

BHNA General Meeting Minutes

Date	April 12, 2005
Location	St. Mark's Church
Present	37 members

Vice President Debby Kalk called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Introductory remarks

Kalk welcomed and thanked members for their attendance. She introduced the Executive Committee members in attendance: Diana Stangl, Recording Secretary; Eddie Torres, ANC Representative; Scott Smith, Treasurer.

Kalk announced that the newsletter was supposed to have been delivered to everyone in the neighborhood on the 12th. She asked that people email her at debby@cortexlearning.com if they do not receive a newsletter and she will let the company we contracted with to distribute the newsletter know. Kalk apologized for the delay in getting the newsletter delivered.

Minutes

Kalk asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the General Meeting on February 22, 2005. The motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Kalk asked Scott Smith to present the Treasurer's report. Smith reminded everyone to sign in for the meeting and to pay their annual dues if they have not already done so.

John Luther - Neighborhood Watch Program

Kalk introduced John Luther, chair of the new Neighborhood Watch Program. Luther presented a map of the neighborhood that he will bring to each meeting that shows the crime reports filed since the last general meeting. There were 46 crime reports filed in that period. Most of the incidents were car break-ins. Luther distributed forms for people to sign up as either block leaders or to join the neighborhood watch program. So far he has 37 houses signed up and 7 block leaders. He plans to offer mini courses on safety once the program is up and running. He is also trying to identify where new neighborhood watch signs are needed.

Austin Parks Foundation

Glee Ingram introduced Don DeGrasse, a board member of the Austin Parks Foundation, and Rosie Weaver, a staff member of the Foundation. Glee explained that the Austin Parks Foundation provided the funding for the Greenbelt Guardian work days

that were held over the last year. DeGrasse and Weaver explained the Neighborhood Parks Grant Program. The Foundation encourages the use of the parks in order to get people to feel ownership of their neighborhood parks. Once people feel ownership, they will volunteer their time to maintain the parks. The Foundation is privately funded and has three primary goals: revitalize downtown parks (Republic Square and Woodridge Square); Guerrero Park Initiative; and Partners for Parks, which includes the Neighborhood Park Grants (which is what the BHNA received). The Neighborhood Park Grants is a matching program. They hope to provide the initial seed money and that then organizations will continue to fund and work in the parks. The Foundation also has a tool trailer that is available to groups. They need donations for the trailer. The Foundation is sponsoring "It's My Park Day" in two weeks on April 23. This is a city-wide event and there are 30 projects planned, including our Greenbelt Guardian work day. We will have 50 - 75 UT students assigned to our project.

Glee then distributed sign-up forms for the work day. There will be work done at both the Gus Fruh and Homedale trail entrances.

Zilker Botanical Gardens (user fees proposal)

Melvin Hinson, Manager of Zilker Botanical Gardens (ZBG), discussed the Austin Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) proposal to set up a non-profit foundation to run the Zilker Botanical Gardens. He wrote an article outlining his views for the newsletter. He reported that despite losing staff over the last several years due to budget cuts by the City, the ZBG was able to keep the same hours. He also reported that the budget has recently returned to prior levels and he is hopeful that the era of cuts is over for a while. He does not like the ABGC proposal and believes that the ZBG should continue to be run by the City. The ZBG has started charging a parking fee on weekends and the City Council recently approved fees for weddings and professional photographers. An Enterprise Fund has been established so that all of the fees collected by the ZBG will go back into the Gardens.

Neighborhood Planning Update

Patricia Wilson and Melissa Hawthorne reported on the City's Neighborhood Planning Process. It is now scheduled to start in September. They also reported on the proposed fall town meeting/fundraiser project. They hope to have Sara Hickman and other musicians play. The BHNA would decide on a project to dedicate the money to. One suggestion was for sidewalks. They asked people to sign up for committees now. The committees would work on vision statements and come up with activities for the fall event. People who sign up are agreeing to be a point person on a topic. The following committees were formed:

Sidewalks - Jen Stuart - jenstuart78704@yahoo.com

Environmental Landscaping, use of pesticides, landscaping without polluting - Mary Ann Neely

Responsible land use and redevelopment; density; deed restrictions - Philip Riley -

philip.riley@mac.com

Accommodating increased density - Craig Smith.

Miscellaneous - Patricia Wilson.

ANC Report

Eddie Torres reported that he will start posting the summaries of the meetings that he prepares on the listserv and the website. At the last meeting, the ANC discussed HB 2833 (the regulatory takings bill) and endorsed candidates for the City Council races.

Committee Reports

1. Sidewalk Committee - Jen Stuart reported that surveys have shown that residents are in favor of a continuous sidewalk around Barton Hills Drive and curb cuts. The City offers a 50-50 sidewalk program (the City will pay 50% and the homeowner or association would have to pay 50%). To place a sidewalk in front of two houses, the cost to the BHNA would be approximately \$2,500. Jen asked for interest in a neighborhood garage sale to raise money for the sidewalks. It would be held at the school. There was sufficient interest to move forward with the plans.

2. 4th of July Parade - Debby Kalk announced that volunteers are needed for the parade committee. Please contact her if you are interested.

Open Forum

A representative from Jennifer Kim's campaign reminded people to vote in the City Council election.

Joe Mullin, a resident on Clear Cove, spoke about a garage and art studio that he wants to build on his property. Some of his neighbors have claimed that it is a violation of the deed restrictions and have threatened to sue. He asked for consideration of the issue by the association.

Next Meetings

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for May 31. The next General Meeting is scheduled for June 28.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Stangl
Recording Secretary