on list serve. Evasive species clearing is stopped for 6 months until September because of nesting season. Work done in between is packing of windrows to address erosion issues. Impact Austin grant has 5 people are working full time on greenbelt.

Neighborhood Watch

John Luther committee chair. There are enough volunteers for neighborhood patrols 5 days a week, including night time and early morning patrols. There were 10 vehicle burglaries and 8 resident burglaries within the first 4 months of 2011. A local neighbor has GPS mapped 26 illegal campsites down on the greenbelt and forwarded the information to the police.

No further business.

Motion to adjourn meeting, seconded and approved