

**Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
Minutes for July 26, 2011**

Committee Members Present: 7; Glee Ingram and Peter Hess absent.

Members Present: 44

Commence at 6:55 pm.

Recognition given to the Neighborhood Patrol

The Barton Hills neighborhood watch patrol was awarded state recognition from the Texas Crime Association as the best neighborhood watch in the state of Texas. Great job to John Luther and all the patrol volunteers for all your hard work in making our neighborhood the safest in the state !

4th of July parade security

Recognition given to Richard McCain, a constable for the Travis County Sheriff Department, for the security provided for the 4th of July parade.

Approval Of April 26, 2011 Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

Ellen Pitluk. Copy of Treasurer's report available at entrance table.

Balance of \$12,011. Commitment of \$7891 on improvement projects. Parade expenses were less than \$200 with sponsor's donations provided.
Motion to approve report, seconded, no opposition, motion carries.

Austin Public Work Department - Rick Colbrunn, speaker.

There will be major utility and street repair occurring from September 2011 through March 2013 within the Barton Hills and Zilker neighborhoods. A handout was available containing a map that outlined all streets involved. Majority of street work will involve replacement of water and waste water lines. Texas Gas service will come in advance of the particular streets being worked on to replace the gas lines. Streets with work done will be entirely resurfaced. Streets with work scheduled include Ann Arbor, Arpdale, Cliffside, DeVerne, Paramount, Rabb Glenn, Ridgeview, Rockingham, Rock Terrace and Westridge.

3 streets will be worked on at a time, none adjacent to each other. Half of the street will be worked on, then the other half.

Any water main repair will require a 6-8 hour shut down. There will be door to door notices put up 48 hours in advance of work being done on any street. Listserve will contain the exact details of the streets being worked on. To sign up for a status update of the project please email Rick Colbrunn at rick.colbrunn@ci.austin.tx.us

Austin School District Precincts - Kathleen Schneeman

There is going to be a redistricting of the AISD area for a balancing of the districts. There are two redistricting plans involving Barton Hills, one plan includes Barton Hills with Travis Country, and the Enfield/Tarry Town/ West Austin area, and the second plan includes areas that are consistent with South Lamar and South Mopac. Redistricting is based on the voting age population, and based on the numbers it was estimated that we will not be losing any voting power by this redistricting . AISD trustees will vote on this in September.

Motion was put forth to appoint neighborhood association reps to handle the details of keeping the neighborhood informed and coming to a consensus on which plan would be more beneficial to the neighborhood and students. Details will be posted on listserve.

Motion seconded, no discussion, motion carries.

Zilker Gateway Neighborhood Project – Mary Ann Neely

The Zilker Gateway Neighborhood Project formed a partnership with the Zilker and Barton Hills neighborhood associations and Barton Springs businesses to keep up the medians on Barton Springs Road. A grant was created to provide for ½ the amount of work expenses needed to maintain the medians on a monthly basis (estimated at \$1000 a month), with the other ½ to be provided by the two associations and businesses. Mary Ann Neely requested a \$100 contribution towards the project.

A motion was put forth for \$200 towards the Zilker Gateway initiative. Motion seconded, no discussion, motion carries.

Short Term Rentals – Kay Killen

The city of Austin has identified approximately 500 single family residences being used for short term rentals, which is defined by any lease term less than a year. A map was available at the table which showed a large number of these units within the Barton Hills/Zilker area. The city is trying to define how to regulate the usage of these types of properties.

Zilker has submitted to a letter to the City talking about how these temporary rentals displace residents, lowers the number of school children, and the associated problems with property upkeep and the tenants occupying these rentals.

BHNA PA System – Jennifer Cook

Plan to sell or trade current big PA speakers for smaller more manageable ones. Store that supplied original speakers would take current speakers in trade, plus \$175 and an ad in the neighborhood news letter for a smaller model that include a tripod stand to mount the speakers on.

Motion for executive committee to appropriate \$200 towards new speakers. Motion seconded, no discussion, motion carries.

Neighborhood Improvement Projects – Craig Smith

Discussion of the neighborhood improvement projects voted on at April 26th meeting.

The water fountain at the Barton Hills school/park was the top vote getter. Since the land is a park, the AISD agreed to allow a fountain to be installed. Parks and Recreation estimates the installation to be around \$1400. The BHNA has decided to not ask for authorization of funds until an exact cost and date of project can be determined.

The doggy litter bags was another top vote getting. The cost of the dispenser, bags, post and sign would run anywhere from \$138-\$350. City has to approve location of dispenser if put on right of way. More research needed before authorizing funds for exact number needed, location and cost. Motion set forth for \$600 to be spent towards 4 dispensers. Motion seconded, no discussion, motion carries.

Membership Drive and Social Project. Sunny Luther has suggested that \$500 be put forth for a membership outreach social function to be organized, in the immediate future, in an attempt to increase the number of members in the BHNA. Motion seconded, no further discussion, motion carries.

Neighborhood Resilience Plan. Patricia Wilson is organizing a plan to develop and implement a neighborhood resilience plan in the event of an emergency affecting the Barton Hills neighborhood.

The main goal is education on how the neighborhood should respond in the event of an emergency and to possibly have a website outlining this plan with interaction allowed between residents. A core team is to be developed that can coordinate an emergency action. She has organized an initial formation meeting at the Rockin' Tomato on Wednesday August 3 from 5:30-7pm.

Neighborhood Watch Signs. John Luther notes there are around 20 signs throughout the neighborhood. 5-8 of the signs are older and need to be replaced. Signs cost \$32 a piece and installation of the signs has to be coordinated with the city. Exact costs will be determined for the October meeting.

Neighborhood Watch Committee – John Luther

The number of crimes within the neighborhood is significantly down. There were 14 home burglaries as of July 1, compared to 30 in 2010. Same for vehicle burglaries, 14 as of July 1, compared to 30 the previous year. There are regular day time patrol Monday through Friday, with 25-28 volunteers doing one hour shifts.

As noted at the start of the meeting the BH Neighborhood Watch was recognized by the Texas Crime Association as the top neighborhood patrol in the state. Likewise the Austin Police Department has recommended the BH neighborhood watch to many other Austin neighborhood associations, which they have given presentations at 3 meetings and have 3 more scheduled through September. KXAN did an interview and had a reporter and camera ride on a patrol for their story.

Greenbelt Guardians – Stan Ostrum

Work day on June 3rd was done with Land Corp, with work being completed at the Gus Fruh and Homedale trail locations. Next work day scheduled for September 24, in conjunction with National Public Land Day. Quarterly work has been done by the Greenbelt Guardians since 2003.

Area Development – Melissa Hawthorne

Peter Hess not present, Melissa speaking on his behalf. Red's Porch applied for a sound permit, which was granted for a 60 trial period, as well as the requirement of Red's building a three sided enclosure that directs the sound towards the apartment complex. Recommended that if any sound is heard from Red's to call 911 and file a non emergency noise complaint.

Motion to adjourn meeting, seconded, motion carries.