

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

General Meeting---April 22, 2008

Members Present: 44

Called to order at 7:01 by Eddie Torres

General Announcements:

Welcome, presentation of the agenda

Minutes of the regular meeting on January 22 were approved.

Minutes of the special meeting concerning Terrace PUD on March 6 were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved.

Kimberly announced that the July 4 parade was on schedule but more help was needed.

Police Representatives:

Several officers representing APD and the Park Police attended. Officer Kinley, our District Representative, spoke mostly about the Feb.-Mar. "start of the season" sweep, which they had committed to us. 62 arrests or citations resulted for a variety of offences. In response to the concerns about fires, he said that they will respond to a fire only if the guilty parties are still present. He advised that users always have a phone and try to make a 911 call inconspicuously. His other advice: "Be Active in Neighborhood Watch" and "Keep Your Garage Door Closed".

Chief Shaw of the Park Police made a more general presentation about transients and the greenbelt. Transients are mostly alcohol/substance abusers. Many are excons. They get pushed around from place to place. Most of their offenses result in small fines which are never paid. After the recent push on the Greenbelt it seems to be relatively clean and empty. It was noted that with the Creek being dry, the greenbelt was not such a desirable place. As far as regular patrolling, that won't happen. As far as more sweeps, they will reassess the situation after school is out. They also emphasized to call 911 if you see an offense in progress. They will come, but they must see a violation in progress in order to arrest anyone.

New Business:

Karen Delaney-Smith distributed fliers promoting the upcoming AISD bond election. She asked BHNA to become a supporting organization. This was taken under EC advisement. A non-binding straw vote was in favor.

Roger Temme spoke for Care Communities. This group provides aid and comfort to the terminally ill, especially those lacking family support. He would like to form a Barton Hills group consisting of 4-6 persons.

Three city council candidates had been invited. Each sent a representative although Jason Meeker was present briefly. Each rep passed out literature and emphasized the candidates key point. For Meeker this is empowering neighborhoods, for Randi Shade it is accessibility, and for Robin Cravey the environment.

Old Business:

Glee Ingram of Greenbelt Guardians discussed the recent Parks Day, which had the highest number of volunteer hours ever. She also mentioned two recent donations to GBG, one of plants and the other of mapping software.

Peter Hess reported on the most recent proposal from Terrace PUD. His handout should be considered an integral part of these minutes. In summary, Terrace proposes to abandon Building 6 (the closest to the creek) and to move the other buildings out adjacent to MoPac with the parking on the MoPac side. They are now proposing the 3 new buildings be only slightly higher than are currently permitted. This is a major improvement over any previous proposal. Peter asked residents what else he might ask for in future negotiations. Some of the suggestions were light pollution, noise abatement, and actual appearance of the structures. However, by far the main concern was that the land left vacant at this time be guaranteed to stay vacant forever. There were various suggestions such as Conservation Easement as to how to achieve this goal.

Open Forum:

Noted that there are still two vacancies on the Executive Committee.

Brochures were available for the *Clean Water Challenge*. This effort by the city was tested in several neighborhoods including ours because anything we put on the yard can go straight to Barton Creek. Many BH residents have already participated in the survey (and gotten the T-shirt). If as many as 40% of BHNA participate, then we will be recognized as a neighborhood.

There was some discussion of access to MoPac and whether the proposal to make Barton Skyway a major through street could be revived.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Respectively Submitted: Kenneth Russell, BHNA Secretary