

**BARTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION – Meeting on Jan. 27, 2009**  
**Official Minutes**

**Meeting called to order by Kimberly at 7:00 (All EC members present)**

**Members present: 41 plus 2 visitors\***

Members of the 2009 Executive Committee were introduced. Kay Killen was approved by unanimous vote to join the EC as Austin Neighborhoods Council Delegate. Noted that due to the loss of Jacob VanHorn the EC is still short one member, Community Relations Coordinator. No volunteer stepped forward at this time.

Minutes of the October 2008 meeting were approved.

Preliminary Treasurer's Report approved.

**Neighborhood Watch: John Luther**

Crime is up somewhat in our neighborhood so neighborhood watch is more important than ever. Fortunately all of the crimes are against property. Most of them would be preventable if we did a better job of keeping houses and cars locked, and especially, did not leave valuable property visible in autos.

On another note, John reported that the the Zilker ball fields had become a location for drug sales. Consequently the police launched a sting operation in Dec. which has cleaned up the problem for now. The operation will resume if the drug dealers return.

**Greenbelt Guardians: Glee Ingram**

Next workday is coming up Feb. 7. The activities will be the usual, ie clean up, invasive species, trail maintenance, plus planting some donated plants. Additional volunteers are always welcome. Glee noted that some neighbors are now removing *lugustrum* on their own schedule.

The web site "GreenbeltGuardians.org" is up although not yet in completed form.

Our area of trail is Campbell's Hole to 360. Another group has Zilker to Campbell's Hole. Now another group has taken on 360 to Twin Falls. Glee intends to contact these groups to see if we can usefully cooperate.

Glee also spoke on behalf of Austin Parks Foundation. They have provided various kinds of assistance to GBG over the years. They also sponsor the It's my Park Day to be held this March, which is another effort to improve our local parks. Glee asked that BHNA donate \$500 toward the \$10,000 which Austin Parks Foundation spends to stage this event. After some discussion this donation was approved.

Last item was to be vigilant about oak wilt which continues to invade Barton Hills

**Committee on Area Development/Waterfront Overlay**

Peter Hess spoke, perhaps for the last time, about the Terrace Development. After long and arduous negotiations they agreed to abandon one building and move everything else away from

the neighborhood and towards MoPac. This is now approved by City Council and is a done deal. The deal includes 39 acres removed from development and put in a conservation easement. BHNA thanks with applause to Peter, Melissa and Nan for all of their time and successful effort.

Melissa on Waterfront Overlay: This is a new committee which is considering the current rules about development along Lady Bird Lake. Often the discussion is whether we want to give up something in order to gain something else. In the present discussion this often means the developer wants to build a little higher where the community might get open space or access. It is recognized that some people will always be in opposition to any development whatsoever.

Recognizing that it would be impractical for Melissa to bring every item to BHNA for a vote, the Association voted to give her authority to act on behalf of the neighborhood.

### **Public Forum**

Kimberly recognized the new members or first-time visitors. She awarded two lucky recipients with certificates for free coffee at our new local shop *Irie Bean*.

From Mary Ann Neely: The median on Barton Springs Road was landscaped when the road was rebuilt a few years ago. However, it has been mostly neglected since then and is in a generally unattractive state. Because for many people this is an entrance to our neighborhood, BHNA voted to send a letter to PARD requesting an upgrade to the maintenance of this median.

Kimberly described the duties of the vacant position of Community Partnership Coordinator, which we would like to fill and soon, especially in time for the upcoming July 4 parade.

From Gail Suttle: Barton Hills Elementary tries to raise funds for the Eagles.. Their donations this year are down. Gail asked if we would consider a donation to the school. This item was deferred pending some better explanation of what uses they have for the funds..

Kimberly made a few comments about our recent community survey, which did produce numerous responses. Results will be further discussed in the Bulletin and at the next meeting.

**Adjourned at 8:10**

**Respectively submitted, Kenneth L. Russell, Recording Secretary**

\*the two visitors were Perla Cavazos, candidate for Austin City Council and a campaign aide. They visited with members during the social hour and departed when the meeting began.