

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2019

1. Call to Order – Mark Gentle
2. Brief announcements – Newsletter did not get out before meeting because of new printing process.
3. Motion made to approve the minutes from prior meeting on October 23, 2018. The motion was approved.
4. Treasurer's Report (2018 Q4): discussed by Stan Ostrum

In summary – Total cash on hand = \$33,847.54
Total (earmarked) expenses = \$6,065.00

Total net balance = \$27,782.54

5. Neighborhood Committee Reports
 - A. Park Committee – Melissa Hawthorne
Completed big phase of park – the ball field. One project left next to the stairs that were completed is a seat wall and planter needing to be planted. BHNA just received Austin Parks Foundation grant for the remaining portion. Work may be completed in March.
6. Senior Police Officer Shawn Rougeou (Austin Police Dept.)
Spent approximately 10 years in narcotics and undercover, and 5 years in traffic. He is now a District representative and is involved in “community policing”. Redistricting is believed to now be referred to as D-2 and D-4, with Barton Skyway serving as the dividing line between the two districts. The City is 180 patrol officers short of being at 100% full capacity.

Biggest narcotic problem in the area is prescription pills.

The recent event involving a deal in which drugs were sold to a 13 year-old has been resolved by Officer Rougeou and the perpetrator will be arrested.

Transits and homelessness is a problem here to stay. However, some of the folks panhandling are not homeless, but they may make \$600 - \$1,000 per week. There is no incentive for them to get a job. It is a problem that City Council needs to address.

He recommends a Neighborhood Watch patrol.
7. Discussion of AISD Budget Stabilization Task Force Report Recommendation – Cherylann Campbell
She has lived in the neighborhood for 23 years and has been on the bond and budget committee for the last few years.

The Task Force Report looked at boundaries and possibly consolidating schools.

Barton Hills Elementary (BHE) has about 400+ students and the school was built to contain only 251 students. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of currently enrolled students are transfer students, while 250 kids in the neighborhood attend BHE.

Having more children in the area and keeping kids going to school at BHE is the key to lowering the risk that BHE would be closed.

Existing criteria is worth fighting for because it has resulted in highly ranked schools that are attracting schools.

When modernization comes back aground in the next several years to BHE, the issue will be the portables because the City will not replace the portables. There are also constraints to build new construction, including impervious cover constraints.

One potential resolution would be to combine Zilker Elementary and BHE districts and build a new school on Zilker's property.

Fourteen of the seventeen big projects related to the bond are underway. Austin High School got \$30,000,000 million in the bond for a new addition.

The 39-page report is on the AISD website and is under the acronym "BSTF".

8. Discussion of Future Association Expenditure Priorities.
A priority should be investing in the membership to increase awareness and participation by membership. Considering technology and potentially streaming meetings online to members should be looked at. Also, expenses will need to be sustainable so present funds will still be there in the years ahead. The Association will consider a survey to poll membership or even non-membership.
9. Motion made to re-elect Mark Gentle as president of BHNA. Motion seconded and motion approved.
9. Meeting Adjourns.