

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

General Meeting Minutes for 4.27.10

Members Present: 3 new members, 46 total members (exclusive of board members), 2 children

Executive Committee Present: 5 Board members present; John Morgan not present.

Call to order: 7:04

Approval of Minutes: Meeting notes of 1.26 approved

Treasury Report- not present, sent list of paid members. Account is just above 8,000 balance.

Oak Wilt Information: City of Austin Dev and Review Department, Chris Dolan, on Oak Wilt in our neighborhood. Arborist directing Oak Wilt suppression program. Is an infection that infects oak trees with grafted systems, so it spreads from one tree to the next. Monitors various centers in our hood since the 80s, control spread through trenching. Most active one is on Rabb. Will continue to spread so long as there is a host. Centers of wilt in BH are too large to trench to control. Best prevention is to avoid pruning in spring; beetle spreads thru air. Red Oaks host with a fungal mat that develops on new wounds in spring. Spores spread from there. If must prune, please seal wound immediately. Hire ISA certified arborist only, or risk bringing additional illness to trees in your hood. Brought handouts.

Large map marks in red the areas where wilt has been identified. Map is not online but if you contact him he will send you a jpg of it. Tether has it on both sides, spread to Kassarine. Is on 4 Oaks, and on west side of Kassarine towards Mountainview. Rae Dell area has had several trench areas but some were not deep enough to sever connections in the root connections. Should not bring and burn red oak firewood. Forest service believes oak wilt was brought in by infected firewood in the 30's. Live oak removal is not necessary once it's dead. 2 methods to treat Live oaks by injection: works better prophylactically. Wilt spreads about 75 feet a year through roots. So want to pretreat if you are within 150 feet of an infection. Chris will eval your trees at no charge and advise as to whether to inject. 2 types - alamo or macro injection. (3rd is micro injection, and hasn't proven efficacy.) At Rabb and De Verne can see a healthy pretreated live oak next door to several dead ones. Home at Rabb and Fortune lost 7 trees. Chemical is proconizol; brand used to be Alamo. Cost at texasoakwilt.org under list of TX forest service certified arborists. Cost is about 12 dollars an inch of circumference. Treatment lasts at min 2 years. Can't do a tree too often because very invasive to drill holes in tree. 300 centers of wilt in the city.

BH Elementary Beautification Project: Clay Boulware. 2 years ago began w/ Rolling Stones money. Have bids out to contractors on projects. Big one was a trail along retaining wall at playground down to ball court -- too expensive, it's no longer being considered. Other is reseeding and compost hillside on hill down from playground and place planter on track side to break up kids movement and reduce wear on turf. Add chain link fence to keep kids from running down hill. Finally, at ball court there can be large quantities of mud runoff during rain and want to

place berm or french drain. Will likely have extra money leftover and will combine with PTA to fund new playground equipment.

Neighborhood Watch: John Luther. Program working; we had 7 burglaries a month this time last year, and 10 auto burglaries. Now, crime rate is about 1 home burglary and 3 car burglaries a month. Reminder to replace your door screws with 3 inch screws to prevent front door from being kicked down. Will take 15 to 20 hard kicks to get past these bolts. NW will do this for you at no cost but the \$1 material cost. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact John Luther. We are one of the few hoods that actually patrol, rather than passively observe, crime. Call 911 if in progress of immediate concern. Call 311 if after the fact.

Creek Encampments - Melissa Hawthorne. Trees and invasive plants were removed. Harry monitors this area and found a tent not in the cleared area just today. Ecorps work has really helped but we must constantly monitor situation. All must play a part in monitoring and preventing. Suzanne reads a Letter shared by Councilman Shay - (Lt Todd Smith to Shay letter.) Increased use of parks with rain; have added a shift to the patrol specifically to deal with greenbelt area crimes. Thieves were arrested, and the homeless are monitored but move around the area. Appreciates calling 911 if their actions seem suspicious. Drug dealing is a risk we need to watch for. Mobile & Loaves is feeding them at the belt, and believe they are the drug ring.

Greenbelt Guardians - About the 3600 grant we spent; follow up. Also have a letter from Randy Shay about the park patrol. Seeing the city council was very helpful; edict was sent to park director and police about problem and response time has been significantly reduced. Report that there are 'suspicious people' in the belt, living there, and will get a police response within 15 minutes. Anticipating fire hazards on greenbelt this summer; Patrick is a new member of GG and will help facilitate a system for locating people through a system of address, etc. Should go on list serve but would like us to check with them. Biggest risks are the campfires; please report if you see. Member reports seeing more people traversing private property to pass out of the greenbelt. *John L advises that if you feel uncomfortable with that person there, then call 911. Next work day is June 5th, National Trails day. Invites us to join and work on the area.

Fourth of July Parade - Reminder that we will be organizing and contacting past volunteers

Misc. - Invite all to event hosted at neighbors house to support Metterow and Judy James. Contact if you'd like to attend.

Artist of Barton Barriers will be attending next meeting to answer questions.

Adjourn at 8:08.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Weiss, Secretary