

Minutes

April 28, 2015

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

50 people signed in

Meeting called to order.

Minutes approved.

Announcements:

Kay Killen

- pet waste on greenbelt is an issue. Kay is working with Chris Harrington at COA to put signs up at all greenbelt access points.
- fundraiser for Kristen McClain who was killed in a greenbelt accident while on the Starflight crew. Information will be sent via list serve and checks can be sent to BHNA on her behalf.

Dick Kellerman

- Mopac project - 2 flyover lanes are being proposed. Please join a joint Barton Hills and Rollingwood gathering to discuss the proposal on Sat. morning.

Umlauf Presentation by Carla Umlauf

Carla Umlauf shared details of the history and future plans for the Umlauf Sculpture Garden. The COA inherited the house and studio along with additional acreage in 2012. There is a current master plan process taking place which will address future plans for Umlauf. Umlauf would greatly appreciate our input into the planning process and more information can be gathered by contacting Umlauf directly. They have signed a 100 year agreement with PARD to operate the site as a non-profit. The Umlauf family is in support of the partnership and looking forward to the master plan process.

Proposed By-Law Amendment for Online Voting

- bylaw amendment proposed regarding online voting attached to minutes

An overview of the proposed bylaw amendment for online voting was provided by the BHNA President and then posed for discussion. Roy Smithers moved to approve the bylaw per meeting requirements which would then allow for the forum to discuss the proposal. The move to approve was seconded. The general discussion regarding pros/cons/concerns follow:

- Who will tally and organize?
- President can appoint and administrator to administer the vote
- A majority vote of the exec committee can authorize the online vote
- Does it disenfranchise those without computers?
- More details are needed for it to come together
- Mechanics of quorum rules and number of voting participants out of total membership numbers would be an issue. We have 360 dues paying members. How many votes are needed for a yes and for a no vote.

After much discussion the bylaw proposal was brought to a vote which was counted by two members of the exec committee.

Result: 20 Yea, 28 Nay and 2 abstain

Treasurer's Report –

Previous Balance	\$ 35,509.33
Deposits	\$ 1887.00
Expenses	\$ 2,803.22
Receivables Outstanding	\$ 2777.50
Paypal	\$ 394.55

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Current Balance includes Petty Cash for Meeting

\$ 35,037.66

Funds previously earmarked

\$ 5,500.00 Park Mural

\$ 9,000.00 Greenbelt Guardians Grant

Funds Balance

\$ 20,537.66

ANC Report: Tim Moore - (please see attached full report which was also sent via list serve)

Most notable items discussed at ANC meeting: affordable housing crisis, county courthouse renovation plan, issues with CodeNext process, home appraisals expected to increase 12 to 15%.

Community Park Update: Roy Smithers - (please see attachment)

Parade Update: Carol Mann

- Parade Marshal to be announced
- Sponsors are being solicited for parade support
- Lots of positions are still needed to ensure parade success

Neighborhood Watch Update: John Luther

- the current neighborhood watch is a bit understaffed so please consider volunteering
- we've had 2 home burglaries and 5 car break-ins since January
- lock your cars!
- change the bolts on front doors

John and Sunny announced that they are moving to Sun City and leaving Barton Hills after many years of living in the neighborhood. We wished them well and gave a huge round of applause and thanks for all of their years of service to the neighborhood and their neighbors. They will be missed!

Greenbelt Guardian Update: Glee Ingram

- many volunteers were at the greenbelt workday creating great success
- next volunteer work day scheduled for Sept. Specifics on date still to come
- the Parks Dept has reorganized so the greenbelt is now under the purview of Park Rangers. Parks staff will be present on the trail and there will be less focus on maintenance from PARD due to this change.
- donation from BHNA of \$9k plus grant dollars will begin to be utilized in Sept. when the work begins. More details to come.

Central Texas Regional Authority Presentation

A representative from the Central Texas Regional Authority presented on the pending changes to Mopac from Cesar Chavez to Slaughter Lane. An environmental study was completed on the project and 3 open houses were held in Feb. The goal of the proposed changes is to decrease traffic times and improve entrance and exit ramps.

There will be an add of 2 new express lanes in each direction that will be toll with the exception of transit vehicles which will drive free of toll on those lanes. The goal is to ensure travel speed of 50 mph on the express lanes consistently.

Another round of open houses to discuss the project is slated for August

Project website - projectsouth.com - be sure to check it out.

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Second Mopac Improvement Project - Palmer Lane to Cesar Chavez

This project encompasses a proposed widening of the bridge over Barton Creek or the building of a new structure over the creek in order to increase lanes. The purpose is to ensure 'travel time certainty'.

Cost of projects - \$350 to \$400m for approximately 8 miles.

The speaker fielded feedback/concerns/questions from BHNA members and recommended we attend upcoming open houses in August.

US Dept of Agriculture - Urban Coyotes - Stefan Hunt:

Speaker Stefan Hunt shared information regarding the handling of coyotes in urban areas. A couple of interesting things to note:

- coyotes travel so will only be in one area for a period of time (months or so)
- the loss of cats to coyotes is not considered aggressive behavior requiring removal of a coyote
- call 311 to report aggressive behaviors of coyotes - note that if they are found to be aggressive they will be physically removed from the area and then euthanized

Proposed Austin Energy Plant - Jerry Lock:

Information provided regarding utilizing solar energy rather than building a gas-fired power plant in east Austin which is currently being proposed by Austin Energy.

Suggestions:

- visit website at www.solarsigasno.org
- Call & email your Council member and the Mayor www.austintexas.gov/page/new-city-council-members
- ask for a meeting with your Council member
- sign up to speak at a Citizen Communication at a Council meeting.

Contact Kaiba White kwhite@citizen.org 512637-9462 to ask question or get involved.

ACL Parking Proposed Changes:

New owner of C3 would like to try a new strategy for parking:

- resident parking only in the hood - residents will require permits of some kind
- logistics being working out and will be shared in July meeting.

Other Issues:

Brad Pease - on topic of online voting: suggestion to keep the conversation open so we can collectively discuss further. Brad expressed concern that the process of bringing online voting to the table was not open and considerate of those that would like to see it be considered.

Meeting Adjourned - 9:05 pm