

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting  
General Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2010

**Executive Committee Members Present:** 6 (Corresp. Sec. Jennifer Cook added by motion and second) , and new officers introduced. Kay Killen and John Morgan are continuing service.

**Members Present:** 42

**Non-Members:** 11

**Visitors:** 1 Census Agenda member, Alyssa Shram (Cap Metro), Roberto Gonzalez (Cap Metro)

**Welcome:** 6:56 PM Opening by Wendy

**Minutes:** October Minutes entered by motion.

**Community Info: \*Not on Agenda: Boy Scouts** – Troop 17, 22 members, 2 members present (Winston Harwell, Alex Ward) and a troop leader are selling mulch as a fundraiser. Boys are going to Jackson Hole, Philmont and Grand Tetons; want to raise money for the trip. Many troop members live in Barton Hills. Selling 50 # bags for 4 dollars apiece. Hardwood variety. Will deliver the mulch to your house. Canvassing hood on 2.13. For extra fee will spread the mulch for you.

**Treasurers Report:** Couldn't print bank statement to distribute this evening. Pile of mail to represent the large number of households joining. Also have many paypal joining – 3 to 4 a day. Reports no new expenses since last meeting outside of print costs for newsletter. Will also accept membership dues this evening, and will take info to confirm your email on the system.

**Membership:** Penley McQueen. Please encourage neighbors to join the BHNA to involve more people in protecting neighborhood.

**Neighborhood Watch:** John Luther. January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting occurred with over 80 people present. Hoods are forming their own NW. We have our own Patrol. Started on morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Before Jan, we had an average of 7 home burglaries a day. As of 10<sup>th</sup> of Jan, had 0 home burglaries, or car thefts. Our program goes through 3 am at times. Jeff Morris is the contact for volunteering for NW. Will have training session in Feb for

new volunteers. Our neighborhood is leading the trend for other neighborhood associations. Since 10<sup>th</sup> of Jan, 58 hours logged on streets. Just 1 or 2 hours a months are very helpful for filling the slots.

**Paid Neighborhood Patrol:** Nina Miller. Facts about hiring a third party patrol. She collected donations to fund a private security company, and using 20 donations, was able to get someone started on xmas eve. John Morgan followed them, and discovered that they were not present for the hours that they were paid to be, and were not even in our hood at times. She got a refund for their services, and is now looking to a different company. Would like to see interest in continuing this service, and inquire if a vote at the next meeting be supported. Is returning the original donations to donors this evening. Patrols can be customized for whatever we determine needs to be. 6 shifts, randomly 10 minute patrols daily would be 800 for a month. More services go up to 1200 a month. 6 members raised hands to indicate interest in pursuing security further. Will not continue looking into paid security.

**Barton Hills Trivia:** Glenn Chase. Raffle tickets for new members.

**Capitol Metro:** Alyssa Shram and Roberta Gonzalez. Service plan 2020. Info distributed re: plan and routes distributed. Trying to contain costs and evaluate high vs. low use to meet financial limits. Based on feedback, will retain a portion of the 29 route and intro 7 day service vs 5 day. Appears that Hollow Creek area is active ridership, but not in the south end of the hood, so looking at cutting out south end. Another solution would be a rapid bus service down south lamar, to appear by 2013. Members express concern that south end does use it, Lamar is too far to walk, and that a late night service to downtown would get more use. Will continue to visit with us about this as decisions are made. Minimum threshold is 15 passengers per hour to continue service. Considered using a Dodge Sprinter, large SUV, to meet need and mix service. Had this in 2000, but eliminated b/c cost.

**Community Info: \*Not on agenda. BHE Silent Auction on March 4:** Sara Hickman playing at Matts, 15 in advance, 20 at door. 6:30 to 9.

**Making meeting more Family Friendly:** Ideas: bring Ziggy the clown; move meeting to 5:30, start social hour at 6:15. Member wants to keep at 6. However, in 3 of the last 4 meetings, we have sent food home with people because too much. Want to make this as user friendly as possible. A volunteer child care provider would help. Name tags for future meetings. Allow suggestions for future meeting discussion points.

**Encampments:** Randi Shade, Glee and Wendy met to discuss encampments. Suzanne and some other neighbors on Deerfoot took photos on camps on their end. Evidenced tents, clothing, trash, waste, fire pits, drug scale. Randi points the problem is lack of communication w/ relevant authorities, arose since Parks Police eliminated. Glee presents proposal: Greenbelt Guardians provide service to greenbelt by volunteer service. Priority to deal with ligustrum and nandina. Encampments are new to our area in last 2-3 years, because invasive plants create hiding places. Suggests a Greenbelt Watch to observe and deter. Have an Adopt a Park agreement w/ Austin Park Foundation that will give a grant, with matching funds by BHNA, to remove invasive species thru E-corps. 10,600 is total cost to remove from BS area south to behind greenbelt. BHNA would be required to contribute 3,600. Must do clearance by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Private property owners will be notified of work, and will look into a second grant to cover their land. Typically, transient campers position themselves near stores. Police will remove when they are ON private property, not remove empty camps. Fires, camping after 10 , etc, ticketable offense. Suggest a central data base for reporting camp locations, that we use our phone GPS. Ken Russell says we can use GPS to report hot spots – send info to Glee, and Ken will place that on map. Expense to fund clearing has been moved for and seconded. All in favor, no opposed. Motion to authorize funds for removal of invasive species on greenbelt granted.

**BHNA Austin Neighborhood Council representative: Kay Killen:** Kay makes reports on the meetings. Kay is a paid member of the Austin Neighborhood Council, and would like our permission to have voting powers for ANC. Peter, former ANC rep, urges us to give her

that. Her frequent reporting gives us opportunity to comment. All in favor of her having voting power (not necessary to present as a vote, as just confirming what bylaws say and we are changing from previous practice.)

Adjourn at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Weiss, Secretary