# **Barton Hills Neighborhood Association**

# January 24, 2012 Minutes

#### All executive members present

7:00 pm - Call to meeting

#### **Announcements**

Watermelon wrangler need for 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic and someone to store sound equipment.

## **Approval of Minutes**

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

# Treasurer's Report

Kerry Price, Treasurer \$14,668.15 – cash

769.46 – paypal

\$15.437.61 – total

Approximately \$80 in receivables from previous quarter

### **Vice President Report - Membership**

Kay Killen. 100 addresses entered into email list/membership list. 281 paying BHNA members and 300+ people registered on the neighborhood listserve. Listserve addresses will be reviewed for activity and removed if inactive.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

John Luther. APD Officer Kinley present. More volunteers are needed. A couple burglaries were reported in the Barton Hills and Zilker area. 3 new neighbors trained by BH neighborhood watch or which there are now 30 patrol volunteers. Patrols are active 5 days a week, mainly during the day and some evenings, accounting for 30 hours a week of street patrol. Barton Hills crime stats continually drop year to year with the neighborhood watch. 8:30am to 3:30pm are prime hours for crime to occur. Booth Quinn and Don Madden are major volunteers.

Officer Kinley: North Austin has inquired to APD how South Austin and Barton Hills has such a low crime rate. A neighborhood watch flier was left at entrance table.

#### **Greenbelt Guardians**

Stan Ostrum. Barton Hills neighbors doing quarterly workdays on greenbelt since 2003. Work at two creek entrances, Homedale and Gus Fruh, and area inbetween. The 2012 workday schedule includes 3 full scale work days that coincide with big park days. March 3<sup>rd</sup> – It's My Park day, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – National Trails Day, September 29<sup>th</sup>- National Public Lands day. A few smaller projects planned for specific areas. Glenn Chase posts workdays on the BHNA website. New \$30,000 grant secured from Jack and Carolyn Long to be used to hire contractors to remove heavy stands of ligustrum between Gus Fruh and 360. Golden Cheek Warbler season from March 1<sup>st</sup> thru beginning of September, so no tree removal or cutting with chainsaws can be done

### Neighborhood Outreach and Parade Committee

Sunny Luther. Events being planned throughout the year. Spring Fling at the Barton Hills Elementary school on April 7<sup>th</sup>, which will be a late afternoon/early evening event. Potluck picnic, music, easter egg hunt and various kid and adult games. Barton Hills PTA would like to sponsor a 1k run/walk up Barton Hills Drive. The school yard is ½ park land so future improvements projects are planned.

#### **Area Development**

Peter Hess. Sidewalk on Robert E. Lee is just about complete and the street will be resurfaced and restriped. There will be a bike lane on the uphill side. 1/3 cost of the project was paid by the Zilker Terrace developer the other 2/3s by the city.

On the short term rental issue, the city decided to do further study and impact study. Looking at homesteads and hotel tax, as more than half the short term rentals are homesteaded and not paying hotel tax.

Pedestrian trail connecting Zilker Park to South Austin will be address by a speaker later on in meeting.

Development on South Lamar at Alamo Drafthouse and Lamar Plaza area was vetted by the Zilker neighborhood association. It will be a mixed use site, residential, retail and businesses. Alamo drafthouse is staying.

There have been rumors on Terrace project but no construction has started or resumed.

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Jim Discher. Name changed from Disaster Preparedness to Emergency Preparedness. Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 at Susan Donaldson's house. Committee has been focused on fire prevention in wake of the continuing drought. Neighborhood and a few homes were assessed with more future individual homes to be looked at. The Firewise program focuses on removing fuel, that being dry grass, leaves, low hanging branches. The Firewise application is in progress and for neighborhood to get grants and funding, we all have to work on our yards to remove the fuel hazard. Any work you do will get credited toward the Firewise program, so be sure to document the work and hours and turn them into Susan. Week of February 6<sup>th</sup> is large brush pickup, which is an easy way to clear out larger items such as dead limbs, trees, etc.

### **Austin Neighborhood Committee**

Tom Nuckols. Three majors issues occurring at ANC. 1: The Barton Hills neighborhood association voted to support the ANC resolution towards short term rentals. 2: Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. Issues are being presented and feedback towards the plan is encouraged. Part of the plan focuses on the density on the South Lamar corridor. 3: Single Member Districts. Austin is the largest city to elect city council based on an at large system. Proposal to change to single member district so each district will be adequately and geographically represented by the prevailing population of each district. Proposal was put forth of 10 single member districts and a mayor at large. Also a hybrid variation was looked at, single member districts, mayor and two council members at large. ANC voted for a straight single member district, but at some point the city will probably vote to change the system.

# Cyclocross Event at Zilker Park, presentation

Gary Metcalf. Event planned for two seasons, 2014-2015 in January. USA cycling was doing a site visit of Zilker park. Other cities under consideration were Boulder CO and Asheville NC. The event will be 5 days, Wednesday through Sunday, 7am to 5pm. There will be no evening events and no music. Average attendance is expected to be 700 per day including spectators and participants and 2000 on the weekend days. The event is going to kick in a determines amount to the Parks Dept. for their use. They will also do any repair to damaged areas. Parking to be done on polo fields, which is where the Christmas tree is at. Sunday was the only day in question about handling the parking, Funds would be used to beautify park for trees and elevated stone walls.

Peter Hess put forth motion to support event, seconded and motion passed. A criteria will have to be fully developed to make sure all stipulations are met. Tom Nuckols and Jim Discher volunteered to head committee regarding details

# **Neighborhood Connectivity**

Anique Bodet. Project to build bicycle/pedestrian bridge from Zilker Park and continue the trail over 360 and Barton Creek to the Best Buy shopping area. 70% of the project is paid for by state and federal funds. Work was done with S.O.S and Sierra Club to make sure it meets all environmental standards and regulations. Construction would start in Fall 2013 if everything is approved. Creek structures will be first, then the bridge over 360. The whole trail will be completed by 2015 and will eventually connect with Southwest Parkway.

# **Water Fountain in Barton Hills Elementary**

Water fountain location will be moved slightly due to sewage line

Motion to adjourn, seconded, motion approved