

BHNA WINTER MEETING
23 January 2024

1. Meeting called to order by Stan Ostrum, BHNA President, 7pm.
2. First time zooming with 7 people online at the start of the meeting. Thanks to work of: Worthy and Barb LaFollette, Rich Sullivan and Troy Kelly for this enhancement to BHNA.
3. Thanks to Lynn Douthit for refreshments and door prizes from Barkin Creek and Thorough Bread Bakery. HEB provided funding for the refreshments.
4. Laura Dierenfield, City of Austin Transportation Dept, will join our April meeting to discuss possible changes to Barton Skyway traffic calming. Committee formed to work with her. Committee chair is Joe Gieselman.
5. Minutes from Nov 14, 2023 special meeting unanimously passed.
6. Pat Whiteside, Treasurer, presented quarterly Treasurer's Report indicating Net Balance availability of \$39,359. The \$10,000 earmarked for the soccer field maintenance at Barton Hills Community Park / Elementary School will be added to next report. A question was asked about investing surplus funds in short-term investments and that will be investigated.
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS follow:
8. I: Barton Hills Community Park: Soccer field complete. ABC Home & Commercial Services of Austin has provided a discount for mowing and maintenance for a total of \$5,225 / year. Volunteers needed for March 2 "It's My Park" day.
9. II. Oak Wilt prevention: Caused by 1/ bringing in contaminated firewood or 2/ by cutting any oak trees (Live, Spanish, Red, etc.) between Feb 1 and June 30 when the beetles are most active. If your tree has been cut or accidentally wounded, paint immediately with pruning paint. Additional prevention steps: placing your trash and recycle bins away from trees as City garbage trucks will unknowingly break overhanging tree branches. Contact Jorjanna Price at jprice67@austin.rr.com for signs you can place in your lawn providing reminders to not trim oak trees between Feb 1 and June 30. Cost of removing infected trees is astronomical. If contractors are violating tree regulations, recommended to use 311 app to report and can include photos.
10. III. Greenbelt Guardians will have informal workdays including one before the Large Brush pick up week of Feb 12th.
11. BH Wildfire Protection Plan presented by Craig Smith. Committee has yet to obtain full agreement from Austin Fire Dept. who has had personnel changes. In meantime, steps you can do: 1. Register with WarnCentralTexas.org to receive warnings. 2. Download "Ready, Set, Go!" from wildlandfireRSG.org. 3. Request a "home ignition zone" (HIZ) survey from AFD that evaluates your home fire risk. Call/use 311 app to request. A 44-year resident was amazed at how many things she was able to do to her home to reduce fire risk. Embers can sail a quarter of mile, so it is not just a greenbelt issue.

12. If you are concerned about people camping in the greenbelt, use 311 to report. If we aren't satisfied with the response from the city, Precinct 3 Constable Stacy Suits is willing to assist. If there is immediate risk of a fire, call the Fire Department.
13. Melissa Hawthorne provided an overview of HOME Phase 1 which City Council passed with a super majority of 9 to 2 with no discussion thus any neighborhood petitions were made mute. She also provided many details on setbacks, existing home Preservation Bonus, FAR, and Hyde Park and East Woods' NCDD exemptions. The Ordinance is at: <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=421611>. It's only 13 pages. Short-term rental details not finished/known yet. Phase 2 this year expected to continue in order to qualify Project Connect for federal grants for its light rail project.
14. Winners of delicious Thorough Bread Bakery cookies: Larry Sclerandi and huge Barkin' Creek basket: Mike Gold.
15. New BHNA Executive Committee member: Worthy LaFollette has volunteered to be our Austin Neighborhoods Council Delegate.

Submitted by:
Jane Sam substituting for
Diane Singleton, Recording Secretary