

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2024

Diane Singleton, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Stan Ostrum, President. A quorum was present. Motion to approve the minutes of the April 23rd meeting was made, seconded and approved.

The Treasurer, Pat Whiteside, presented her report (see attached). Stan reminded everyone that \$15,000, formerly in the Greenbelt Guardians account at the Austin Parks Foundation, has been transferred to the Barton Hills Community Park account. Ten thousand dollars of that money is being used for the soccer field maintenance that the Association agreed to cover; therefore, the Association has \$41,681.85 cash on hand.

Committee Reports

Barton Hills Community Park

Stan reported in Melissa Hawthorne's absence that the soccer field looks good. Of course, the recent rain has helped but watering and other regular maintenance is also being done.

Austin Neighborhood Council

Worthy LaFollette reported that ANC recently requested a moratorium on DB90 zoning changes. The Density Bonus 90 Program allows developers to build an additional 30 feet high in exchange for providing 10-15% affordable housing. Developers may choose however to pay a "Fee in Lieu" and get the additional height without providing any affordable housing. Compatibility is no longer a requirement.

The following properties near BHN requested DB90 rezoning:

2800 S. Lamar Blvd (former Goodwill site)

2709 S. Lamar Blvd (storage facility between the 04 Center and the Bell South Lamar apartments at the corner of Menchaca and S. Lamar)

2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 S. Lamar Blvd (stretch of buildings North of Bouldin Acres and Whitaker's Body and Paint on street that veers right off S. Lamar toward Mary St.)

Citizens are encouraged to attend the City budget review on July 31, 2024 at the Menchaca Public Library from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Applications were due (July 21) for the CityWorks Academy, an annual program designed to educate participants about the programs and services the City provides. Classes run from September – December.

Area Development

In Melissa Hawthorne's absence, Stan reported the DB90 rezoning for the Goodwill site has been postponed to August 24, 2024. Neighbors are encouraged to email the City Council to protest vehicle ingress and egress onto Skyway Circle. The building plans 853 parking spaces. The original zoning case limited access to Skyway Circle to pedestrians, bicycles and emergency vehicles. (See attachment)

Neighborhood Watch

APD District Representative Michael Crossen introduced himself. (Kevin Garvey also represents our area.) He stated APD supports Neighborhood Watch programs and will conduct Home Security Surveys to block captains who can in turn provide them to their neighbors.

The suspect who committed the assault on Rabb Road is in custody. He is well known to the APD.

Regarding the homeless camps which were recently cleared behind 1200 Barton Hills Drive, the Homeless Strategy Office directs APD where to go.

The narcotics unit only found marijuana on the homeless camper on the greenbelt above Barton Springs. Officer Crossen doesn't know if the narcotics unit is planning any further assessment.

The FLOCK system reads license plates and is used by a local community.

After a discussion of the program, a motion was made, seconded and approved to reinstate the Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch Program. Rodolfo Carrera is organizing volunteers; Clay Samford will manage the scheduling of the volunteers; and Cherylann Campbell has offered to do training.

To be determined is whether the association needs liability insurance for the program.

Emergency Preparedness

Craig Smith introduced an Action Plan that is the next step in implementing the Barton Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Motion to pass the plan was seconded and approved. Highlights include:

1. Encourage all residents to register with WARNCentralTexas.org.
2. Encourage all residents to read "Ready, Set, Go" from www.wildlandfireRSG.org or the AFD website.
3. Encourage all residents to request a Structural Ignition Zone evaluation by calling 311.
4. Encourage all residents to clean their gutters to prevent embers ahead of the fire from starting a fire.
5. Post "Extreme Fire Danger" signs at neighborhood entrances when weather conditions call for warning.
6. Work with AFD and the Austin Transportation Dept to designate preferred and alternate evacuation routes from the neighborhood.
7. Organize a network of volunteers with views of the greenbelt to call 911 if they see unexplained smoke.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.