

April 10, 2007

Members present: 57
Call to order at 7:10 pm

Introduction of neighbors

Scott Johnson spoke about the electrical lawnmower program and the benefits of giving up our gas mowers; gave many brochures about electric lawnmowers. He also spoke about the Grow Green program and how we are one of the pilot neighborhoods. Scott took questions.

John recognized Chuck Ragland and Pat Oakes and announced the spelling bee for literacy.

First two drawings: one for Chantilly bakery gift certificate, one for Rockin' Tomato.

City of Austin speakers for the West of Lamar Improvement Project: Gopal Guthikonda: Manager, ACWP who explained the wastewater project that the city is undertaking due to EPA mandate to replace sanitary lines by 2009. There are nine projects in Barton Hills. Gopal mentioned that some of the work will affect the greenbelt, including tunneling wastewater pipes through Barton Creek, with a temporary dam built. He opened the floor for questions. Karen Poff discussed the details, listing and describing each site, which streets will be closed during construction, what kinds of construction will be done, whether open cut or tunneled. Streets affected are: Hollow Creek, Wilkie Road, Barton Parkway (2), Skyway Circle, Westhill Circle, Barton Hills drive, Skunk Hollow. Site 10 is Spyglass access to Greenbelt. Karen opened floor for questions and told members that there will be a meeting on May 3 at noon for more detail.

John introduced APD Officer Cody Weiser to discuss neighborhood safety information. He discussed crime stats in Barton Hills and stated that crime is extremely low for 2007. Officer Weiser left resource manuals and detailed instructions on accessing crime stats for the neighborhood. Weiser talked about "train the trainer" for neighborhood watch and mentioned a man who had been seen in the backyards in the vicinity. Officer Weiser answered questions and directed everyone to contact him personally with any issues.

Two more drawings were held for Pok-e-jos and Rocking Tomato Pizza.

January general meeting minutes were approved by membership.

Financial report from Dave Kemptner. Dave discussed membership numbers and why our numbers are down a bit this year. Members approved.

Fourth of July Parade-Kay Killen

Kay needs volunteer team leaders and passed around a list and gave her new email address: bhnaparade2007@yahoo.com

Election of Clay Boulware as Austin Neighborhood Council representative.

Drawings held for Dog Almighty and Rocking Tomato certificates.

Greenbelt Guardians-Glee Ingram

Glee discussed the next work day, April 14 from 9-1 pm at Gus Fruh and Homedale trailheads. Central Texas Mountaineers will work on sunken gardens, with \$2200 going for erosion control and planting. John said that BHNA has always supported GG with meals. Receipt from Greenbelt Guardians in the amount of \$282 to be voted on by the membership. Membership voted to approve the \$282, after a lively discussion. Debby Kalk reminded the membership that GG has always had a budget of \$600 per year. Member suggested that GG become an official committee to have its own budget. John then announced the ad hoc committee to look into ways to spend the Stones money, including needs and costs. A report will be produced by the next GM in June. Clay will chair committee; required representation from GG, BHEPTA and members from BHNA. Members brought up various issues about parks improvement policies and policies on expenditures from BHNA funds. John reminded all that expenditures must be on parks-related issues and to further contact Clay.

Committee on Area Development-Peter Hess

Two issues that need voting on tonight: Vertical Mixed-used development-main traffic corridors. What is VMU ordinance and why is it important? Member noted that CAD was not on official agenda and that this was a serious issue that needed more discussion. Officer asked that membership allow Peter to finish his presentation and reminded that we had discussed the VMU plan in previous meetings. Member asked what other local groups are choosing to opt-in and out. Melissa discussed the State Farm tract on South Lamar and the fragile cave system underneath. Glee reminded the membership that the planning committee was created to do business on an emergency basis. Membership discussion on voting for the VMU issue, member moved to ask city staff to postpone time for neighborhood to decide on opt-out. Peter restated that we should try to opt out of environmentally sensitive tracts, already stated previously. Peter asked members to give CAD committee authority to make these decisions on behalf of BHNA. Nan added that we are not opposing VMU but that there are certain properties that are merely a few yards from bluff. Members asked questions about city development timing and policies. Member moved to table issue, it was seconded and approved. Member moved to give ad hoc committee power to act on behalf of NA, member seconded, all approved, one nay. Member reminded all that this is not a new issue and everyone has the opportunity to join in and get more information.

Motion and seconded to adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:36.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly White Erlinger
Secretary