

# ***Barton Hills Neighborhood Association***

## **General Meeting Minutes April 25, 2006**

Attendance: 36 members,

Location: St Mark's Church

Called to order, 7pm: Debby Kalk

### Minutes

Yates Barrera moved to accept minutes, Jen Stuart seconded. Minutes approved.

### Electric Lawnmower program

Scott Johnson encouraged neighbors to trade in their polluting gas-powered mowers for electric ones. He demonstrated an electric one. The trade-in program will be Sat., May 6 from 8-2:30 at the Home Depot on I-35 at Woodward near St. Ed's.

### Sidewalks on Barton Hills Drive

Sidewalk Committee chair Jen Stuart announced that the City of Austin will begin construction on sidewalks to connect Barton Hills Drive from the Market to Crethaven. This is great news and credit goes to the committee for many years of work on this effort. Stuart introduced Mike Curtis, the liaison with COA who explained the process they will use to contact every homeowner and resident before construction. Curtis provided his contact information for anyone with questions or concerns. He introduced engineer Michael Merriwether and contractor Rudy Muniz. The walks will be ABA compliant. There are also procedures in place to guard against silting in the creek bed.

### Neighborhood Watch

John Luther presented an update on crime statistics in our area. Most crime, auto thefts, robberies, and burglaries, occurred along Barton Skyway and Barton Hills Dr., particularly in multi-family units. About 100 people are currently involved in Neighborhood Watch. It has already paid off – a sharp neighbor spotted and reported a suspicious van. Police apprehended the vehicle and found stolen items inside. Luther encouraged other neighbors to join the program.

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

Kay Killen reminded members of the fun and great memories associated with this tradition. She encouraged folks to sign up for tasks including food, PR, cars, trailers,

ice, judges. Scott Johnson encouraged using hybrid vehicles. Contact Kay to participate.

#### Sunken Gardens

Craig Smith, a board member of Barton Creek Conservation District, introduced Laurie Dries with the City of Austin. Dries is a biologist and project director of the Barton Creek salamander recovery project. In the process of restoring the salamander's habitat, she has been involved in restoring the historic Sunken Gardens. She has worked with city crews, Eagle Scouts, and other volunteers to restore this facility. Photos and more information are at [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/erosionfpe\\_04.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/erosionfpe_04.htm). Dries asked BHNA to help fund landscaping for this project. Kalk explained that BHNA has dedicated funds that were donated for this purpose. Smith moved to have BHNA provide up to \$1,000 of those dedicated funds to fund landscaping costs for the Sunken Gardens habitat. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### Open Forum

- Scott Johnson is concerned that ACL festival organizers are not adequately addressing the concerns of residents regarding noise, trash, and parking. Kalk said that she would raise those issues with PARD and ACL representatives at an upcoming meeting.
- Jen Stuart spoke on behalf of BHNA resident Karen Dulaney Smith who is running for AISD school board. Smith was president at Barton Hills ES.
- Nan Clayton and Melissa Hawthorne reported on the neighborhood planning process. Hawthorne hosts a meeting on the last Thursday of each month. The next COA meeting in May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Howie Richey expressed thanks to neighbors who have offered support and encouragement to him in his quest to remain in the neighborhood.

Kalk announced that the next meeting is Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. She adjourned the meeting at 8:50.