

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
10.26.10

Committee Members Present: 3 – (Ellen Pitluk, Jennifer Cook, and Penley McQueen absent.)

Members Present: 37

New Members: 2

Commence: 7:05

Minutes: April Approved, pending edit that the date is corrected, and minutes for July approved.

Treasurer's Report: Deposits from ACL ticket sales and memberships, withdrawals for newsletter and Rockin Tomato. Approved without opposition.

Special Items:

Kay Killen Departure: Been here for 16 years, has moved and left post on ANC.

Neighborhood Council Resolution: Peter Hess presenting, as chair of committee on Area Development. City of Austin is working on new comprehensive plan and many have participated in the discussion. Concern is that the city is disregarding citizen input in the process with regard to Imagine Austin Project. ANC has asked neighborhood associations to keep them honest...

- Planning commissions have previously concluded that neighborhood plans were disregarded by developers, that we are asked to make concessions but are not given any ourselves.
- Decision was made to halt the process with the City and go to Neighborhood Associations to ask for letters to city asking to halt progress til shown that our needs are being taking into consideration.
- Melissa Hawthorne: Map does not distinguish between high and low density housing designations. ANC did not have a say in the comprehensive plan changes and the plan that ANC developed over the last few years were not being considered. This is the impetus behind the resolution suspending discussions.
- Suggestion to edit last sentence so as to delete the section as to “suspending” further action, to asking the city to demonstrate that that they have considered ANC proposals.
- BHNA is less affected than other communities because of a) our deed restrictions, b) more importantly, the fact that we are already almost completely built out which means zoning changes will not immediately change the face of the neighborhood. SOS environmental restrictions also protect our area, but not most of the rest of the city.
 - This is largely a symbolic act, a political
 - Motion to accept resolution as presenting, with amendment that we delete the “suspension” language and alter to asking the city to demonstrate that that they have considered ANC resolutions. Motion carried.

Elections:

Nomination for Treasurer: Ellen Pitluk (returning). Nomination for Secretary: Meredith Weiss (returning). Motion made, seconded and approved by vote.

Nomination for President: Craig Smith, Nomination for VP: Melissa Hawthorne. Motion, seconded and approved by vote.

ANC rep still needed. Meets monthly, then report back to the hood via email. Please look for someone

to fill this important role.

Beautification Committee: Ad hoc group that formed after Art on the Way. There are about a dozen members. Have printed Oak Wilt Pruning signs printed, and now working with Steve Dubov re: future installations. Also working on distributing Rolling Stones money – was a planter placed at the BHE park, and have about a thousand dollars remaining that they are working with the school to combine funds to get another project done.

Traffic Calming: Speeding around BHE and Mont Clair where it hits Rae Dell. Study being conducted on this issue. A member is tracking the city's action on this. Should be polling the nearby residents. Solutions include speed humps, narrowing the road, drive-arounds, etc. Requested that whomever is in contact with the city investigate the Horseshoe Bend area, too. Will continue to follow this issue. Suggestions for moving speed signs, adding sidewalks, etc.

Neighborhood Watch: John Luther presenting. Still seeing lower crime. Zilker has also reduced their crime with increased volunteer surveillance. Have taken 3 drunk drivers off the street. During ACL, post show, after 11, found many lost individuals and helped get out of the neighborhood. Have sat at Barton Skyway and Barton Hills at 5 pm, and reduced rolling through the stop signs. Have 28 regular volunteers presently, and can always use more.

Greenbelt Guardians: Glee Ingram and Sam: last work day had 65 people show up on Sept 28th with the Nat'l Trails day that was also sponsored by Austin Parks. Our group started at Spyglass entrance, and worked with Austin Ridge Riders mountain bikers groups to remove invasive species. Looking to repeat work on Nov 6th, cutting ligustrum and pulling nandina and need more volunteers for that day, from 9 to 1 on both Spyglass and Homedale trails. Contact gleeful@earthlink.net if you want to volunteer for this. Between Austin Parks and Hill Country Conservancy got a 100K grant from Impact Austin which will hire 5 eCorps members to repair damaged trail areas from beginning of Zilker trail, 8 miles out. Austin Parks also got a 15,000 grant to get 15 more volunteer work days to remove invasive species. Austin Parks Foundation director and Glee met with a philanthropic donor who wants to fund a 30,000 contribution to greenbelt work. Will basically clear 22 more acres and give GG enough money to monitor the work after it's complete and pull seedlings. City has asked Wildflower Center to develop advisory protocol for preventative works. TX nurseries will continue to sell invasives until TX passes a list of invasives that are prevented from being sold by state law.

ACL: 10,000 more people were there this year, but there was a promise to neighborhoods were told they would limit the number to 65,000 made in 2004. Appears that there were 65000 sold, but many were given away. Suggestion to object to this practice. Also suggested that we use neighborhood resident stickers. Another feels that it's tolerable for 3 days.

BHE carnival fundraiser on Friday.

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:09