

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association
Minutes of General Meeting on October 20, 2009

Executive Committee Present: all six members present

Members Present: 35

Visitors: three*

7:00 PM Welcome/Opening Remarks by Kimberly
Introduction of guests/new members

Approval of Minutes/Approval of Treasurer's report
Treasurer noted the receipt of \$1500 from selling ACL tickets
Both reports approved by unanimous voice vote

2010 BHNA Officer Elections (Proposed slate:)

President, Wendy Papasan (formerly newsletter editor)

Vice-President, Penley McQueen

Treasurer: John Morgan (incumbent)

Austin Neighborhood Council Rep: Kay Killen (incumbent)

Other positions (TBD-Consider Volunteering!)

Added at the meeting Secretary: Meredith Weiss

This slate approved by unanimous voice vote

Positions still vacant: Corresponding Secretary (newsletter) and Community Representative

Update, discussion and vote on **Barton Springs median project** donation-Mary Campbell
The landscaping of Barton Springs Rd was finished in time for ACL. This included removal and replanting elsewhere of inappropriate plants and adding of new plants and sod plus some paving work. Most of the businesses along the street contributed. On Oct. 28 they will be invited to a "Thank you". PARD will mow the median. However, other maintenance such as weeding and watering will be contracted out. This is estimated to cost about \$600 a month. After some discussion and opposition, BHNA agreed to contribute \$1000 from the ACL money to this effort with the notation that this was not a commitment to future contributions.

Greenbelt Guardian Update, including Betty Brown/Homedale Sign-Glee Ingram

Glee reported that the next Homedale workday will be on Oct. 31, Halloween. The main effort will be invasive species removal, which we had not been able to do earlier because of possible nesting birds.

Glee also discussed honoring the memory of Betty Brown. Betty was a long time activist for Barton Hills who passed away in 2002. She is best known for organizing the opposition to turning Barton Skyway into a through street across to MoPac. BHNA agreed in principle to honor her memory but nothing had been done thus far. Now we have an easy opportunity as the Homedale entrance sign is due for refurbishing. The proposal to be put to PARD by BHNA is that this entrance be renamed Betty Brown instead of Homedale (which is just the street name, not a honor to anyone.) In past years the city had asked for \$600 to change a sign. Approval to request this change including the expenditure of up to \$600 passed unanimously.

Development Update, including new Waterfront Overlay resolution and Red's Porch

Peter Hess, Melissa Hawthorne, Nan Clayton

Under the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance passed in 2009 (and endorsed by BHNA) development along the South Shore of Lady Bird Lake is restricted to 60 feet vertically. In the first proposed development after passage of this ordinance the South Shore PUD proposed to build to 90 feet. Allowing this variance would

at least set a very bad precedent for future developments already in the approval pipeline. Peter therefore proposed (and distributed copies) of a proposed resolution to council asking that the existing ordinance be upheld. This passed by unanimous vote.

The second issue before the Committee was a new restaurant with music called Red's Porch being developed on the vacant lot on Lamar called the Citibank Tract and currently occupied mainly by a portable hot dog stand. The development adjoins directly to BHNA and is therefore within our rights to intervene. The structure is to be 3 stories tall and may send its music out over our neighborhood and over the greenbelt, which it also adjoins directly. At this time Red's has asked for a liquor license but not a sound permit for music. The Committee asked for permission to act and if necessary object on our behalf as time would be of the essence. This was granted by unanimous vote. It was noted from the audience that we cannot work in the Balcones Nature Preserve during certain months because it would disturb the nesting birds. Might that also apply to loud music? Question will be researched.

Drive-By Museum Information

Joe Gieselman and Steve Dubov

Joe, who is a resident of BH, introduced Steve, who is a sculptor. Steve has proposed to council, and has received approval and a grant, for a project called "Art on the Way". This project will place large pieces of sculpture (visible from your car) on various plots of unused city property. Specifically, he proposes to place one on the unused city ROW on Barton Skyway just behind the old Mobil, now new Valero station. It will be up for only 3 months this spring and then may or may not be replaced with something else. He asked for our endorsement, which was granted.

Capital Metro Update

Alissa Schram and Roberto Gonzalez

Capital Metro is looking again at bus routes including Route 29 through BH. This route was realigned and also rescheduled a few years ago with input from the neighborhood. Ridership remains low and mostly out of the Hollow Creek area. Part of the upcoming changes include more and faster service via Lamar which could affect 29. One proposal is that the 30 bus via Barton Springs would come into BH and turn around after Hollow Creek with no other BH service. A rather vigorous discussion ensued covering several aspects of Capital Metro operations. One point was that the bus service has always been directed at those without a car and not at those who have a car but would prefer not to use it. An example was getting from BH to UT, where 29 does go, is an hour by bus if it is on schedule versus 20 minutes by car. It was also pointed out by several speakers that service on Lamar is useless to BH as Lamar is not within our walking distance.

City Animal Shelter Update-David Lurie

Presenter was Carole Barasch of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services about the new animal shelter to be constructed next year. This facility, approved in the recent bond issue, will replace the Town Lake facility. Part of the presentation was a plea for volunteer support for the animal shelter.

Thanks to Kimberly for 3 years of service with appropriate certificate, wine and flowers.

Adjourn: 8:40

Respectively submitted

Kenneth L. Russell, Secretary

*two candidates for judge in the March primary (Cliff Brown and John Lipscombe) and a representative of a third (Olga Seelig) were present during the social hour