

## **Barton Hills Neighborhood Association---General Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2009**

**7:05 Call to Order/Welcome** by Ken Russell

EC Present: Ken Russell, Kay Killen, Wendy Papasan, John Morgan

Members Present: 32, one visitor (Joanna Mesecke of PARD)

### **Introduction of Board and New Members or Guests**

#### **Announcements:**

*Big Thanks* to all who helped out with the July 4 parade. Special thanks to Kay Killen. Also thanks to a number to people who helped, but who are not present.

Treasurer's Report presented and approved.

April general meeting minutes presented and approved.

2010 Officer Elections to be held at October meeting. Discussion of Board positions and especially those which are sure to be vacant. These are President, Secretary, and Community Resource Coordinator. Persons considering standing for office are invited to contact any board member.

Information on upcoming meeting with city officials concerning the ongoing street repaving. BH is currently undergoing a major street repaving using a process called "chip seal". The street is covered with asphalt followed by a layer of crushed rock, which is then rolled to compress it. After the asphalt dries the excess stone is swept up. This leaves a surface which is rough and is considered undesirable for children, dogs, strollers and especially bikes. There have been numerous comments, mostly critical, about the process and about the resulting pavement on the listserv. Mark Gentle, who was not able to be present, has asked for a meeting with the city to discuss alternatives. Such a meeting has not yet been set and any details will be announced on the listserv. Neither the EC nor the membership as a whole has taken any position on this matter and Mr. Gentle is acting on his own. It was noted in the discussion that some other neighborhoods facing the same issue have gotten at least some of their streets paved in a more "desirable" manner. This is not an issue specific in any way to BH but is being carried out in many parts of the city. Any official action would have to be via ANC, which has basically already approved this resurfacing technique. Special mention during the discussion was made of Rabb and Robert E Lee which have heavy bicycle traffic and have not yet been repaved. Results from the upcoming meeting between Mark Gentle and the city will be dealt with only on the listserv as the paving project is due to be over and done before our next general meeting in October.

Future neighborhood social events: The EC committee has proposed an ice cream social as a neighborhood event. This would follow in the model of the July 4th where parents and kids and pets gathered and hopefully had a "meet your neighbors". It is proposed that the BHNA association purchase a few tubs of Blue Bell Ice Cream and invite all BH residents to come and visit. General discussion was very enthusiastic to do this. Scheduling was suggested only after school starts and we get some cooler weather. One specific suggestion was to have the event simultaneously with Neighborhood Night Out in October. Another was to see if we could have the event indoors at the school.

**Fun Stuff-bring the whole family!** The EC had a box of Freezies in the freezer with the plan being to give the kids treats while the adults drew for the door prizes. Unfortunately, the freezer did not cooperate. We

apologize to the kids. The adult drawings for two sets of tickets to an event at Long Center and three dinners at Rockin Tomato were then held resulting in five happy winners.

**Barton Springs Median update:** Mary Campbell, Mary Ann Neely, and Joanna Mesecke of PARD all spoke. Mary and Mary Ann spoke about the Barton Springs Median, a project first identified by BHNA and now enthusiastically supported by PARD as Zilker Gateway. At this time they have a plan for landscaping, for subsequent maintenance, and a budget. AAGC as well as BH Garden Club are cooperating on the Zilker Gateway Project. PARD are soliciting matching funds and looking for contributions and potential contributors. They do not want physical assistance working in the median. The work is expected to be completed in time for ACL in early October. Joanna mainly spoke about the grading and sodding in Zilker now referred to as “the great lawn.” The cost of this project was mainly paid by C3 Productions, who put on ACL. The park is due to have a grand reopening now set for mid-August, months behind schedule.

**Austin Neighborhood Council:** Kay Killen, our ANC representative had only a few comments as ANC is mainly dormant during the summer. There was some discussion of the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance which has finally passed. Kay reiterated that BHNA does not vote at ANC.

**Habitat Challenge:** Mary Ann Neely had numerous brochures about Certified Wildlife Habitat sponsored by National Wildlife Federation and endorsed by city of Austin and many others. There are certain specific steps required for NWF certification, which a number of your neighbors have already met. If a certain percent of households are certified, then the entire neighborhood is certified. Contact Mary Ann for many more details or the NWF website.

**Greenbelt Guardians Update:** Glee Ingram gave a little history as well as status on Greenbelt Guardians. The finish coating on the Homedale trail was finally finished with the help of other volunteers. The Barton Creek Greenbelt is now considered part of the Balcones Preserve. This means that a major new set of rules apply. Specifically, we can no longer remove invasive species such as ligustrum during the spring and summer when birds might be nesting. Next workday is TBA in late October.

**Neighborhood Watch Update:** John Luther reports that we now have 85 volunteers working about 2 hours a month. They patrol in marked cars in mid-morning and late evening, which are the prime times for crime. Volunteers carry phones and flashlights and do not leave their cars. If you divide BH along Barton Skyway, you get two pieces each of which is traversed in about 40 minutes. So each shift works one area and they meet at the adopted headquarters, the 7-11 on Lamar, for coffee, toilets, and shift changes. This Neighborhood Watch is considered quite successful in keeping our already low crime rate even lower.

**New Business:** After some further discussion about why we participate in ANC, but do not vote, a motion was made that the EC seek to seek to change our status from non-voting to voting. It passed unanimously.

**Adjourned at 8:15**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth L. Russell, Recording Secretary**