

# Minutes

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

xx people signed in

Meeting called to order.

**Minutes approved.**

## Announcements:

Robert Nash - creator of 'Save Zilker Tree' effort to remove the Ferris wheel from the Zilker tree area during the holiday season. By the meeting date Robert had over 2000 likes on his Save Zilker Tree Facebook page. He requested that BHNA sign a resolution to have the Ferris wheel moved.

- President commented that the officers will discuss the topic with the COA when meeting with them prior to the Trail of Lights for 2015.

BHNA member - advocated to return Bus 29 to it's original route.

Carol Mann -

- Parade planning and committees being gathered now
- Request that background checks are done on long term and short term rentals for safety reasons
- Request to report unkempt yards in order to support elderly neighbors

## Treasurer's Report –

Previous Balance	\$ 32,492.96
Deposits	\$ 4,653.27
Expenses	\$ 2,218.11
Receivables Outstanding	\$ 900.00
Paypal	\$ 531.21
Current Balance includes Petty Cash for Meeting	<b>\$ 35,509.33</b>
<b>Funds previously earmarked</b>	<b>\$ 5,500.00 Park Mural</b>
	<b>\$ 9,000.00 Greenbelt Guardians Grant</b>
<b>Funds Balance</b>	<b>\$ 21,009.33</b>

## Discussion with District 5 Council Member Ann Kitchen

Ann was welcomed as our new council member. She will be working on appointments to boards and commissions so please contact her if you are interested. She's very interested in being accessible and reiterated to call her with concerns any time.

1st Council initiative: organizing how the council works via a council committee structure. Each Council Member will be assigned to specific work committees.

Public Engagement Task Force: working group to focus on identifying and removing barriers for community members to participate in city civic processes.

Issues raised by BHNA members:

- Transportation
- Bus 29
- S. Lamar Corridor
- Safety on Barton Hills Dr.
- Affordability/property taxes

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## **Presentation on South Lamar Corridor Study**

Alan Hughes of the City Transportation Dept provided a comprehensive presentation on the status of the study. An open house was held on Dec 10th at Zilker Elem with over 130 people present.

Priorities: Pedestrians, bikes and transit

Schedule: Study to be completed by the end of summer 2015

Recommendations/Improvements: dependent on bond election/funding

Highlights:

- expectation of over 50 thousand cars per day on S. Lamar when all condos/apts are inhabited
- open house will occur to share recommended solutions with public
- lots of great questions and concerns raised. go to website for the latest details  
<https://austintexas.gov/department/corridor-studies>

## **Member Participation:**

A group formed following the Oct BHNA meeting to focus on gathering neighborhood input on the possibility of utilizing online voting in order to increase the level of participation in BHNA decision making.

General findings: The group surveyed approx 44 households and the majority favored online voting and sited childcare as an obstacle to attending BHNA quarterly meetings.

Discussion ensued with the following highlights:

- Online committee requested a change be made to the BHNA bylaws to allow for a vote to occur re. online voting at the Jan meeting
- BHNA officers felt the request was too short notice prior to the meeting to provide BHNA members significant enough notice in order to vote at the meeting
- BHNA President suggested that potential bylaw language change be shared via the list-serve & BHNA newsletter to provide notice to members prior to Apr meeting
- President suggested varying meeting times to make them more accessible to families with young children
- Online committee requested that BHNA officers ensure a process exists where projects/ requests/initiatives can be brought forward and handled with transparency

## **Neighborhood Plan:**

Background: Many neighborhoods have created neighborhood plans which are incorporated into Imagine Austin and CodeNext (the initiative following Imagine Austin) is required to be consistent with existing neighborhood plans. The question was posed as to whether we should create a neighborhood plan for Barton Hills. Much discussion ensued due to the experience prior BHNA officers had with the neighborhood plan process in prior years.

Decision: More discussion needs to occur and the topic will be brought forward at a later date.

## **Community Park Update - Roy Smithers:**

**Mural.** The City of Austin approved \$25,563 to be used to construct the Barton Hills Community Park mosaic mural. The Horseshoe Bend/Barton Hills Neighborhood Assn. approved another \$5,500 for the project and the Barton Hills Community Park Executive Committee has approved another \$1,000.

- a. The Neighborhood Assn. has signed a contract with the City to obtain the funds.

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- b. The Neighborhood Assn. Board has approved the mural committee's recommendations of the artists, Wanda Montemayor and Ana Borne, to create and supervise the construction with Rachel Noffke.
- c. Ana Borne is a mosaic teacher at Laguna Gloria and Wanda Montemayor is a counselor at O. Henry Middle School.
- d. Wanda helped create and complete the super big and incredible Deep Eddy mural. All artists are members of the Austin Mosaic Guild.
- e. The first phase of the mural is scheduled for completion in May, 2015 and the final phase is scheduled for completion May, 2016.
- f. Recognize Beatriz Mejia, Mina Kumar and Rachel Noffke for all their work to get this done.
- g. The project has begun--2 Saturdays ago (1/17/15), 26 adults and children worked on tiles.
  - (1) The next workshop (Jan. 31) will include kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students.
  - (2) Then on Feb. 7 a workshop will be held at O. Henry for 2<sup>nd</sup>—4<sup>th</sup> grade students.
  - (3) Then, on Feb. 21 a workshop will be held for Girl Scout Troop 773.
  - (4) Committee will meet this week for long range planning.

2. **Exercise Equipment.** Now that the playscape renovation is completed, the playground committee chaired by Melanie Gantt will tackle selecting, purchasing and installing exercise equipment in the park. Melanie and the committee would like your suggestions, so if you have a suggestion of what exercise equipment you would like to see in the park, please send them to Melanie at [melanie@ganttaviation.com](mailto:melanie@ganttaviation.com).

3. **Cisterns.** The Committee has long struggled with how to irrigate the playing fields of the park. Currently, we are grappling with a proposal to install cisterns to collect the water runoff from the roof of Barton Hills Elementary. The water could then be used to irrigate the park. We might be able to seek a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation to fund this project. This is a long range project which will require a much coordination and funds, but the seeds have been planted—the question is can we get them watered.

4. **Hillside Beautification.** The Committee is in the discussion stages of what to do with the hillside below the playscape. We hope to beautify and transform the hillside into seating for performances that could be held on the slab. Of course, this will be a slow moving project since the City will have to approve whatever we decide to do.

5. **Sidewalks for Barton Hills** —Tara Pitt
- a. Neighborhood Partnering Program with the City of Austin.
  - b. It will require the preparation of a Grant application and matching funds from the Neighborhood. The matching can be \$ or labor or both.

7. **Water Fountain**—4-5 years ago the Neighborhood Assn. earmarked funds for the installation of another water fountain for Barton Hills School. The water line has been installed and we are now just waiting for a permit from the City to install the water fountain which was donated by the City Parks & Rec.

8. **Trash Collection**—I approached the City about trash in the Park and suggested we needed more trash cans strategically placed. They said the City cans cost several hundred \$. They said it would be ok if I bought cans and placed them in the Park. So I spent \$17 a piece, bought plastic cans and placed them in the Park. Then I wanted the City to move two trash containers surrounded by concrete located on the hillside which were never used. The City responded and moved the two cans and containers one near the playscape and one near the swings. There is an improvement of less trash on the ground in the Park.

**Meeting Adjourned - 8:55pm**